

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

DECEMBER 14, 2017

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

Board members present: Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark (*arrived 6:55 p.m.*), Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. David Derynoski.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance (*left at 6:45 p.m.*)

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AFSCME AND UPSEU CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND A STUDENT MATTER ~ 6:30 p.m.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing AFSCME and UPSEU Contract Negotiations and a Student Matter, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:07 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:10 p.m.

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

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 Special Services.

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 Helene Triano who recently passed away. She was a school nurse for the Southington Public Schools from September 1958 through June 1993.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

a. The Board of Education presented a Certificate of Excellence to the 2017 CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) student award recipients, seniors Evan Bender and Lydia Yu. Mr. Connellan read resumes of their leadership and academic accomplishments.

b. The Board of Education recognized Walgreen's and John O'Donnell, Southington Store Manager, for their generous donation of school supplies to the students of the Southington Public Schools.

The celebration concluded at 7:18 p.m. and Mr. Goralski, Chair, called for a recess.

Mr. Goralski, Chair, reconvened the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ November 9, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of November 9, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience:

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

Mr. Brown addressed the negativity discussed on social media and that state legislators were trying to balance the current state budget on the backs of teachers.

Mrs. Queen thanked the Southington Education Foundation (SEF) for supporting the vision of our educators and awarding four grants. She explained what the four grants were for in detail.

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

“Move Agenda Item 10.b ‘2016-2017 School Resource Officer Annual Report’ to Agenda Item 8.b. and move Agenda Item 11.e ‘Approval of Out-of-State / Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Item 8.c’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski explained that the foundation of everything that STEPS does is based on the facts of what the students need and how to keep them safe. The STEPS annual survey will be conducted on Thursday, January 25, 2018 with a snow date of January 26, 2018. Parents are welcome to talk to administration if they have any questions or concerns.

Mr. Goralski announced that the YMCA fundraiser “Polar Plunge” into Sloper Pond, which benefits students to attend Camp Sloper, is on January 2, 2018. Board members participating will be Mr. Goralski and Mr. Baczewski. Mr. Madancy agreed to participate along with Mr. Connellan, Mr. Stranieri and Mr. Lasbury. Mr. Goralski challenged every school to have a staff member participate.

Mr. Goralski announced the Board of Education members who will serve on sub-committees along with the chairperson of the sub-committee. The list of the sub-committees will be posted on the district website.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Introduction of Adult Education Director: Mr. Madancy welcomed and introduced the new Adult Education Director Mrs. Kim Palmer. Mrs. Palmer gave a brief summary of some new courses that will be offered under her leadership. A course offered to parents will address the new math their children are learning in school. The courses offered will be advertised on the district website, social media and through other means. On January 3, 2018, through a grant, Mr. Greg Tang will be presenting at DePaolo Middle School on understanding and teaching the new math.
2. State Award – Vocational Programs: Mr. Connellan deferred this item to the Student Representatives to present under their report.
3. Healthy & Wise Committee: Mrs. DiNello gave an update on the work of this committee. She announced the top five winners of the Fall Step-Up Challenge that involved 325 participants between the town and Southington Public Schools with Central Office being the building that won. She explained the upcoming Winter Challenge “Lose to Win” that is scheduled January 2, 2018 through February 14, 2018.
4. World Language – Seal of Bi-Literacy: Mr. Madancy explained that if a student meets the guidelines and criteria set forth by the State Department of Education, they would be awarded the seal of bi-literacy. A criterion a student would have to meet is a proficient level of performance on an oral interview. Southington High School will be hosting the Eastern U.S. National World Language Training in February and many of the Southington world language teachers will be trained at a discounted rate in administering

the oral proficiency interviews. The remaining cost will be covered by a grant. A goal for Southington students is to be proficiently bi-lingual.

5. PTO Executive Leadership Team Meeting: In November, Mr. Connellan and Mrs. Clark met with members of the PTO Executive Leadership Team regarding sharing resources and collaboration across the district. Mrs. Clark explained that in the past, the PTO Leadership met regularly to share ideas and hoped that this new collaboration will continue.

6. Board and Town Collaboration – Human Resources Manager Position: Mr. Connellan explained that the Town Human Resource Generalist and the Board of Education Personnel Manager positions have now merged to be one Human Resources Manager. Interviews will be conducted in the near future with the individual serving both the Town and Board of Education in that role.

7. School Tours with Board of Finance Members: On December 6, 2017, Ms. Walsh escorted Mrs. Queen and members of the Town Board of Finance to observe some in-district special education programs at Southington High School. There currently are nine in-district programs serving 90 students in kindergarten through age with significant disabilities. She plans to set-up two more visits to include tours of Hatton Elementary School and Kennedy and DePaolo Middle Schools.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Sean Young reported on the following:

- Parent-Teachers Conferences were held on November 16, 2017.
- Homecoming Dance was held on November 17, 2017 with over 400 students in attendance. Before the event, a breathalyzer was used.
- On November 20, 2017, a transition meeting was held at the high school for middle school students and parents.

Joseph Martin reported on the following:

- The Southington High School Co-op Experience and Project-Lead-the-Way were both honored by the State as outstanding CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs. This is the seventh consecutive honor and plaque received by the high school.
- For extra credit or assignments, students made two or three dimensional paper snowflakes that are decorating each department of the high school to make a winter wonderland.
- The Winter Music Concert at the high school takes place on December 20 with a snow date of December 21 and starting at 6:00 p.m.

Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- The winter recess starts on December 22 through January 2.
- The high school is decorated very festive and gets the students in the mood for the holiday season.
- The American Legion Oratorical Contest will be held at the high school on January 8, 2018 revolving around the United States Constitution.
- The annual SHS Course Fair will be held on January 10, 2018; it allows middle school students to map out extra-curricular activities that they would like to join.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Goralski will be sending a holiday letter to staff to thank them for their hard work.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Mr. Goralski thanked Mrs. Passamano, Interim Personnel Manager, for her first report.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. 2016-2017 School Resource Officer Annual Report

Officer Kevin Naranjo stated that this was his second year out of four years as the Southington High School Resource Officer. He gave a brief explanation of his background as a police officer for 11 years and stated that he was a product of the Southington school system. He has children of his own and is aware of the issues of today's students. As a Resource Officer, he wears many hats of police officer, father figure, confidant, resource, and counselor. There were 114 student cases in the 2016-2017 school year and he hoped to bring those numbers down this school year.

b.2 Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips (*Formerly Agenda Item 11.e*)

The Assistant Boy's Wrestling Coach explained that the team would be attending the Lowell Holiday Tournament in Massachusetts on December 28 and 29 with the team going by bus and the transportation paid for by the Booster Club. The wrestlers will be going home with their parents who are responsible for their lodging. The Timberlane Invitational is in Plaistow, New Hampshire on January 20 and 21, 2018.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the field trip requests for the Southington High School Wrestling Team to attend tournaments in Massachusetts and New Hampshire as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Middle School Activities Committee Meeting ~ November 20, 2017

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee discussed the wrap up of the fall season and the start of the winter season and recognized the additional work on the part of administration to make activities work. Mr. Connellan will communicate with parents to resolve the issue of outstanding activity fees owed by parents. The committee addressed revenue and expenses, fundraisers, donations, grants, enhanced programming, and the feasibility of any funds being restored for middle school sports in the upcoming budget, which is highly unlikely due to the fiscal situation for 2018-2019.

The Board recognized Mr. Mike DeFeo, as President of the SMSAA, for his leadership and congratulated him for receiving the YMCA award of Person of the Year for his contributions and commitment to youth sports in the community and as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. It was noted that Mr. DeFeo does not have children in the middle schools and is leading this committee.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ November 30, 2017

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed Policy 1324, *Community Relations, and Soliciting Funds from and by Students*. The impetus behind revising this policy was with teachers who were fundraising using technology applications such as “GoFundMe.” This policy will just be for fundraising by staff and students. Fundraising by booster clubs and PTOs will be addressed within Policy 1320, *Community Relations, Other School Connected Organizations, Booster Clubs*, which will be revised. The committee discussed the approval process for fundraising. Mrs. Queen stated that the committee also reviewed a draft job description for the Human Resource Manager with the help of Mr. Oshana who offered his expertise in this field.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 11.c ‘Acceptance of PTO Gift to Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School’ to Agenda Item 10.b’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ December 7, 2017

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee reviewed the district’s current graduation requirements of 22 credits that are two credits above the current state requirements of 20. Effective for the Class of 2023, the state requirements will be 25 credits affecting our current seventh graders. The high school administration will review the changes needed and develop a proposal to go before the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and Policy & Personnel Committee. This revision will be a long process.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Chair of the Town Council, presented the two new elected Board of Education members, Ms. Cammuso and Mr. Baczewski, with an official Town of Southington lapel pin. This was a tradition that started several years ago.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Committee of the Chairs met to discuss the 2018-2019 budget and the many unknowns still present regarding the state budget. On December 20, 2018, Mr. Connellan and Mrs. DiNello from Central Office will meet with Mr. Sciota and Mrs. Portelinha from the town to compare “apple to apples” with this year’s budget and what will be received from the state. This needs to be done before any appropriation request is made from the Board of Education to the Town Boards in order to balance the education budget.

b. 2016-2017 School Resource Officer Annual Report (Moved to Agenda Item 8.b)

b.2 Acceptance of PTO Gift to Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School *(Formerly Agenda Item 11.c)*

Mr. Palmieri, Assistant Principal of DePaolo Middle School, explained that during the school renovation project there originally was a pond feature in the courtyard that was removed and PTO funds for this were directed elsewhere. This year, DePaolo Middle School will be celebrating their 50th anniversary and it is a perfect time for the PTO to add the concept of a water feature in the courtyard as part of this celebration and to do something special for the school. It will enhance aesthetics and provide a tranquil environment for the students.

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

“Move to accept the DePaolo Middle School PTO gift and installation of a water wall in the DePaolo courtyard.”

The DePaolo School Garden Club members will provide the maintenance and care of this feature.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Budget 2017-2018

Mrs. DiNello explained that since the early November Board meeting where she explained a revenue analysis of what was to be an anticipated appropriation request of \$6.9 million, Governor Malloy implemented what he called a “holdback” for Southington regarding the Excess Cost Sharing Education Grant, which is just over \$1.7 million. Mrs. Queen stated that it was confusing and clarified that the \$6.9 million was a revenue grant that used to go directly to the town and with the Governor’s original proposal it was going to go directly to the Board of Education, which is why the Town Board of Finance reduced the BOE budget by that amount. Now, with the final budget, that Excess Cost money is going back to the town. Mrs. DiNello stated there are two grants that are specifically impacted. The Board of Education will continue to get the Special Education Excess Cost Grant directly and the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) money in entirety will go to the municipality.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Capital Improvement Plan ~ 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, as submitted.”

Mrs. DiNello stated that this document explains the school system’s needs for the next five years and that the capital items that were approved by the Town for this year are currently on hold. If it is deferred, then these items may be pushed back a year. The Board liked Mr. Romano’s improved layout and description of the school building roofs and through the collaboration between Mrs. Mellitt, Mrs. DiNello and Mr. Romano made this a very clear Capital Plan document and easy to understand. Mrs. Queen clarified that a capital item over \$1 million has to go to referendum.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Job Description Approval ~ Human Resources Manager

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the revised job description for Human Resource Manager, as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Acceptance of PTO Gift to Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School (Moved to Agenda Item

d. 2018-2019 Proposed School Calendar ~ First Reading

Mr. Connellan explained that there were two versions of the calendar and the difference is where the April recess falls. In Version A, the April recess is during the week of April 15 with April 19 being Good Friday. In Version B, the April recess falls during the week of April 8. There is no longer the requirement to use the CREC Common Calendar. The Board discussed any commonality with the magnet schools, out-of-district schools, and other school districts. Mr. Connellan will do more research on the two calendar versions.

Mrs. Queen addressed Columbus Day and how to handle that day in the schools. Mr. Goralski stated that he would follow the lead of the state and federal governments that made it a holiday. Mr. Brown suggested waiting to see if the public has comments about it before the Board addresses it.

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

“Move to add the Expulsion of Student 2017-2018-03 to the agenda as Agenda Item 11.f.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Approval of Out-of-State /Overnight Field Trips (Moved to Agenda Item 8.c)

f. Expulsion ~ Student 2017-2018-03

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

“Move to expel Student 2017-2018-03 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary