

*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](http://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**

**AUGUST 9, 2018**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with an Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:28 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.

Board of Finance members present: Mr. Tony Morrison and Mr. Edward Pocock (*left meeting at 6:50 p.m.*)

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ SEA NEGOTIATIONS AND STUDENT MATTERS**

**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 SEA Negotiations and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:20 p.m.*

#### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:30 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.

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Dan Hart, Southington Education Association (SEA) President, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 28, 2018**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 28, 2018, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Brown and Mrs. Carmody abstaining.**

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Audience**

There was no audience communication.

##### **b. Communication from Board Members**

The following was discussed:

- Mr. Brown thought it would be useful information during the next budget process to know why the Southington Public Schools are ranked 159 out of 164 school districts in the state. Mr. Connellan will research the components for the Board. Mr. Derynoski added that this would change if the Board of Education added back the cost of the Food Service Program, which is self-funded and not part of the calculation.
- Mr. Brown explained that the Wall of Honor Committee is researching World War II casualties and will be coming up with names to add to the Wall of Honor.
- Mr. Brown is working on a Child Poverty Project that he presented at the National Education Association (NEA) Convention in Minneapolis attended by 10,000 teachers worldwide. The NEA will be sending information on this project to all 50 states and three million teachers will be receiving a copy of the project to give him input and ideas for this project.

##### **c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. **Schaller Auto World Fund:** Mr. Connellan explained that the Schaller Auto Group funded a \$2,500 grant through the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain for safety and security improvements at Southington High School. The proposal was to increase the number of two-way radios at the high school, which cost \$600 each.
2. **Staffing Update:** Mr. Connellan reported that there were a number of resignations recently and that administrators are working hard to staff all the positions.

3. Thalberg Elementary School Sign: Mr. Connellan reported that the Thalberg PTO donated a large sign for installation by the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.
4. Summer Projects: Mr. Connellan reported that the maintenance department had been very busy over the summer and worked collaboratively and cost effectively with the town to repair school sidewalks. A number of people had complimented the custodial staff on the work that they have done to get the schools ready.

**7. 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.**

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Alphonse D’Angelo who recently passed away. Mr. D’Angelo was a retired Southington High School foreign language teacher and was an active community member.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski reported on the recent Farm Heritage Committee meeting and that they were working on the master plan. He met with Marion Stannard, Director Ag-Science at the high school, who will be meeting with Milone & MacBroom to help with the master plan. Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, helped to design a gate for the DePaolo Middle School Garden Club. The Grosky Farm Stand was removed and a hole dug for the new footing and foundation. Mr. Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, and some students would be constructing the farm stand.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Committee of the Chairs met and discussed the 2017-2018 budget closeout and the pathway to Hatton School. The town received bids for replacing the pathway to Hatton School with sidewalks and were also looking into whether to leave it as grass. The committee also discussed 1) planning for the 2019-2020 budget, 2) the Tilcon expansion and how it would affect Crescent Lake, and 3) renovating downtown Plantsville.

Mr. Goralski reported that Mr. Palmieri, Town Council Chair, was forming a Property Tax Relief Committee to address potential tax relief for seniors on fixed income and veterans. Mrs. Carmody would serve on this committee as the Board of Education liaison.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Superintendent’s Annual Report ~ 2017-2018**

Mr. Connellan thanked Mrs. Blanchard, Recording Secretary, for putting the 2017-2018 report together. He made a few changes to the design of the report. Mr. Connellan pointed out the

amount of community service engagement by students. Mrs. Carmody found the report very informative, impressive and well done and hoped that the community reads it.

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

**“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Annual Report for 2017-2018, as submitted.”**

Mr. Derynoski noted that there was commonality between each of the schools and that it was easy to make comparisons between the schools. He was happy with the changes to the report and the way it was structured, which was the best that he had seen.

Mrs. Queen addressed the Annual Report and complimented the administrative staff for the way that they handled the difficult budget process this past year and that, despite these difficulties, there were amazing things still happening in the schools. She highlighted the long list that the Operations Department completed in-house as a cost savings measure to the district and to the town. She noted that the same phrasing was reflected in all the individual school reports that the Board members are hearing at the curriculum and instruction meetings. She liked the line in Mr. Terino’s report about the students becoming “Guardians of Freedom” as a skill set under citizenship. Mr. Madancy gave the credit around the commonality in the school reports to the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee and the teachers collaborating, researching and sharing best practices with each other.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Class Size Report**

Mr. Connellan explained that the numbers would change between now and the opening of school and that the administration had been looking at the numbers since kindergarten registration, which was the biggest unknown. At this time, there were some hotspots that administration was concerned about and would continue to monitor. Administration follows Board policy on class sizes but also looks at the composition of the class and the needs of the students. According to the enrollment study that the Board of Education just had completed, this was supposed to be the lowest year in elementary enrollment; however, they currently are equal to the 2017-2018 school year with enrollment. When administration compares what the enrollment looks like today with what the enrollment projections were, they are up about 26 students across 143 classes.

Mr. Connellan requested that the Board authorize administration to add one FTE (full time equivalent) position at the elementary level for a classroom teacher, if needed, prior to the beginning of school.

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

**“Move to authorize administration to hire up to one full time elementary teacher within the current budget dollars, if needed, based on any additional student enrollment that we may have.”**

Mrs. DiNello explained that since the reallocation of the budget, there had been a lot of transition of staff throughout the summer months through resignations and that administration had

reached their retirement number of 10 teachers that was set in May. With the overall changes in staffing, Mrs. DiNello thought that they would be able to fund this position.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. School Opening Dates ~ 2018-2019**

Mr. Connellan reported that Convocation would take place on Monday, August 27 in the high school auditorium followed by meetings for staff and professional development activities for two days. The first day of school is Thursday, August 30. Board members would be visiting the schools the first day of school.

**d. South End Elementary School, Project Close-out (131-0124N)**

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

**“Move to accept the close-out of the South End Elementary School #131-0124N Renovation Project as complete and direct the administration to close-out the project with the Town Finance Department and the Department of Administrative Services.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. Bid Award: 2019-06 - Boiler Replacement (Thalberg)**

Mrs. DiNello explained that the boiler was in need of replacement at Thalberg Elementary School. Over the summer, Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, and Mrs. DiNello attended a Town Board of Finance meeting, on behalf of the Board of Education, to make a recommendation regarding funds that remained in the 2017-2018 budget. They requested that the funds be carried forward into the 2018-2019 budget to do Capital Projects or maintenance items that were deferred due to the Mitigation Plan and budget freeze that was implemented. The Board of Finance approved carrying forward up to \$200,000 into the 2018-2019 school year for these projects. Mr. Romano and Mrs. Mellitt, Account Manager, worked together on the bid and reviewed the results that came in. The recommendation would be to award Bid #2019-06, Boiler Replacement at Thalberg School for \$123,113 to replace both boilers. The Preferred Bidder language implemented by the town was used and a local company was willing to match the low bid price. Mrs. DiNello explained that there were questions whether a Performance Bond was necessary for the project. The Board was comfortable not requiring a Performance Bond from Saucier Mechanical.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education award Bid #2019-06, Boiler Replacement at Thalberg Elementary School in the amount of \$123,113 to replace both boilers.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Goralski stated that he would thank the Board of Finance for their collaboration to make the boiler replacement a reality. Mrs. DiNello explained that the Board would have the 2017-2018 budget closeout at their next meeting. At that time, administration would make recommendations for other projects with any remaining funds.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary