

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

JUNE 14, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 14, 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 6:32 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, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

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 ~ Student Matters (Anna DeLucia v. Town of Southington et. al); Hearing Decision (Student v. Southington Board of Education) and Contract Negotiations

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 Student Matters, Hearing Decision, and Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

"Moved, to add two agenda items to the Executive Session Agenda and remove one item."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

"Moved, to add 'Student Matter ~ Speech' to the Executive Session Agenda."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Ms. Cammuso:

“Moved, to remove ‘Contract Negotiations’ from the Executive Session Agenda and add ‘Discussion on attorney-client privileged communication concerning tax withholding issue’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:13 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, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Mr. Zaya Oshana arrived at 8:50 p.m.

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

Student Representatives present were Bianca Spataro, Joseph Martin and Sean Young.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Queen:

“Moved, to move Agenda Item 11.a ‘Appointment of Principal of Thalberg Elementary School’ to Agenda Item 5.a’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized the following students who received a Certificate of Excellence:

- Class of 2018 Valedictorian ~ Lydia Yu
- Class of 2018 Salutatorian ~ Chloe Becquey
- Class of 2018 Essayist ~ Evan Bender
- 2018 E-cybermission Second Place Winners from DePaolo Middle School with the “Pollution Solution”: Zeynep Agirman, Victoria Dabrowski, Avery More and Amanda Rose. Each winner received a \$500 Savings Bond.
- Graduating Board of Education Student Representatives: Joseph Martin and Sean Young, who gave brief speeches on their experience as representatives.

a. **Appointment of Principal of Thalberg Elementary School** *(formerly Agenda Item 11.a)*

Mr. Connellan explained the vigorous and in-depth search process by the Thalberg Interview Committee and the excellent pool of candidates resulting in the next Principal of Thalberg Elementary School.

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

“Move to appointment Katherine Reeves as the new Principal at Thalberg Elementary School with a starting salary of \$139,813 with an effective date for the 2018-2019 school year.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Baczewski, Ms. Cammuso, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Reeves thanked the Board and gave a brief speech.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:33 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened regular session at 7:52 p.m.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 24, 2018**

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of May 24, 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 Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Queen:

“Moved, to move Agenda Item 11.b ‘Approval of Foreign Field Trip’ to Agenda Item 7.e and Agenda Item 11.e ‘Approval of Overnight Field Trip’ to Agenda Item 7.f.”

Moved carried unanimously by voice vote.

The following was discussed:

- Board members praised all employees of the Southington Public School district who are dedicated to their profession and go far beyond what is expected to make Southington a terrific school system.

- The Wall of Honor Committee met and have an excellent pool of nominees. The committee will be announcing the nominees at the next Board meeting.
- Mr. Derynoski attended the award ceremonies for the middle schools and was impressed by the caliber of students who will be entering the high school as freshmen.
- Mr. Goralski stated that on Thursday, June 21, 2018, the Board would be handing the seniors their diplomas. As a tradition that was established in the past, a former Board member (Edward Pocock, III) will be granted the privilege of presenting a diploma to a relative only who is graduating.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Welcome back – Meg Walsh: Mr. Connellan welcomed back Ms. Walsh who was out on leave.
2. Mandatory PCB Testing: Mr. Connellan reported that the Municipal Center recently had mandatory PCB testing and the result was negative and will continue to be negative. Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, and Mr. Sciota, Town Manager, are looking into no longer having this mandatory testing.
3. Girls' Track and Rugby: Mr. Connellan announced that four students on the Girls' Track team won State Championships in field events and currently are at Nationals. The Girls' Rugby team won their first State Championship. They will all be recognized at the June 28, 2018 Board of Education meeting.
4. NEASC Visit to SHS: Mr. Connellan announced that this visitation will be taking place November 7-10, 2021 and that the high school has already started preparing for it. Mr. Madancy stated that there is a new process in place.

d. Communications from Student Representatives:

Mr. Young reported on the following:

- It was a sentimental time for him as a graduating student and that the four years at the high school had flown by.
- May 30 was Senior Class Night, which was held in the high school cafeteria, with Paul Gregory's catering the food and a DJ for dancing.
- Senior Class Day was June 1 at High Meadows in Granby.
- The Top 25 Dinner, hosted by UNICO, was recently held along with the Italian National Honor Society Induction.
- The National Honor Society annual "Acts of Kindness" prank, chaired by Laini Pizzitola, was recently held at the high school.

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- The AP Expo was held on June 11 in the SHS Cafeteria.
- The Top 10 Luncheon was held on Wednesday, June 13. He thanked the Board and administration for moving the date.
- The Ice Cream Social for the National Honor Society Seniors was held on June 14 with the recently inducted Juniors helping to serve.
- Graduation is June 21, 2018.

- Mr. Martin stated that “life is like a tree, you are always going to branch out; but, you have to stick true to your roots.” He plans to come back to Board meetings to visit.
- In English class, the seniors get invitations to invite two teachers to their graduation who have made an impact on them. Mr. Martin invited his first and fourth grade teachers.

Miss Spataro gave a summary of the selection process and formally introduced the 2018-2019 Board of Education Student Representatives: Trevor Messina, a sophomore, and Nicholas Mangene, a junior.

- e. **Approval of Foreign Field Trip ~ Quebec City ~ April 14-20, 2019** *(formerly Agenda Item 11.b)*

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

“Move to approve the Foreign Field Trip to Quebec City April 14-20, 2019.”

Mrs. Tina Riccio, World Language Chair, stated that the students stay with host families, attend classes and go on excursions in the afternoon. The only language spoken is French. They will be flying because it is cheaper than traveling by bus.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- f. **Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Philadelphia, PA, September 14-15-2018** *(formerly Agenda Item 11.e)*

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to approve the Overnight Field Trip request for the Cross Country Team to travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania September 14-15, 2018, as presented by the administration.”

Mr. Dan Dachlet, Cross Country Coach, stated that the team would be competing in the Briarwood Invitational. This is the fourth year that they will be participating and the third year that they will be staying overnight.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- a. **Personnel Report**

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Middle School Activities Committee Meeting ~ May 29, 2018

Mrs. Queen gave a lengthy report on the overview of the school year. Between both middle schools there were 331 individual students who played middle school sports this year with 62 students playing more than one sport for a total of 393 roster spots between both schools. Discussed was the need to change the activity fee to a per roster spot fee of \$150 in order to sustain middle school sports, which will generate approximately \$57,000. A new process of collection of the fees was proposed to receive a check before the first try-out and only cashing it if the student makes the team and returning the check if the student does not make the team. This would alleviate the problem of unpaid activity fees. The fees for students who receive free and reduced lunch or have a hardship will be paid by the Southington Public Schools.

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee, along with input from the Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA), also discussed the following:

- need for better communication with the parents;
- number of chaperones;
- a middle school parent meeting with the athletic director;
- fundraising;
- youth sports fees;
- core concept of maintaining equity between the middle schools;
- the future of Cheerleading;
- sustainability;
- collection of unpaid activity fees from 26 students for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Goralski asked that Mrs. Queen and Mr. Oshana continue to serve on this committee.

Ms. Cammuso questioned the future of Cheerleading. Mr. Connellan stated that this was being investigated due to the inequity of participation at the middle schools, the issue of the difficulty of obtaining coaches at that level, and the training required of the coaches to ensure the safety of the participants because Cheer has become more acrobatic. Cheerleading is still under discussion.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no discussion.

b. Budget 2017-2018

Mrs. DiNello confirmed that the Board of Finance approved the third installment of the \$850,000 at their meeting on June 13, 2018.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Principal of Thalberg Elementary School (*Moved to Agenda Item 5.a*)

b. **Approval of Foreign Field Trip ~ Quebec City ~ April 14-20, 2019** (*Moved to Agenda item 7.e*)

c. **Adoption of Middle School Activities Fee**

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

“Move to adopt an activity fee for Middle School Athletics for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$150 per student, per roster spot.”

Mr. Goralski reiterated that the cost is \$150 per roster spot. If a student plays three sports, they pay \$150 three times. If a parent has five children and they play three sports, they pay \$150 15 times. The fee is to participate, not to play. The school district is responsible for the collection of fees and it is the administration’s responsibility of who will be excused from paying the fee. The Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA) will not pursue students at practices for the payment of fees and do not need to know the personal situation of students. Mrs. Queen will bring the collection of fees information back to the committee.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. **Adoption of Southington’s Vision of a Graduate**

Mr. Madancy gave a PowerPoint presentation and discussed at length the Vision of a Southington Public Schools Graduate and what we want our students to know and be able to do when they graduate from the Southington Public Schools (Attachment #1). The process was started in the fall with 60 people attending a Community Engagement Event. He explained in detail the community’s input, organizations involved for their input, and what these groups thought were the most important skills and attributes of a future Southington graduate to be successfully prepared for life, learning and work beyond school. The Community Engagement Group met again in May and developed the Vision of a Public Schools Graduate statement.

The Vision of a Graduate statement is, *“A graduate of the Southington Public Schools will be college or career ready and prepared for life beyond by mastering the knowledge and demonstrating the skills to communicate effectively, think creatively and critically, and contribute to the global community.”*

He was looking for a consensus from the Board that this Vision of a Graduate could be a guiding statement to bring it to a reality in the district and be connected to the development of curriculum, professional development, appraisal process, and hiring process of employees in alignment with these beliefs and 21st Century Skills.

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Queen:

“Move that the Board of Education adopt Southington’s Vision of a Graduate.”

Mr. Oshana arrived at 8:50 p.m.

Ms. Cammuso questioned if the statement ties into the skills and attributes that all Southington students need to acquire. Mr. Madancy explained all the next steps needed to make

the vision a reality and discussed what is needed for planning moving forward and the various pieces currently at play. The Board members discussed the dynamics and transformation process at length. State performance testing and content mastery were also addressed. Mr. Derynoski noted that the state dictates what the local education agency must do and if they fail to follow the state guidelines the state could decide not to fund the district.

Mr. Baczewski was happy to see “college or career ready” in the vision statement because college is not for everyone. There are other career paths that lead to success, especially in health care. Board members agreed and discussed career paths and the significance of this wording.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- e. **Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Philadelphia, PA – September 14-15, 2018**
(Moved to Agenda Item 7.f)

12. ADJOURNMENT

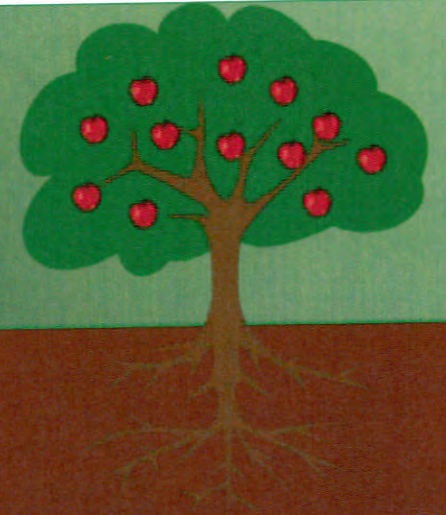
MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary



Vision of a Graduate

June 14, 2018

SPS Graduates



*What do we want our students
to know and be able to do when
they graduate from the
Southington Public Schools?*



Engagement Event



Prompt: What are the most critical skills and attributes that all Southington students need to acquire to be successfully prepared for life, learning and work beyond school?

Skills:

1. **Critical/ creative thinking**
2. **Effective communicator**
3. **Collaboration/teamwork**
4. **Numeracy/literacy**
5. **Independence and life skills**
6. **Problem solving**

Attributes:

1. **Emotional intelligence**
2. **Cultural competence**
3. **Accountability/responsibility**
4. **Ethics and values**
5. **Flexibility/Adaptability**

**THESE ARE THE
MOST IMPORTANT
SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES
DETERMINED
BY THIS GROUP**

Community Input



- Rotary
- Chamber of Commerce
- Southington Education Foundation
- Town Council
- Southington Board of Education
- PTO Executive Boards (16-17 School Year)
- Staff & Faculty Presentations (16-17 School Year)



Further Input Gathered



Prompt: What are the most critical skills and attributes that all Southington students need to acquire to be successfully prepared for life, learning and work beyond school?

1. **Critical/ creative thinking**
2. **Effective communicator**
3. **Collaboration/teamwork**
4. **Independence and life skills**
5. **Numeracy/literacy**
6. **Problem solving**

Attributes:

1. **Accountability/responsibility**
2. **Emotional intelligence**
3. **Ethics and values**
4. **Cultural competence**
5. **Flexibility/Adaptability**




A life, career, and college ready graduate will master the **knowledge**, **skills**, and **understandings** necessary to **communicate effectively**, think **creatively** and **critically**, and **contribute** to the global community.

SPS Vision of a Graduate



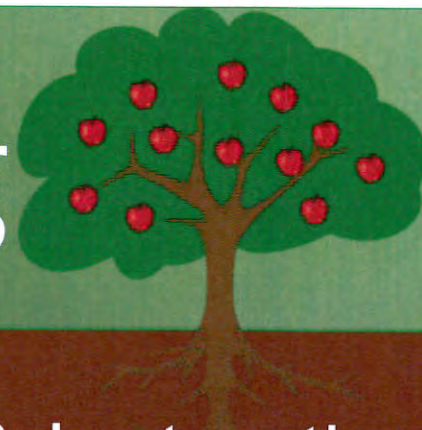
A graduate of the Southington Public Schools will be college or career ready, and prepared for life beyond by mastering the knowledge and demonstrating the skills to communicate effectively, think creatively and critically, and contribute to the global community.

Next Steps



Making the vision a reality; not just a posted slogan, or a published plan, but an end result for all graduates of the Southington Public Schools!

Forward Planning



Focus your Curriculum & Instruction

Adopting a Vision

Support Risk-Taking

Build Professional Capacity

Improve & Innovate

Aligning the System

Creating a Community Consensus



THANK
YOU!

