

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 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 13, 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 6:32 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, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ NEGOTIATIONS AND STUDENT MATTERS

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:04 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:31 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, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

For Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education recognized Mrs. Kari Peschel-Luise, an Engineering, Architecture, and Technology Education teacher at Southington High School who was chosen as Southington's 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Peschel-Luise was presented with a plaque by the Board of Education.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 9, 2018

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of August 9, 2018, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Oshana abstaining.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

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

“Move Agenda Item 11.e ‘Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Brown reported that Board members visited schools on the first day of school and noted the oppressive heat and humidity at the elementary schools, which are not air-conditioned. He thought it was time that the Board discuss putting air conditioning in the elementary schools due to lost educational time. Board members discussed this at length.
- Mr. Goralski announced that STEPS would be celebrating their 10th Anniversary with a Gala and would be recognizing Mr. John Myers, Executive Director of the Southington YMCA and the first STEPS Chairman, who plans to retire in December.

- Mr. Goralski thanked the Southington Police and Fire Departments and AMR Ambulance Service, for collaborating with the Southington Public Schools on safety initiatives and the active shooter training at the high school for professional development. Mr. Connellan thanked Shane Lockwood of Emergency Management Services for the Town and Regional Health Department, who was also involved in the training at the high school.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Opening of School: Mr. Connellan reported that opening of school went smoothly except for the heat index reaching 100 degrees in some of the elementary schools resulting in shortened days for elementary students.
2. SPD-Professional Development Day: Mr. Madancy thanked the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee that planned meaningful learning opportunities for staff at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Connellan thanked the Southington Police Department for their Active Shooter training at the high school on August 28 for professional development, which was a huge commitment on their part.
3. Summer Projects-Operations: Mr. Connellan reported that through the efforts of Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, and the operations department, safety projects were completed efficiently with quality workmanship and significant savings for the community.
4. Pre-K Facilitator: Mr. Connellan reported that the pre-K facilitator retired and Ms. Walsh, Director of Pupil Services, and her team came up with a creative solution with the use of in-house resources to fill this position at a cost savings.
5. Play 60 Grant: Mr. Connellan reported that Nya Welinsky, Food Service Director, collaborated with physical education staff at ALTA and Derynoski Schools and received a grant from the New England Dairy & Food Council for “Fuel Up to Play 60”, an in-school health and wellness program.
6. Fuel for School: Mr. Connellan reported that this is a partnership program with Bread for Life. Bread for Life, through the efforts of Bethany Ingriselli and Donna Ayer, will continue the program to provide snacks and bottled water for students who qualify for free/reduced meals. Bread for Life hosted the ALTA senior graduation last year with the food donated by Smokin’ with Chris Restaurant. Mr. Goralski thanked Bread for Life for the Summer Lunch Program that they ran this summer, which provided 2,162 lunches to children in Southington.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Miss Spataro reported on the following:

- She started the college application process this summer and attended Girls’ State where she learned about government. She applied to work on Senator Chris Murphy’s campaign starting next week.
- Freshmen Orientation was held on August 22 with a morning and night sessions.
- Class assemblies were held to cover school rules and policies.
- Senior class photos were taken.

Mr. Nick Mangene reported on the following:

- He participated in Boys’ State over the summer and went on college tours.

- The College Fair was held at the high school with over 100 college representatives.
- The high school annual Open House will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20 where families can follow their student’s schedule and meet teachers briefly to learn about the courses.

Mr. Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- He went on many family vacations this summer and attended two weeks of Band Camp.
- This year, the band show is called “Destiny West” about westward expansion. The first public preview show will be Friday, September 14 at the high school. The first band competition will be Saturday, September 15 at Maloney High School.
- The Financial Aid Night is scheduled for October 4, 2018 for students and parents to learn more about the college application process.

e. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips *(formerly Agenda Item 11.e)*

Mrs. Teresa Brooks and Mrs. Sandy Spinello, co-advisors for DECA, introduced students Kalli Gianacopolos, DECA President, and Erin Robinson, DECA Executive Vice President, who requested Board permission for the overnight field trips to Baltimore, Maryland and Orlando, Florida. The students discussed the benefits of attending the DECA Ultimate Power Trip in Maryland and the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, Florida. These events help to further their knowledge of the business world using 21st century learning skills and compete with other DECA Chapters at the international conference in Florida. The students discussed their experience running the concession stand this summer at the Southington Drive-In.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip requests for the Southington High School DECA group to travel to Baltimore and Orlando, as presented by the administration.”

The Board members discussed the 21st century skills and asked the students how it is applied in their classes. Miss Spataro acknowledged that it was more about having conversations and being able to form connections than about technology, which was a big component of the field trips.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meetings ~ August 22, 2018

Mrs. Carmody reported that the eighth grade teachers presented the revisions to the history curriculum in response to the state's adoption of the Connecticut Social Studies Standards. The business teacher assigned to the implementation of the new course, 21st Century Skills in the Business Environment, gave a presentation to the committee. The committee discussed this new course at length, which will be very instrumental in producing The Yearbook for the high school. Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee was given a presentation of "Splash Math", which is an online learning tool used to supplement instruction in elementary math and provides students with a personalized learning experience. The committee also received an update on high school graduation requirements by the high school administration. Mrs. Carmody stated that approximately 70% of the students graduate with 25 credits and that the committee is looking at the proposed areas and courses for the 25 credits.

b. Financial Committee Meeting ~ August 9, 2018

1. Transfer of Funds

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

"Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. 2017-2018 Year End Closeout

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

"Move to approve the 2017-2018 Year End Closeout, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ September 10, 2018

1. Snow Bid Award

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

"Move to award Bid #2019-05, Snow Removal Services, as presented by the administration."

Mr. Oshana stated that he did not think it was appropriate to award a bid to any vendor that has had lawsuits against them in the town of Southington and in the past voted against a particular vendor. He noted that the vendors who bid for the snow removal services this year did not have any lawsuits against them in the town and one particular vendor was sold so there are new owners; therefore, he would bid in favor. Mr. Oshana stated that attracting vendors to bid is a struggle and that next year the bid process will start earlier to increase vendors bidding. Mr. Goralski discussed at length the Town Ordinance to require Preferential Bidding to town

businesses, which he thought hurts the bidding process. He asked Mrs. Mellitt, Accounting Manager, to continue to track the bidding process so he can share it with the Town Council. The Board members discussed this agenda item at length.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported on the Committee of the Chairs meeting on September 5, 2018. The committee addressed the Hatton pathway, Bradley Memorial Hospital, 2017-18 budget closeout, and the budget planning process for 2019-2020. Mr. Goralski plans to attend the Board of Finance meeting on September 19 where they plan to discuss this. The Property Tax Relief Committee members have been selected with Mrs. Carmody the Board of Education Liaison.

Mr. Goralski explained that one resident reached out to Mr. Oshana, Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, and Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Town Council Chair, about snow removal concerns and the conditions of the Hatton pathway, which is a school access way and not a school owned sidewalk. There is a partnership between the Board of Education and the town of Southington to maintain it. It is a very old pathway and in bad disrepair. Mr. Goralski discussed the various options to fix/replace it, the various costs involved, the use of the pathway and providing student transportation. This is a town budget item. Mr. Goralski discussed this issue at length and plans to attend the October 1 Hatton School PTO meeting. At this time, the decision regarding the pathway is not final until Mr. Sciota, Town Manager, addresses safety with the Southington Police Department. However, in collaboration between the Board of Education and the Town, the current plan is that the town will rip up the pathway, fill it with topsoil, and the Board of Education would provide the staff to put down seed.

Mr. Baczewski addressed the recent developments on Bradley Hospital and the importance of healthcare as a 21st century skill in the medical field. He thought that it might be a good opportunity for the Board of Education to reach out to Hartford Healthcare about using Bradley for EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) or CNA (Certified Nurse's Aide) programs as a partnership. Mr. Goralski will address this at the next Committee of the Chairs meeting.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Farm Heritage Committee plans to meet and discuss the Master Plan. Mrs. Marion Stannard, Director of Ag-Science at the high school, met with Milone & MacBroom who is doing the Master Plan for the committee. Mrs. Stannard's input was instrumental in the development of the Master Plan for the Grosky Farm stand and Pleasant Street Farm property next to DePaolo Middle School. Mr. Baczewski questioned who was maintaining the town's Pleasant Street property because it was overgrown with weeds. Per Mr. Goralski, it is the town's responsibility to maintain and any complaints should be addressed to Mr. Sciota, Town Manager.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Street ~ School Designation

Mr. Connellan stated that the boundary line at the new housing development on Mariani Drive cuts through property at the street cul-de-sac. Currently, the street is designated to Thalberg Elementary School and DePaolo Middle School. Administration's recommendation is to designate the whole street as Kelley Elementary School and Kennedy Middle School, which have less enrollment. Mr. Derynoski questioned bus transportation.

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

“Move to approve the street designation change, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Year End Report on 2017-2018 Superintendent's Goals

Mr. Connellan noted that the last update on his goals was in March 2018. He stated that it was a productive year overall despite the budget issues last school year. He separated the work into five categories: Teacher and Learning; Facilities; Technology; School Safety and Security; and Budget-Fiscal. He spoke in detail to the 2017-2018 goals, which he plans to update for the 2018-2019 school year. The Board discussed the goals at length. These goals were coming before the Board at a later Board meeting than in the past. Mr. Madancy spoke to the instructional learning team's creation to provide the opportunity for teachers to collaborate through teams with an actionable outcome.

Mrs. Queen would like to ask the student representatives to share at each meeting an example of ways in which they feel they are directly working on 21st century skills in their weekly experience at the high school because they seem to be consciously aware of it. Mr. Connellan stated that one of his goals this school year is to meet with the student representatives and ask them to talk about their experiences because he thought that they had a lot more to share than snippets at the Board meetings.

c. Adoption of Grade 8 Social Studies Curriculum ~ First Read

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

“Move that the Board of Education supports the request from the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to approve the revised curriculum for Grade 8 Social Studies.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Adoption of Business Course 21st Century Skills Curriculum ~ First Read

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

“Move that the Board of Education supports the request from the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to approve the creation of Business Course 21st Century Skills.”

Mr. Derynoski clarified that this course is a full year credit and is tied into creating The Yearbook, which includes marketing, advertising and real-life experiences. The Board discussed this new course at length.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- e. **Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips (Moved to Agenda Item 7.e)**

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary