

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

OCTOBER 12, 2017

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 12, 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. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, and Mrs. Patricia Queen (*arrived at 6:40 p.m.*). Absent were Mrs. Terry Lombardi and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STUDENT MATTERS ~ 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 student matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:05 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:12 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Special Services.

Absent were Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

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

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 four past employees of the Southington Public Schools who recently passed away:

- Laura Trotta taught at the high school for many years.
- Dorothy Turner began her career in Southington in the 1960’s teaching at Flanders School and then special education for the district.
- Rhoda Clynes was a secretary at South End Elementary School for many years.
- Meliney Marcheselle was the Personnel Manager for the Southington Public Schools for many years.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 28, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of September 28, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience:

Tyler (student) and Pamela Smith (parent), 150 Marion Avenue; Cindi Cafasso, 57 Fairway Road (parent); and Lori Theriault from Plymouth spoke regarding a career planning program for students ages 10 and older. Parents privately pay for this resource program. Mr. Goralski requested that they speak to the superintendent first regarding proposing a program and for guidance on how to proceed if approved.

b. Communication from Board Members

- An injunction was filed to stop Governor Malloy’s Executive Order cuts to education with an 1892 court case claiming the state cannot cut funds below last year’s levels. The state budget still has not been settled.
- The Wall of Honor ceremony is October 23, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the high school with six people recognized. The 501(c)3 is now completed with the legal fees paid for from a donation of \$1,000 received from a former student and honoree.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Professional Development: A team of administrators attended the “EdLeader 21 Vision of a Graduate” national conference the past week. In addition, another team is attending a state professional development session today working on competency based education.
2. Collaborative Partnership: The Southington Public Schools has a partnership with the Southington Public Library regarding a library card for Kindergarteners initiative. Faculty and staff who do not live in Southington can also get a library card because they work for the municipality. Southington Public Schools employees are eligible to participate in online courses offered by the library free of charge.
3. Budget 2017-2018: Due to the state budget situation, the school system is in a “soft freeze”. While necessary supplies will be purchased, all other supply purchases will be frozen. Mr. Madancy will be sending an email to teachers and staff regarding a moratorium on future professional development that occur outside of the district, unless it is mandated.
4. Milone & MacBroom: Mr. Connellan received a corrected Feasibility Study PowerPoint presentation due to an incorrect number in the presentation given at the last Board of Education meeting. The Feasibility Study will be put on the Southington Public Schools website for viewing.

Mr. Goralski stated they he has not had any further communication with the Town Council or Board of Finance regarding moving forward with the 2017-2018 budget. The Board members discussed inviting the Town Council Chair and Board of Finance Chair and members to the next Board of Education meeting for a collaborative effort in discussing the budget moving forward. Following the Town Council meeting on Monday, October 16, Mr. Goralski will send an invitation.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Sean Young reported on the following:

- Mr. Stranieri, SHS Principal, was away attending a conference.
- On September 28, the Chilean / Italian Foreign Exchange students attended a dinner at the high school.
- The National Honor Society and Key Club held a Blood Drive and raised 72-76 pints of blood on October 2, 2017.

Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- Financial Aid Night was Tuesday, October 3 at the high school, with 200 parents and students attending.
- Sophomores and juniors took the PSAT on October 11, 2017 with the freshmen and seniors attending class specific activities.

Joseph Martin reported on the following:

- The seniors had their class photo taken in the gymnasium and three different stations were set-up where they watched a video on education and creativity, worked with Naviance and their college portfolio, and talked with class officers about problems within the school and solutions.
- October 18, 2017 is Soup Night at the high school from 4:00-7:30 p.m., to benefit Bread for Life.

- The Marching Band annual Music of the Knight Band Competition is Saturday, October 21, 2017, starting at 2:00 p.m. at SHS Fontana Field.
- Monday, October 23, 2017 is the annual Wall of Honor Ceremony.
- Tuesday, October 24, 2017, the Symphonic Band and Orchestra will present their Fall Concert.
- On October 11, a State Police Officer gave a detailed presentation at the high school about the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Mr. Goralski thanked the high school groups that participated in the Red Ribbon Rally the evening of October 11. The highlight of the night was Mr. Frank Pepe who shared a personal story of the significance of the pledge that the students make. Mr. Goralski offered the services of the Board of Education and administration to join with the Drug Task Force to grow the program.

The student representatives shared their experience using the Naviance Program. Mr. Goralski asked them to share their experience with Mr. Stranieri and the Guidance Department so more students could be exposed to the tools that Naviance offers before their senior year.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ September 25, 2017

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed the draft job description for the Athletics Site Supervisor (Non-football) Middle School that the Board approved at their last meeting. The committee also reviewed two policies and regulations that will come before the Board for a first reading. They are Policy 1230, Community Relations, Other School-Connected Organizations, Booster Clubs; Policy #1324, Community Relations, Soliciting Funds from and by Students and Regulation R-5123, Procedures for Promotion and Retention.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that he received correspondence concerning Derynoski Elementary School shared use of the parking lot and safety concerns. This will come before the Board as a formal presentation at a future meeting.

Mrs. Queen reported that Sliders Grill is the first advertiser to have a banner hanging over the bleachers.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2016-2017 School Resource Officer Annual Report (*moved to the end of the meeting*)

b. SAT / AP / College Report

Mr. Jeff Shaw, Assistant Principal of Southington High School, gave an overview of the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) results taken on April 5, 2017 and the college acceptance rates and the implication this data has for high school programming. Each fall/winter the Board also reviews the AP (Advanced Placement) results.

Mr. Shaw pointed out an error in the Graduate Data that showed graduates attending two-year colleges at 14%, which should be 24%. He noted that 12% of graduates entered right into the workforce, which was an increase over last few years; however, all the other data was consistent with previous years. Mr. Goralski requested that documentation regarding colleges that accepted students and the colleges that students chose be included in future reports, as in the past. Mr. Shaw discussed recommendations moving forward.

c. 2017-2018 Healthy Food Certification, Part 2

Mr. Connellan explained that there were two parts to the Healthy Food Certification and that the Board voted on the first part at a previous meeting; however, the second part was not included in the original motion.

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

“Move that the Board of Education will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, in the 2017-2018 school year provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. 2016-2017 School Resource Officer Annual Report (*out of agenda order*)

Officer Kevin Naranjo was not able to attend the Board meeting.

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

“Move to table Agenda Item 10.a. to a future meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary