

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark (*arrived at 6:40 p.m.*), Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi (*arrived at 6:38 p.m.*), Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Juanita Champagne.

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION to Unaffiliated Employees and Negotiations Update – AFSCME & UPSEU) ~ 6:30 p.m.

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 Unaffiliated Employees and Negotiations Update (AFSCME & UPSEU), and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session recessed at 7:03 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:07 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Juanita Champagne.

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

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of:

- a) George Kloss passed away on September 1, 2017 and was a security guard at Southington High School with 30 years of service.
- b) John Wynne, Jr. passed away on September 11, 2017 and was a crossing guard in Southington for 14 years.
- c) The lives lost on September 11, 2001 and members of the military who protect the United States.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

At 7:09 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education recognized the following:

- a. Mr. David Lapreay, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Ms. Desiree Daigle, Camp R.I.S.E. Director, were honored with a Certificate of Excellence by the Board for providing a recreational summer program (Camp R.I.S.E.) for students with special needs.
- b. Mr. John Duffy, Science Coordinator, and the Board recognized three groups with a Certificate of Excellence for their contributions to the school gardens. Mr. Duffy gave a PowerPoint presentation.
 - 1) Marjorie Muzyczka, Kathy Morin and ladies representing The Orchard Valley Garden Club were recognized for their support of gardening in the schools and their generous contributions through grants to establish the gardens.
 - 2) L.E.A.F. (Lewis Educational Agricultural Farm), Mark Ramsay, Executive Director, for his generous contributions of providing materials, time and energy to help provide all of our elementary students with the opportunity to experience gardening and explore the "farm to table" connection for fruits and vegetables. Mr. Ramsay could not attend the meeting and Mr. Duffy accepted the certificate on his behalf.
 - 3) Lowe's, Patrick Roy, Southington Store Manager, and Katie Horne, Lowe's Human Resources Manager, along with other Lowe's employees were presented with a certificate of excellence for their generous contributions of materials, time and energy that led to the construction of raised garden beds at six Southington schools. This gave access to gardening to all Southington elementary school students as well as the ALTA program.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened the regular meeting at 7:41 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 10, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of August 10, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Mr. Goralski abstaining.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience:

Erica Roggeveen Byrne, 265 Bristol Street, spoke regarding the privately funded Christopher Columbus statue located near the entrance to the Municipal Center that was approved by the Town Council in 2015. She felt that the Board of Education had a responsibility to address the historical inaccuracies engraved on the monument and that the Board of Education should work with her group (Southington Women for Progress) to support changing the language on the inscription to reflect the factual historical record and complicated past of colonialism. The funds to do this would also be raised privately.

b. Communication from Board Members

Mr. Goralski made it clear that the statue in front of the Municipal Center was a Town Council decision. The John Weichsel Municipal Center is a government building not owned by the Town of Southington and is a rental property. The Town Council is the ultimate decision maker regarding Town buildings. Neither the Southington Board of Education nor the Superintendent of Schools had any part in the decision or formal opinion on the placement of the statue. He asked the journalists present to correct anything that has been misquoted in the newspapers.

Mr. Brown addressed individualized differentiated learning and discussions on this at summer education conferences that he attended. He requested that Southington be vigilant about the socialization piece of personalized learning.

Mrs. Lombardi announced that on September 23, 2017, at Southington High School from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m., the Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA) would be holding a fundraiser collecting outdated electronics/computers for recycling. She expressed condolences to the family of Art Cyr who frequently attended town meetings and recently passed away.

Mrs. Queen stated that the Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA) met their goal to fund fall sports with a four-day a week schedule. She and Mr. Oshana gave an update on the costs. The business office has billed the Middle School Athletic Association for the per diem costs of the fall coaching stipends for approximately \$21,000, which is based on a nine-week schedule, four times per week. The business office will bill for transportation, officials, chaperones, site managers and field maintenance monthly as the expenses are incurred for both middle schools at about \$14,000. Collectively, fall sports will cost around \$34,000. To date, they have raised \$25,000 in cash plus \$4,000-\$5,000 in donated gift cards.

Mr. Oshana addressed the student activity fee and some confusion on part of the committee on the cost. He clarified that at the last Board of Education meeting a motion was passed approving a \$100 per student activity fee. However, the administration was requesting clarification from the Board if it was a flat fee of \$100 per student per school year or charging \$100 per roster spot. Mr. Connellan stated that the parent group would be continually fund raising throughout the course of the year. Mrs. Queen had information regarding the SMSAA fundraising activities (*Attachment #1*). Board members had more questions; however, because this was not an agenda item, the Board needed only to give the administration direction through a consensus on the interpretation of the Board's vote at their last meeting. Mr. Goralski proposed that Middle School Sports be an agenda item at their September 28 meeting, if needed. He would also like to clarify the mission moving forward for the Middle School Sports Sub-Committee of the Board of Education.

The consensus by the Board was \$100 per student activity fee and is a flat fee across the board for the entire school year.

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

“Move Agenda Item 10.a ‘Summer School Update 2017’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Technology Department for a job well done on updating the school district's website. He also shared the Board's frustration regarding the State of Connecticut legislators who still have not passed a budget. Mr. Goralski addressed the vision of the 21st Century Graduate and that he is currently serving on the Advisory Board of STEPS, which will be conducting a survey this January. Mr. Goralski announced that parents could attend a presentation of “Ryan's Story” on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Southington High School, which is about a father who lost his son to suicide. It is not appropriate for elementary-aged children to attend.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. **Introduction of New Administrators:** Mr. Madancy introduced three new administrators explaining their background: Jen Discenza, Director of School Counseling 6-12; Sonya Kunkel, Special Education Coordinator; Amy Zappone, Mathematics Coordinator K-12.
2. **Opening of School:** Mr. Connellan stated that it was a very successful opening and that he visited all 12 schools the first day.
3. **Professional Development:** Mr. Madancy thanked all the teachers and administrators on the district Professional Development and Evaluation Committee. What has emerged this year for a Professional Development model is a great balance of district building and individual led Professional Development. They are continuing to build upon the SRBI (Standard Research-Based Instruction) process and educate the staff. He gave the building administrators credit for getting all staff onboard, ready and calibrated for students for the first day of school. He noted that this is the first year that they will have full and part-time paraeducators attend Tuesday with all staff, special education teachers, and case managers. They received everything that they needed to

know about the students before school started. Mr. Madancy hosted an assistant superintendent breakfast to discuss opportunities for interdistrict collaboration.

4. Summer Projects: Mr. Romano explained the extensive work completed over the summer (*Attachment #2*) and praised the teamwork and talent of the maintenance staff and his assistant, Cathy Sheldrick. Mr. Connellan pointed out that there was significant savings across the board on what was accomplished in-house by Mr. Romano and the maintenance staff without any overtime. (*Mrs. Lombardi left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.*)

5. Vision of a Graduate: Mr. Connellan explained that the community engagement piece is Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center, which is a facilitated discussion with teachers, administrators, PTO presidents and elected officials.

6. Grade 3 Artist in Residence Project: Mr. Connellan pointed out the artwork on the walls of the public assembly room created by the elementary schools.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Joseph Martin, Senior Class, reported on the following:

- In June, he was hiking in the White Mountains with his Boy Scout Troop when Mr. Goralski asked him to look over the Board of Education by-laws. He also attended Boy Scout Camp in Torrington for a week. He is a potential Eagle Scout candidate and completed his Eagle Scout project.
- Mr. Martin received his driver's license on July 26, 2017.
- The Freshman Orientation was held before the first day of school with a morning and evening session. All but 40 students of the incoming freshmen class attended.
- The Senior Class Prank was putting apples in the teachers' office mailboxes and decorating the faculty rooms.

Bianca Spataro, Junior Class, reported on the following:

- This summer, she went to Disney World and appreciated the diversity of the tourists who were there from all over the world.
- She is an Apple Harvest Hostess.
- Administration held class meetings with all grades the second week of school and discussed school policies. The 2017-2018 class officers introduced themselves to their peers. She is a Junior Class Officer.
- Fall sports start on Friday, September 15. The first football game is in Simsbury and the Marching Band will be performing "When One Door Opens" during half time.

Sean Young, Senior Class, reported on the following:

- He is on the cross country team and logged 380 miles this summer. He also attended Boys State this summer, which was well represented by Southington with two Southington students elected to high-ranking positions, Tyler Perruta and John Zupata.
- This summer, his sister was attending a semester abroad in London and he went with his family to visit London and Paris.
- The vocational clubs and co-curricular activities were off to a good start.
- Tuesday, September 19, is the Annual College Fair in the high school cafeteria with over 100 colleges in attendance from 6:00-8:30.
- Wednesday, September 27 is the Annual Open House with the Key Club helping with the event.

e. Summer School Update 2017 (formerly Agenda Item 10.a)

Mr. Dave DeStefano, Summer School Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the 2017 Summer School Program and the 2017 Camp Invention Program. The presentation included program highlights, courses offered, enrollment history and data from the Summer Enrichment and Summer School programs that were offered for students in July 2017 along with photos of the different classes. Southington's Camp Invention was the first school district in Connecticut to meet the maximum enrollment. Mr. DeStefano also highlighted recommendations for moving forward in 2018. The Board thanked him for the great work that he has done with improving the Summer School program.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported on the Farm Heritage Committee that meets monthly and their plans for encouraging PTOs to support and make a donation to LEAF (Lewis Education Agricultural Farm). Mr. Ramsay and Ms. Walsh are working together for next summer to have a Farm Summer Camp Program.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Summer School Update 2017 (Moved to Agenda Item 7.e)

b. Approval of Teacher Evaluation Plan

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

“Move to accept the revised copy of the Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan as presented by the administration for implementation during the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Compensation for Unaffiliated Employees for 2017-2018

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

“Move to table to the next Board of Education meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Year End Report on 2016-2017 Superintendent's Goals

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's 2016-2017 End of the Year Goals, as presented.”

Mr. Connellan discussed SchoolNet/ District Data Team / SBRI and Professional Development as addressed by the Board members.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools 2016-2017 and Compensation 2017-2018 (After Executive Session)

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

“Move to table any action on the Superintendent's compensation until the next Board meeting.”

Mr. Goralski clarified that they are not tabling the discussion, only the action.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to return to Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

At 9:18 p.m., the regular Board of Education meeting ended.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

Together we did it!

With the help of the community, the SMSAA raised the up-front funds needed to run the FULL schedule for fall sports in the Southington Middle Schools! It is super exciting and momentum is building! With phase one of fundraising behind us, we look to phase two. There is still work to be done to cement programming for the winter and spring. We have some fantastic fundraisers in the works that have the potential to fund the rest of the school year.

- **Electronics recycling event at SHS on 9/23 from 8-2.**
- **Sale of calendar drawing in October for prizes in November. (We have AWESOME prizes from very GENEROUS business owners!)**
- **Apple Harvest Run Team. Oct 1st. Sign up to join our team through the Y!**

Volunteers are needed. We need excited, interested people to continue to keep this all moving forward. Please come to our next meeting of the SMSAA on Tuesday, September 26th at 6:15 at the Town Hall.

**Please go to our new site at SMSAAct.org for more details.
We are always accepting donations at either,**

**P.O. Box 741 Southington, Ct 06489 or
www.youcaring.com/southingtonmiddleschoolstudents-906501**

-The SMSAA Board

Maintenance Group was extremely productive over the summer. Among the work they completed:

1. Relocated the Main Entry at Derynoski from the side to the Front
2. Re-keyed all of the exterior doors at the high school, ALTA & Elementary Schools to be on a Grandmaster System for much stronger security
3. Constructed a 2nd Achieve Classroom at SHS
4. Demoed & Installed new Counters in the Bake Shop at the High School
5. Built out an Earth Science Classroom at the high school
6. Repaired the boiler at Thalberg
7. Relocated the Family Resource Center from Hatton ES to Strong ES
8. Renovated the Food Service Directors Office (that office has been as it was for as long as anyone can remember. I'm not sure it has ever been touched)
9. Rebuilt the Exterior Lighting Contactor Panel at the High School which had been a major safety concern
10. I lost count at 30 smartboards and over 40 Areohives installations districtwide

These are the bigger projects. This work was still ongoing right up until the start of school. The guys worked incredibly well as a team. It was impressive to watch. They were strategic about scheduling, sequencing and supporting each other. Oh by the way these gentlemen completed over 300 work orders as well. They are a talented group that take a tremendous amount of pride in their work. I am proud to be on their team.

Beyond all of that there were (2) other major projects that I need to share with you that the maintenance group completed. We could never have dreamed of taking on these projects without their in-house labor. These 2 project also required the support and involvement of other SPS staff.

11. A Card Access Entry System was installed at the high school, AG-SCI, ALTA and all of the elementary schools. - The maintenance staff completed all of the physical work for the wiring and hardware. This project also required considerable efforts of the staff from the Technology and the Personnel departments as well as staff at each of the schools. The communication and think tank that transpired

between these departments was nothing short of A+. The district has a lot of quality employees to be proud of.

12. We also we installed a state of the art Voice Over Internet Protocol phone system at the high school, similar to the systems at the middle schools. You may remember that the phone system at SHS was so antiquated that it was be served by a 386 computer running DOS and using a 56K modem. It was continually failing with limited support and parts available. Again, the physical infrastructure was completed by maintenance staff. The coordination, implementation and activation of the system was a team effort including staff from Technology and SHS. This was no small undertaking. I won't even take a guess at the number of man hours. It could not have happened without the dedication of all of the staff.

I wish I could take the time to recognize all of the staff individually. There were over 40 individuals that were part of collaborative effort, working as a team, to complete these two projects. I am grateful to all of them for their efforts. I do need to recognize one individual.

My assistant, Cathy Sheldrick. If you saw how much effort was required on her part to manage these projects, you would think it wasn't possible. I treated her as a project manager. ***She excelled.*** She invested countless hours in planning, organizing, implementing, executing and closing out these projects. She would come in every morning with all the thoughts that kept her up the night before, to make sure the projects kept on track. She had the can-do attitude that was necessary to complete the projects in a extremely limited time frame. No matter how much I would say about her work ethic, it wouldn't be enough. The district is fortunate to have her here!