

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 28, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 28, 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 6:33 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ Student Matters and Personnel Matters

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Matters 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 7:06 p.m.

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

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.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The students in the audience led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized Nicole Kleinman, sixth grade student at DePaolo Middle School, for placing Best in State for her Essay “What Heroes Do” as part of the Drug Awareness Poster and Essay Contest. Also recognized was the Southington High School Girls Rugby Team who won their first State Championship. Coach Nick Fargas and Assistant Coach Emily Reed introduced team members who were in attendance. The Board presented the Girls Rugby Team and Nicole Kleinman with a Certificate of Excellence.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened regular session at 7:22 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 14, 2018

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 14, 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

The following was discussed:

- Mr. Baczewski and Ms. Cammuso, new Board members, expressed their praise of the Class of 2018 graduation ceremony and speeches, their first as Board members, and commended the teachers and parents for raising such fine young men and women. Ms. Cammuso also attended the All Night Graduation Party.
- Mr. Goralski announced that the July Board of Education meeting would be cancelled due to a light agenda. The next Board meeting would be August 9, 2018. Mrs. Albaitis, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, will post the cancellation.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Inter-Agency School Safety Committee: Mr. Connellan reported that this committee consists of school administration, members of the Southington Police and Fire Departments, and Shane Lockwood, Southington Emergency Management Director. They met last week and their next meeting is August 22, 2018. They will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month and reporting to the Board and Committee of the Chairs.
2. TEACH Connecticut: Mrs. Michelle Passamano, Human Resources Manager, explained that the State Department of Education implemented a new initiative named "TEACH Connecticut, which is a multi-stakeholder partnership between the Department of Education, Local Education Agencies, technical assistance partners, which includes Microsoft and Google, educated preparation providers and other stakeholders. There is no cost to the district. It allows the school system to access a comprehensive recruiting system that includes advertising, online and in-person services and resources geared to elevating the profession of teaching to high school students. She spoke of the highlights of the new program and events offered. She will be the point person for the Southington School district.
3. Fiber Project - SHS: Mr. Connellan reported that this project began on Monday, June 25 and Mr. Jamie Olander, Director of Technology, indicated that it should be completed on Monday, July 2, 2018. This fiber project should increase the bandwidth and improve the network in the whole high school.
4. Mobile App - District: Mr. Connellan reported that they are looking at a district Mobile Application. Finalsity, which operates the district website, has the ability to create the Mobile App for the district. An employee from Finalsity will give a demonstration and include the capability to send emergency alerts between staff in a given building.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ June 12, 2018**

Mr. Madancy reported that the committee received a request from the high school administration to take an afterschool club, The Yearbook, and make it into a course offered in the academic day. He explained the dwindling student participation and being unable to fill the Yearbook Advisor position and how it would be incorporated as a credit course using 21st Century Skills. In order to produce a Yearbook for students, a new academic course named "21st Century Skills in the Business Environment" would be offered for the 2018-2019 school year. The full curriculum would be brought before the full Board at their August 9 meeting as a first read.

Mr. Madancy reported that two new course proposals were discussed at the committee meeting. Presented were 1) Maternal and Prenatal Development and, 2) Healthcare and Health Services. He discussed the courses in detail. The curriculum will be developed in the 2018-19 academic year and offered in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Mr. Madancy reported that the committee also discussed revisions to the Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum as presented by Stephanie Lawlor, District ELA Coordinator. The committee will bring the revised units to the full Board on August 9 for a first read. Mr. John Duffy, District Science Coordinator, also attended the meeting and presented two new high school units of study, which will be brought before the full Board on August 9 for a first read.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ June 26, 2018

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee met and discussed a policy that needs to be developed for the Self Insurance fund balance. Also discussed was Transfer of Funds from the EL (English Language) Tutor Salary Account to the Certified Teacher Salary Account by increasing a .4 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. Mr. Madancy explained that a .4 FTE EL teacher retired along with the retirements of two tutors; therefore, administration looked at the opportunity to increase the FTE of the Certified .4 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. He explained the advantages of increasing the certified position along with a potential savings in the proposal that he provided. This would result in 2.0 new certified FTE's for EL because the district already budgeted for 1.4 Certified EL staff for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Mr. Derynoski questioned the loss of a .4 FTE EL instructor. He noted that there would be 6.4 FTE employees and they would be down one-half a staff person. He questioned if a teacher would be able to take on more students because they would be down the one-half staff member. The cost was not the issue with him; he was concerned with the loss of staff.

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds from the Paraeducator Salaries Account to the Teacher Salaries Account, as presented.”

Motioned carried with six in favor and Mr. Derynoski opposed.

Mrs. DiNello explained the 2017-2018 Transfer of Funds request to post \$1,358,041 as a reduction to the Health Insurance Account to balance the 2017-2018 operating budget. This is the balance remaining from the original budgeted \$8,360,766 of anticipated grant revenues / appropriations not received. She gave a detail accounting of the change in the grant funding stream and how it affected the school district budget. This request would be a budget entry to get the current year-end balance in balance to close out the 2017-2018 school year.

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds from the Health Insurance Account to the Balancing Account.”

Mr. Goralski thanked Mrs. DiNello because of the confusing and complicated budget for the 2017-2018 school year when they had an approved budget already in place.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. DiNello reported that the school district would end the year 2017-2018 with a positive balance of approximately \$250,000, which is less than 3/10th of a percentage point of the overall budget. The Board discussed giving back to the Town those remaining funds at the end of the school year and sending a letter to the Town Manager and Board of Finance with a list of carry forward items. These items were in the current budget but were deferred because of the budget freeze and reducing the 2018-2019 budget. Mrs. DiNello would put together a carry forward list for the July 25 Board of Finance meeting (the Board of Education would not be meeting in July) and email a draft of that list to the entire Board of Education. The BOE Finance Committee would meet before July 25 to review the list and present it to the Town Board Finance.

The Thalberg School Boiler would be on top of the Priority list. Mr. Goralski stated that the BOE had to pinch every single penny, not replace positions that were vacant, not make purchases and or spend \$1.4 million in order to end up with a positive budget. Most of the \$250,000 could be directly aligned with things that the Board of Education could not do. Mrs. DiNello stated that she would put bullet points in the letter to the Town on why they have a \$250,000 balance. She explained that traditionally, in late May or early June, the Board of Education has a Purchase Plan to review so the end of the year operating fund balance would be zero. This year, there would be no Purchase Plan. Mrs. DiNello explained that Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, sent the Superintendent a memo about the need to replace the boiler at Thalberg Elementary School because of significant leaks. The quotes range from \$59,000-\$98,000. Administration recommends having this item be the top priority on the carry forward list to the Board of Finance in July. The bid process would be started and brought to the August 9 Board of Education meeting for approval. The Board of Education is unable to carry forward money after June 30 if the money has not been committed to a specific purchase or service. The only way that the school district can carry dollars forward is if the Town agrees to set-up a new line item in the Town budget with the carry forward money.

Mrs. DiNello stated that she would send the Board members a draft list of the tangible priority projects via email, approved by the Board of Education Finance Committee, for their comments before it is sent to the Town. The items were previously voted on by the Board members, but were deferred because of the budget. Mr. Goralski asked that all Board members respond to the email to let the person know that it was read.

Mr. Baczewski discussed, "Wants versus Needs" and having more community involvement with our partners to get funding for school projects. He asked the Board to reflect on this over the summer.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Queen reported on a Town Ordinance Committee meeting that she attended and their approval of reducing the reproduction and use of the Town Seal. The Town Council will hold a hearing on it. There is a State Statute that gives the Town Clerk the custodianship of the Town Seal. The Town Seal cannot be used without the permission of the Town Manager. The committee also discussed the excess emergency services response ordinance, which is under active discussion.

Mr. Goralski reported on the Farm Heritage Committee. This summer, the Ag-Science staff will meet with Milone and MacBroom, who is doing the master plan related to the properties overseen by the Farm Heritage Committee. He thanked Peter Romano, Director of Operations, for installing a gate in the fence this summer between the Pleasantview property and DePaolo Middle School. The DePaolo Middle School Garden Club Fund will cover the cost for the gate. In addition, the Grosky Farm Stand is being replaced using the footprint that it currently occupies. Mr. Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, students and staff will be building the structure over the summer.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Obsolete Textbooks

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

“Move to approve the disposal of outdated textbooks presented by the school administration.”

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary