

*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**

**OCTOBER 11, 2018**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, October 11, 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 was held at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance.

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

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

**"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Matters and SEA (Southington Education Association) Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.*

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

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:16 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 Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

Student representatives present were Bianca Spataro, Nicholas Mangene and Trevor Messina.

#### **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 Wendy Borkowski, a former paraeducator in the school district who recently passed away.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 27, 2018**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 27, 2018, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

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

There was no audience communication.

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

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Brown reported that the Wall of Honor Committee would be inducting honorees Matt Galka, Dr. Craig Bogdanski, Barry DePaolo, and Dawn Denorfio along with posthumously honoring Anthony Pasquale, Francis Gura, Stanley Putala, John Ziemba, John Calvanese, Paul Flynn and John Folcik at a ceremony on April 9, 2018 at Southington High School at 6:00 p.m. The committee is in the process of fundraising for a mobile wall.
- Mr. Derynoski stated that the Technology Advisory Committee met and started implementing initiatives with the help of sub-committees. An Awareness Campaign is currently taking place regarding the need for manufacturing and quality tradesmen. In November, there will be a Manufacturing and Trades Career Fair at Kennedy Middle School.
- Ms. Cammuso attended the October 10<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Readiness Workshop series sponsored by the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington. The workshop addressed literacy skills needed to be successful in kindergarten. There will be two more workshops in the series. It was very informative on what is required of kindergarten students entering school and how to prepare them.
- Mr. Baczewski plans to attend the Greg Tang K-5 Family Math Night on November 8, 2018 to learn more about the new math that his children are learning. He addressed

the Apple Harvest Festival, which is a community event, and was proud to see so many school-aged students actively participating.

- Mr. Goralski announced that the Red Ribbon Rally is celebrating its 28<sup>th</sup> year and will take place on the Town Green on October 16 at 6:45 p.m. He will be speaking at the rally for the 10<sup>th</sup> year and would like to see more groups in the town participate in the event.

**c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. The Courage to Speak Foundation: Mr. Connellan reported that The Courage to Speak Foundation would be presenting “Parenting through the Opioid Crisis and Beyond” on October 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center.
2. Kelley School Playground: Mr. Connellan announced that Kelley School came in second place and won a \$40,000-\$50,000 playground component to add on to the playground. The specifics are in the process of being worked out on the installation.
3. Safety Training School Office Staff: Mr. Madancy reported that on Tuesday, October 16, during the early release time for staff professional development, front office staff in the schools would be attending safety training at the Southington Police Department in the event of an emergency at their school. On November 6, Election Day, the remaining 12-month secretaries will go for the same training at the police department.
4. School Safety and Security Grant: Mr. Connellan announced that the state released the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the School Safety and Security Grant. He will contact legislators to assist the school district in applying for the grant.

Mr. Derynoski announced that Bianca Spataro, student representative, was named the 2018-2019 Apple Harvest Festival Queen and congratulated her on the honor. Mr. Goralski pointed out that Trevor Messina, student representative, was the first ever Apple Harvest Host.

**d. Communication from Students Representatives**

Mr. Nick Mangene reported on the following:

- October 4, 2018 was Financial Aid Night.
- The PSAT was taken by grades 9, 10 and 11 on October 10, 2018. Depending on their scores, students will have the chance to win a scholarship up to \$2,500.

Miss Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- She was selected this year’s Apple Harvest Festival Queen, which is judged on character and work ethic.
- On October 20, 2018, from 9:00-noon, the Robotics Team will be holding an exhibition at the Southington Drive-In to educate the public and to introduce the community to STEM.

Mr. Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- The “Music of the Knight” is the biggest marching band competition in the state and will be held on October 20 at Southington High School. There are 19 bands participating this year with the competition starting at 3:00 p.m.
- The Marching Band has a competition on Saturday, October 13 in Trumbull.

- The symphonic band and orchestra fall concert will be held on October 23, at 7:00 p.m., in the high school auditorium.
- There is a “Pink Out” football game on October 19 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The football team will wear some form of pink. Trevor is Band Council President and, this year, for the first time, the band will participate. They will dye their old white gloves pink in honor and support of Mrs. Shaw.

Mrs. Queen questioned if the students can take the PSATs in grades 9, 10, 11 (three times) and if they would have three chances to win the National Merit Scholarship. Mr. Messina replied that only the eleventh-grade students had a chance to win the Merit Scholarship. Miss Spataro stated that the ninth grade PSAT is modified.

**7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communication**

Mr. Goralski reported on the Farm Heritage Committee and the direction of the Master Plan by Milone and McBroom. He discussed the educational components of building the Grosky Farm Stand at the corner of Berlin and East Streets. Local business people in town who have donated toward the building of the Farm Stand would be recognized at a future meeting.

Mr. Goralski gave an update on the Committee of the Chairs meeting. Discussed were:  
 1) The consensus for the Hatton Pathway was that the school district did not need the path on the town-owned property for school access. The committee was looking into placing gravel on the pathway. 2) The United Way goal is to raise \$10,000 between the town employees and school district employees with the Human Resource Office coordinating the effort. 3) Budget closeout for 2017-2018 with approximately \$400,000 going toward the undesignated fund balance. 4) The sub-divisions currently in the building process that would eventually affect the school district.

**b. Budget Assumptions & Priorities 2019-2020 ~ Second Reading**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approve the Budget Assumptions and Priorities for the 2019-2020 school year, as presented.”**

Mr. Goralski requested Mrs. DiNello to send the Budget Assumptions and Priorities to the Town Council and Board of Finance.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs**

Mrs. DiNello explained that this is an agreement required by the state that the Board needs to approve in order to receive state subsidies for the Food Service Program. This agreement supersedes any prior agreement.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education agrees to comply with the requirements for any Child Nutrition Program in which it is approved to participate for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent of Schools and Director of Business and Finance to sign claims for reimbursement.**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Board Resolution: Open Account for Karl Witwicki Scholarship at NFS**

Mrs. DiNello explained that there currently are two scholarships set up for Karl Witwicki. One is where they have been making withdrawals for the scholarships awarded to students, which carries a balance. The other scholarship has not had any activity because the first scholarship was utilized. Therefore, the bank considers it as a closed and dormant account that the state would take over. Due to the merger of TD Bank with National Financial Services (NFS), where this money is currently held, names need to be placed on the account to authorize signatories to close the account and roll the funds to the other scholarship fund. This is a formality to open it, withdraw the money, and move the money to the rest of the scholarship funds.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approves a resolution authorizing Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, to establish and maintain the Karl Witwicki Scholarship with National Financial Services.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
 Recording Secretary