

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 25, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Instructions) was held on Thursday, October 25, 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. Robert Brown, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, 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 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 the School Safety & Security Plan 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 7:01 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:08 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Joseph Baczewski (*left at 7:03 p.m.*).

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 representative present was Mr. Trevor Messina.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Trevor Messina, Student Representative, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

a. Retirees of the Southington Public Schools

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education and administration recognized the following retirees of the Southington Board of Education who were in attendance:

Employee	Position / Facility	Years of Service
Marie Bordonaro	District Nursing Supervisor	21
Mary Gotowala	Paraeducator / Plantsville & Strong	21
Patricia Kenefick	Social Studies Teacher / JAD (held many positions)	46
Roberta Knoegel	Speech Language Pathologist (District)	40
Debra O'Brien	Science Teacher / SHS	31
Marcia Phelps	Physical Education Teacher / HES & TES	36
Sherlee Plawecki	Purchasing Department Secretary	20
Philip Pomposi	Math Teacher / JFK	24
Elizabeth Pruski	Special Education Teacher / SHS	44
Patricia Tarfano	Paraeducator / SHS	33
Jane Tebo	Paraeducator / Hatton	20
Louise Torvinen	Paraeducator / SHS	20
Deborah Walonoski	Purchasing Department Secretary	32

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and explained that Mr. Baczewski left the meeting to attend his son's birthday celebration and wanted to thank the retirees for their years of service.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 11, 2018

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of October 11, 2018, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski invited Derynoski Elementary School students Ellie Savelkoul and Addy Fisher and their friends (Simon Savelkoul, Lily Dauphinais, Lyla Eterginio, Morgan Pastor,

Trisha Corrado and Emma Dow) to the podium to read their statements requesting that the Board of Education make Halloween a half-day of school. The students also provided a petition signed by 105 students and adults who supported this change (*Attachment #1*). Mr. Goralski explained that the calendar had already been set for this year and the request would be something to consider when setting the calendar for next year. The Board thanked the students for their time and congratulated them for their excellent presentation. They encouraged the students to continue to voice their opinions and advocate for what they believe in.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2017-2018 School Resource Officer Annual Report

Mr. Goralski thanked Sgt. Brian Leppard, for his excellent representation as the supervisory liaison between the Southington Police Department and Southington Public Schools.

School Resource Officer Kevin Naranjo summarized the issues for the 2017-2018 school year and noted that the numbers have decreased since the previous school year with a total of 73 cases. He pointed out his multiple roles and responsibilities within the high school and that visibility within the building has led to positive relationships with the students and staff that is restorative versus punitive. He has an open-door policy.

b. SAT / AP / College Report

Ms. Jennifer Discenza, Director of School Counseling, gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Advanced Placement (AP), UConn Early College Experience (ECE) and Class of 2018 College Acceptance. All juniors took the SAT on April 24, 2018 and were tested in evidence-based reading, writing and math. Over 150 students took additional SAT testing after the school day. She discussed the data comparison from 2017 to 2018. The PSAT was administered to all ninth-grade students this year. The counselors are strategizing with departments to link students to the Kahn Academy.

There are 28 Advanced Placement courses offered at the high school. Ms. Discenza provided data comparisons of the five score bands from 2017 to 2018. There were 355 students who took AP classes in 2018. She provided a five-year school summary showing Southington students are above state and national averages.

Ms. Discenza highlighted the credited courses offered for the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) and the growth in enrollment and courses. Last year, there were 108 students participating for UConn ECE credit. Southington is ahead of Hartford County and the District Reference Group (DRG) for the number of students and courses offered. The UConn courses are taught by Southington High School teachers who are UConn certified.

Ms. Discenza provided graduate data for the Class of 2018 and is currently exploring the new feature on Naviance called the Alumni Tracker, which is a national database connected to colleges that reports data on colleges the students are attending. She also discussed recommendations moving forward. The Board members had many questions including AP course credit acceptance by colleges, vocational technical schools, and SAT score acceptance.

c. Superintendent's Proposed Goals for 2018-2019 ~ First Reading

Mr. Connellan separated his goals into five categories: 1) Teaching and Learning, 2) Facilities, 3) Technology, 4) School Safety and Security and, 5) Fiscal Budget, which are all interconnected, and he discussed how it was related to Southington's Vision of a Graduate. Mrs. Queen addressed the reference to "Student B" in the document and requested Mr. Connellan to inform the public to its meaning. Mr. Connellan will include an attachment addressing "Student B".

Mr. Goralski asked Board Members to address any concerns or thoughts they have on the Superintendent's goals between now and the next Board meeting when they make a motion to accept the goals.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

a. Communications from Public

There was no public communication.

b. Communications from Board of Education

Board members discussed the following:

- Attending the Blue Knights Marching Band Music of the Knight.
- Attending the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington Kindergarten Readiness Workshop series, Part 3, with a presentation by Mr. Madancy and Mrs. Rose Risser, Kindergarten Teacher.
- Veteran's Committee preparing for Veteran's Day in November and the activities planned. Veterans and active duty military members would not be charged admission to attend football games and the Music of the Knight.
- The turf field was invaluable this year because of the constant rainfall.
- The Board of Education ladies attending the Leading Ladies Luncheon raised an extra \$100 by having Mr. Brown sing "Sweet Caroline".
- The Wall of Honor ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019.
- The Hatton Pathway continues to be discussed at the Committee of the Chairs and Town Council meetings. Mr. Goralski will be attending the next Town Council meeting to address some miscommunication from the Town Council.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Electricity Generation: Mrs. DiNello addressed the departure of Blue Rock Energy from the New England Wholesale Electricity Market in which the Board of Education and Town had a two-year contract that would have expired in December 2019 paying \$.0745 KW hours that was budgeted. Due to regulatory changes, Blue Rock chose to pull out of the New England market completely resulting in a lawsuit. Eversource is currently charging \$.094 KW hours and increasing to \$.11 KW hours in January 2019. Through Titan Energy, the Board of Education and Town entered into a new contract with ENGIE for 24-months beginning immediately at a rate of \$.0879. The impact on the budget is an additional \$84,000 cost for the Board and \$70,000 for the Town and approximately \$52,000 additional cost for the current budget year for eight of the 12-months. Mr. Goralski was disappointed because the Board builds their budget on facts and projections from the experts.

2. Dental Society of Greater Southington: Ms. Walsh reported that she and Mrs. Sonya Kunkel, Special Education Coordinator, attended a meeting of the Dental Society of Greater Southington. Every two-years the dentists must earn CEU's and their topic this year was treating patients with special needs. Ms. Walsh and Mrs. Kunkel gave a presentation on Special Education Law and strategies on how to handle patients with special needs along with providing handout materials.

3. School Safety and Security: Mr. Connellan reported that the School Safety and Security Plans have been updated in collaboration with the police department and is ready to be submitted to the state by November 1, 2018 for reimbursement.

- a. School Office Staff Training: On October 16, school office staff received safety and security training with another training to be offered on November 6.
- b. Unannounced School Lockdowns: In October, a team from the police department went to schools unannounced and conducted lockdown drills. Administrators were not in many of the schools and the staff ran the drills. There was positive feedback from the police department on how the staff handled the lockdowns.
- c. Interagency Safety Committee: The Southington Fire Department asked if they could conduct unannounced fire drills. Mr. Connellan stated that the camera projects in the schools are moving along.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Mr. Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- Approximately 10,000 people attended the Music of the Knight.
- The Symphonic Band and Orchestra Concert was held on October 23, 2018.
- The Marching Band State Championships on Saturday were postponed to October 31 due to the impending bad weather.
- On October 20, Robotics held an exhibition at the Drive-In for the public.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on November 15.
- The Veteran's Day concert is November 14.
- The end of the quarter for the high school is November 2.

Mr. Goralski explained that Miss Spataro and Mr. Mangene were absent from the meeting because they were attending the United Nations for Model UN during the day.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

"Move to adjourn."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
 Recording Secretary

Dear Members of the Board of Education and Mr. Connellan,

I think we should have a half day on Halloween because what if you want to go trick-or-treating with a friend that is farther away than others. I know me and Addy do. We want to go trick-or-treating with Lily. Also we can get trick-or-treating done sooner so we can get more sleep in because we have school the next day. You will also need time to get ready for trick-or-treaters if you haven't yet. It is safer because you can see where you are going in the light. If it gets cold you can go inside and it might not be time to go to bed. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ellie Savelkoul

Half Day Of School On Halloween

By Adaline Fisher

I think it would be a good idea to have a half day of school on halloween. I think this because halloween is a special time of the year we let are imaginations show. We also need time to do all of our homework if we have some but we always have reading. We have to do all of that before we get dress in or costumes, get your hair done, get your trick or treating baskets out and seat up a candy basket for the other trick or treaters. If we want to go trick or treating with other people like Ellie said we would have more time to go trick or treating ⁱⁿ our neighborhood with our parents. Everybody will so excited they'll be talking about it in school and wont be focused on their work, so if we have a half day of school on halloween the teachers could just teach ~~it~~ to them the next day. So thats why I think we should have a half day of school on halloween. ^{work}



Half Day on Halloween

- 1 Addy 2 Jacob E 3 Caila 4 Grace 5 Natalia 6 Tozie
- 7 Leah 8 Leah 9 Emi 10 Thomas 11 Nathan S 12 Emily
- 13 Matty 14 AVA 15 ms. h 16 Taylor 17 Madison 18 KeSean
- 19 Nathan C 20 Rylan 21 Lillian 22 Alexan 23 Arianna 24 Ellie
- 25 Bianca 26 Mya 27 Caitlyn 28 Gabby 29 Mckenzie 30 Simon
- 31 Sitah 32 Ellie 33 Leo 34 Connor 35 Alexa C. 36 Emily 37 Belle
- 38 Sophia 39 Mia 40 Olivia 41 Emily P 42 Brooklyn 43 Julia
- 44 Sudney 45 Lola 46 Amanda 47 Sophia 48 Samir 49 Trisha
- 50 Emma 51 Lyra 52 Makenna 53 Jessica 54 Payton 55 Morgan
- 56 S 57 Wendy 58 Gray 59 Shirley 60 Samuel

M 61. Mrs. Dobratz
Teacher ↑

62. Ms. Colaneri
↑
Teacher

66 Mrs. Amiri

67 Mrs. Belong


68 Mrs. Marzelle

69 Mrs. Solary

90 Mrs. Callaghan

330 Ms. Kelly
Teacher ↑

64. Mrs. Gaja
↑
Teachers

93 Mrs. Calaneri 

91 Caroline Hanc
92 Jake Gardiner

65. Terri Connellan

66. Brandon

67. JD

68. Elliot

9 Brayden 70 Anthony

71 carter

72 Andrew

73 Calib

74 Calvin

75 Choso

76 Max

77 Roman

78 Aiza

79 El

80 Ava

81 TJ

82 Mrs. Flanigan

83 Mrs. Snow

84 Michelle 85 Brian

94 Kate Rossignol 95 Kathleen Adams

96 Shannon Lechner 97 Meghan Briggs 98 Shari Smith

99 Scott Hill

100 Teresa Colegrove 101

Ann Madam 102 Michelle Passamani 103 Kate Pruitt

104 Deborah Albandis

105

Deborah Hobson