

The minutes presented within this document provide a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. For the complete discussion of the agenda items, please view the video of the Board meeting on our website at www.southingtonschools.org. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 26, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut and an Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Brown:

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining and Personnel Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:02 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:11 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

Student Representatives present were Joseph Martin and Bianca Spataro.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board invited Kari Peschel-Luise (Architecture and PLTW Teacher) to the podium to introduce the 2018 Student Home Design Award Recipients from Southington High School. She gave a brief biography on each student and explained their designs competing against 76 Connecticut high schools. The students recognized were Noah DeJesus for Helical Home, Matthew Griffin for Container Home, Alexander Lipsky for Ammonite Home, and Treyquan Parks for Family Tree. Treyquan Parks received the NLD Design Award of Architectural Excellence and received a \$500 scholarship/grant, and Matthew Griffin received the Green Architecture Award. Mrs. Peschel-Luise also received a \$500 grant and she arranged for Matthew, Noah and Alex to receive respective scholarships during the high school scholarship presentations in May. Mr. Goralski presented the four students with a Certificate of Excellence from the Board of Education.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:38 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ March 22, 2018

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of March 22, 2018, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

“Move Agenda Item 11.e ‘Approval of Out of State / Overnight field Trip’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members addressed the following:

- The DePaolo Middle School 50th Anniversary celebration will be held on May 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m., which is also a Board of Education meeting night.
- Mr. Brown wanted to go on record regarding two misconceptions made in the public about wasting money. He was criticized for mentioning that the nonunion central office administrators and staff raises were delayed from July to December to save money and that for the 2018-2019 school year they will be receiving a zero percent (0%) raise. Over a two-year period, these very qualified people are getting only half of one year's increase so there is no waste of money here. People have told him that the school system should be run like a business and in order to retain and attract the best people in business people are paid for their expertise. Yet, it is not expected that the nonunion administrators and staff should be paid for their expertise. Mr. Brown also addressed the idea of hiring a consultant that had been mentioned in the public. He reiterated that the problem is not a spending problem but a revenue problem because the state shorted the town by millions of dollars.
- Mrs. Carmody and Mrs. Clark displayed two origami birds made by Mrs. Feeney's fourth grade class at Derynoski Elementary School. The students plan to make 1,000 of them and chain them together for a special cause.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. ADA Compliance: Mr. Connellan explained that Mrs. Lura Terrace, Technology Analyst, has been working on the district website for ADA accessibility and was able to work with the vendor to do this at no cost to the district.
2. Pilot Project Scheduling Student Appointments: Mr. Connellan explained that Ms. Jennifer Discenza, Director of School Counseling at Southington High School, and Mr. Jamie Olander, Director of Technology, are working on a pilot application where students can access guidance counselors' schedules online and make an appointment. There is no cost for this application.
3. Field Trips – April Break: Mr. Connellan reported there were many foreign field trips scheduled over the April recess and wanted to publicly praise and thank the staff members on these field trips for the educational experience provided and taking care of some students who had medical issues.
4. Budget Timeline: Mr. Connellan distributed a 2017-2018 Budget Timeline (Attachment #1) because of misinformation that has been spread in public, which he finds very distressing. He explained the facts for public record regarding the timelines. There are emails to back up the facts. He was tired of people saying that the Board of Education and administration did not do anything, which is simply inaccurate. Mr. Goralski will bring the timeline to the next Committee of the Chairs meeting and ask Mr. Palmieri, Chair of the Town Council, and Mr. Leary, Chair of the Board of Finance, to share it with their colleagues. Mr. Goralski and Mr. Connellan will also ask the Chairs of the Boards to attach this timeline to their minutes. Mrs. Queen reiterated that on October 26, 2018, nonaffiliated (nonunion employees) wages were approved to be non-retroactive for 2017-2018 and they were the only group amongst the Board of Education and Town employees that did not receive a wage increase on July 1, 2017.
5. Notices of Awards:
 - a) Mr. Connellan announced that the Southington Public School district has been awarded one of 2018 Best Communities for Music Education in the nation by

the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. Southington is one of only 18 school districts in Connecticut to achieve this recognition.

- b) Mr. Connellan announced that Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, received the 2018 Celebrated Connecticut School Business Official award by CASBO (Connecticut Association of Business Officials). The award ceremony is May 31, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stamford Sheraton at the President's Dinner. Mr. Goralski stated that he will inform all the other Town Boards and if anyone would like to buy a ticket to contact him. Mrs. DiNello explained that the award comes with a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity that she can give to a selected Southington High School senior.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence for Ms. Tracy Gabree who recently passed away and was a part-time Southington High School Library Paraeducator and part-time Library Clerk from February 2008 until her resignation in December 2014.

d. Communications from Student Representatives:

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- The Southington Education Foundation (SEF) Annual Spelling Bee was held on April 19, 2018 in the high school auditorium.
- The Silver Star Elementary School Concert was held on April 23, 2018. He was a mentor who played in the concert with them.
- The Southington High School Band and Orchestra Concert was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018.
- The high school Jazz Band Concert was held on April 25, 2018.
- The Robotics Program won their fourth consecutive New England Championship during the weekend of April 14, 2018. They are currently in Detroit, Michigan competing for the World title.
- The Academic Award Program is Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- Mr. Martin recently committed to Purdue University in Indiana.

Miss Spataro reported on the following:

- The in-school SAT was held on April 24, 2018 with 99% of the junior class tested and the 1% of students not tested were on a field trip.
- The make-up SAT date for those absent was April 25, 2018.
- The LBGTQ Club participated in a National Day of Silence at the high school on April 26. The purpose is to spread awareness about the effects of bullying and harassment that the LBGTQ community faces. They did not speak for the whole day.
- The National Honor Society Induction will be held in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.
- The Junior Prom will be held at BellaVista on Saturday, May 5, 2018.
- The World Language Poetry Contest was held at the high school on Thursday, April 26, with 700 students participating.
- The Senior Prom will be held at the Aqua Turf on May 19, 2018.

Mr. Goralski stated that he attended the World Language Poetry Contest and the high school parking lot was full of buses from schools from all over the state attending this contest. He

thanked the World Language Department for hosting this event. However, Mr. Goralski was disappointed that the news stations did cover the event. He thanked Jesse Buchanan from the Record-Journal for attending and reporting on the event; however, was disappointed that the editor of the local hometown newspaper would not allow their reporter to cover this positive, newsworthy event.

e. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trip *(formerly Agenda Item 11.e)*

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the International Field Trip request for Southington High School students to travel to Chile April 10-20, 2019, as presented.”

Ms. Kristin Bellis, Trip Coordinator, along with Ms. Kate Tavera Collins, explained that the same exchange trip was offered two years ago. They described that study abroad program experience. The Chilean students visited Southington this past October. The teachers are looking forward to offer this exchange program opportunity again in 2019.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Tina Riccio, World Language Department Chair, explained how Southington High School was selected to host the statewide World Language Poetry Contest and noted that it was a huge undertaking. However, she gave credit to the “army” of Southington High School students who came out in force and volunteered their help in many areas of the event. Mr. Goralski spoke highly of the World Language Department for hosting a number of statewide events at the high school that puts Southington on the map for foreign language. Christina Sack from Southington High School came in third for high school Spanish Year 4-5.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as presented.”

Mr. Brown praised Mr. Jeffrey Shaw, high school assistant principal and former Southington High School Music Director, who will be retiring June 30, 2018 after 28 years of service at the high school. He stated that Mr. Shaw is the reason why the excellent music program has succeeded throughout the years.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ April 19, 2018

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee discussed the Policy and Regulation for #3541, Transportation, with Mr. Romano and Mr. Madancy meeting to make minor changes to reflect current practice. The committee reviewed Policy #3324, Preferential Bidding Procedures, and

made changes recommended by Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Account Manager, to reflect change in the Town Charter. The committee reviewed the Policy and Regulation for #5123, Promotion and Retention, and made a change to the regulation for middle school practice to reflect that students will now be required to attend summer school, receive private tutoring, or complete an online course at parent expense for each course failed in four core subject areas. The tutor has to be a Board of Education approved tutor. Mr. Madancy explained the Edgenuity Online Program.

The committee also reviewed job descriptions for the Instructional Technology Coordinator and the Executive Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent and Executive Secretary to the Director of Business and Finance. The changes reflect the current roles and responsibilities that have evolved over time. The policies will be presented at the next Board of Education meeting for a first read and the job descriptions for a vote.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ April 24, 2018

The committee was not able to meet due to lack of a quorum and the items requiring action need a motion to be moved under New Business. Mrs. Clark, Finance Committee Chair, deferred to Mrs. DiNello to report on the items and abstained from any discussion due to the subject matter.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move Agenda Items 9.b.1 ‘YMCA Rates 2018-2019’ and 9.b.2 ‘Preschool Tuition Rates 2018-2019’ to Agenda Items 11.h.1 and 11.h.2.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Queen reported that she and Mr. Oshana attended an Ordinance Committee Meeting on April 18, 2018 and the STEPS Youth Council gave a presentation on Substance Youth Prevention stating that they want to make imitation cigarettes a banned substance. This will be sent to the Town Council for approval. The committee also discussed the Town Seal, which was not patented making it difficult to control its use. There is a state statute where the Town Clerk is the custodian of the Town Seal. The Blight Ordinance passed and there was discussion on a group home and the excessive police calls.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Town Council adopts the budget on Monday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center and the Board of Finance sets the Mill Rate on Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

b. Budget 2017-2018

Mrs. DiNello reported that in addition to the \$2.5 million appropriation that the Board received earlier in the year for the Excess Cost Funds (which the Town received); the Town also has approved two of the three anticipated \$850,000 appropriations to the Board of Education budget. In addition, the Town Council approved reducing the obligation of payment into the Self Insurance Fund by \$1 million of which the Board of Education’s portion is 75.5% and when the

Board nets the potential premium holiday that is being discussed for employees, the savings to the Board of Education budget would be \$637,200. The next appropriation of \$850,000 is anticipated in May. Mr. Goralski would like to know where that puts the Board of Education for the year-end projection.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship Recipient

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Brown:

“Move that the Board of Education approves the recipient selected by the Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship sub-committee.”

Mr. Goralski understood that the Joll’s granddaughter would be attending.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. 2018-2019 Healthy Food Certification

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2018-2019 school year.”

Motion carried by voice vote 8-1 with Mr. Baczewski opposed.

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move that the Board will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: a) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; b) the sale is at the location of the event; and c) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board discussed the nutrition guidelines at length, funding, and the ramifications of not participating. Mr. Baczewski visited his son’s school and was disappointed by what was considered a healthy meal and the type of food being served. Mr. Connellan stated that a lot of this is the consequence of No Child Left Behind and the regulations from it are tied into the National School Lunch Program for reimbursable free and reduced meals. For some students, their best meals of the day are the breakfast and school lunches. Mr. Baczewski would like to see all the grocery stores and restaurants in Southington partner with the school system to serve better meals to the students.

c. Adoption of 2019 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Mr. Goralski questioned the August 8, 2019 date being too early for discussion on class size. The Board discussed the date and agreed to keep it as it is.

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to adopt the proposed Board of Education meeting dates as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Southington High School Graduation Date

The Board discussed a request by two students who attend the GHAMAS (Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science) magnet school half-day program asking the Board to change the graduation date so they can attend. Mr. Goralski stated that attending a magnet school is a choice made by the student. He sent emails to the students explaining why the Board would not be inclined to make the change.

MOTION: By Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to approve Thursday, June 21, 2018 as the date of the Southington High School graduation ceremony pending no additional school closings occur.”

Mr. Derynoski noted that many years ago graduation was on a Saturday, which became problematic to get staff to volunteer to come back and people left to start vacations, which is why the Board changed it to the last day of school.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trip (*Moved to Agenda 7.e*)

f. Contract Approval ~ AFSCME, Local 1303-140 Nurses

MOTION: by Mrs. Queen, seconded by Mr. Brown:

“Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Board of Education and the AFSCME Nurses Union.”

Mr. Goralski thanked the Nurses Union for agreeing to a 0% raise for the 2018-2019 school year, which helps during the difficult economic times.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

g. Contract Approval ~ AFSCME, Local 1303 Secretaries / Food Servicer

MOTION: by Mrs. Queen, seconded by Mr. Brown:

“Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Board of Education and the AFSCME Secretaries and Food Service Employees Union.”

Mr. Goralski thanked the Secretaries and Food Service Employees Union for agreeing to a 0% raise for the 2018-2019 school year, which helps during the difficult economic times.

Mr. Brown wanted the public to know that every single union contract that the Board negotiated this year, agreed to a 0% raise for the 2018-2019 school year. The only employees who would receive raises are the unions that negotiated before this year. The Board is not wasting money on wages next year and doing their absolute best to be responsible.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

h.1 YMCA Rates 2018-2019

Mrs. DiNello explained that the YMCA uses space after school in all the elementary schools except Plantsville and at Kelley and Derynoski School in the mornings for before school care. The Board is in five-year lease agreements with the YMCA and annually sets the rate to be reimbursed for custodial time, supplies, electricity, etc. The proposed rates for the 2018-2019 school year were presented to the Board with the total reimbursement of \$11,305 per month.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move to approve the 2018-2019 YMCA School-Aged Child Care Program rates as recommended by the administration.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

h.2 Preschool Tuition Rates 2018-2019

Mrs. DiNello explained that the preschool program is housed at two elementary schools serving special education students and typical peer role models. The typical peers pay a tuition to attend the program. Administration is proposing a 5% increase for the 2018-2019 school year. She provided information on the local nursery schools rates and a rate history of the fee increases over the past years. The revenues are used to offset the costs of paraeducators.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the 2018-2019 Preschool Tuition Rates as recommended by the administration.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

BUDGET 2017-2018 TIMELINE

1. August 31, 2017 – Meeting with Town Manager – agreement to hold off on implementation of the two BOE capital projects
2. August 31, 2017 – Textbook purchases frozen
3. September 14, 2017 – Unaffiliated employee wages frozen
4. September 22, 2017 – Letter via email from Christopher Palmieri and Michael Riccio regarding the potential \$5 million impact of not receiving the October ECS payment specifically
5. September 25, 2017 – Email response from Brian Goralski to the Palmieri/Riccio correspondence requesting a meeting of the elected Boards to discuss – Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education
6. September 25, 2017 – Email response from Chris Palmieri to Brian Goralski indicating no opposition to the proposed meeting
7. September 28, 2017 – Board of Education discussed the letter and request from Palmieri/Riccio – no action taken – first quarter of the fiscal year completed
8. October 2, 2017 – all discretionary school funding frozen – requests entertained for items necessary to implement the curriculum or for facility and equipment maintenance (DiNello memo) – vacant positions not filled except for direct service to student positions
9. October 26, 2017 – General Assembly Adopts 2017-2018 Budget – reduction to Southington is approximately \$3 million, equal to the contingency built into the budget
10. October 26, 2017 – Unaffiliated wages approved non-retroactive 2017-2018, 0% - 2018-2019
11. October 31, 2017 – Governor signs into law the biennial bipartisan 2017-2018 budget
12. November 2, 2017 – Request from Superintendent to Town Manager that BOF address the overall budget structure at the November 8th BOF meeting – request denied with response that it would not be addressed until December or January (T. Connellan email)
13. November 7, 2017 – elections are held – new Board members are elected
14. November 17, 2017 – Governor Malloy announces “holdbacks” in the 2017-2018 budget – Southington’s portion is approximately \$1.7 million

15. December 6, 2017 – Committee of the Chairs requested that the Town Manager, Superintendent, Directors of Business and Finance for the Board and Town meet to discuss and agree up the 2017-2018 Adopted Budget State Revenue Analysis with a report back to the Committee of the Chairs at the January 3, 2018 meeting of the Committee
16. December 21, 2017 – Agreement on 2017-2018 Adopted Budget State Revenue Analysis between the Town Manager, Superintendent and Directors of Business and Finance for the Board and Town.
17. January 3, 2018 - The Town Manager and the Superintendent notified the Committee that they had a meeting with their respective finance officers and concluded that the current shortfall is approximately \$5.1 million.
18. January 3, 2018 - Board of Finance Chairman Leary stated that his Board's consensus is that the \$3 million contingency will be reviewed at its January, March and May meetings, with \$1 million being discussed at each meeting. During the January meeting, \$1 million of the contingency as well as approximately \$2.5 million of the ECS monies will be discussed.
19. January 10, 2018 – Board of Finance Meeting – discussion of 2017-2018 budget, BOE appropriation request, disposition of \$3 million contingency account – request from BOF for Town Manager and Superintendent to construct a deficit mitigation plan. Request for BOE to absorb 75% of the \$2.1 million shortfall in revenue.
20. February 15, 2018 - Board of Finance Meeting – parameters of mitigation plan identified; allocations from contingency to Board of Education and Town Government determined. BOF informed in Executive Session (due to potential contractual issues that have since been made public) that it was not possible to reduce the BOE operating budget to the degree and manner prescribed without laying off staff.
21. March 8, 2018 – Board reviews and approves mitigation plan
22. March 13, 2018 – Mitigation plan submitted to BOF
23. April 16, 2018 – Mitigation plan accepted by Town Council