

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES

On April 23, 2019, the Board of Education held its regular meeting at the Timothy Edwards Middle School, 100 Arnold Way.

Members present: Arthur Adduci, Beth Esstman, Erica Evans, Michael Gonzalez, David Joy, Michael Paré, Jessica Waterhouse and Craig Zimmerman

Member absent: Rick Stahr

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Kate Carter, Assistant Superintendent Sheryl Mortensen, Assistant Superintendent Colin McNamara, and Director of Finance and Operations Chris Chemerka

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

Ms. Waterhouse read the district's vision statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019 special meeting. (*Adduci/Waterhouse*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 regular meeting. (*Esstman/Joy*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Carter reviewed Good News from Schools. In addition, Dr. Carter introduced Eve Hurley who will serve as the Special Education Supervisor effective July 1, 2019. She noted that Ms. Hurley will replace Mrs. Pearson who will be retiring. She thanked Mrs. Pearson for her invaluable service to the district and welcomed Ms. Hurley to the podium. Ms. Hurley briefly addressed the board, relaying her excitement to step into this new role within the district.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Mrs. Mortensen reported that on April 3rd twenty-three girls representing the three 8th grade teams at TEMS participated in the “*Multiply Your Options*” conference at the University of Connecticut. The event, sponsored by the Engineering Outreach and Diversity Office at UConn, highlighted female role models in the field of STEM.

Student Representatives:

Laura Landino reported on the following news:

The following are dates of upcoming events at South Windsor High School

- April 24 - 41st Annual K-12 art exhibition 6:30-8:00pm at the South Windsor Public Library
- April 25 & 26 - Spring Comedy in the Auditorium from 7-9pm
- April 29 - UConn ECE Assembly from 7:45-8:20 am in the auditorium
- May 4 - Junior Prom at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club;
- May 7 - Eugene Policelli Service Awards from 6-8 pm
- May 8 - Spring band concert
- May 9 - Spring orchestra concert
- May 13 - Parent Advisory Council meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm
- May 16 - Senior art exhibition from 4-5:30 pm in the Library
- May 21 - Choral concert from 7-9 pm in the auditorium
- May 22 & May 23 - Honor roll awards

In other school news, Lauren reported:

- Timothy Edwards Middle School Orchestra and Band will be hosting their spring concerts on April 25 and April 30 in the auditorium.
- The Sounds of Spring Choral Concert will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 in the TEMS auditorium.
- The elementary schools will be holding each of their kindergarten parent nights during the end of this month, and the beginning of May.

Board Members: Michael Paré informed the board of the upcoming South Windsor Poetry Day to be held on April 28th at 2:00PM at the South Windsor Public Library. The day will include nine Connecticut Poet Laureates and attendees will be treated to a make your own ice cream sundae bar. He noted that it will be a family-friendly event for all ages.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Naomi Willard, 35 Berle Road, advised the board that this Friday Eli Terry special education teacher, Vanessa Gallitto, will be the *Educator of the Game* at the Yardgoats game and will throw out the first pitch.

CONSENT:

- A. Approve IDEA Grant Submission
- B. Approve Leave of Absence

MOTION: Move the Consent Calendar. (*Evans/Paré*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

DONATIONS

MOTION: Move to approve the following donations: \$15,150 to Timothy Edwards Middle School from its PTO and \$2,000 to South Windsor High School Robotics from the South Windsor Rotary. (*Gonzalez/Waterhouse*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Spotlight on Elementary World Language: Mrs. Mortensen introduced Ms. Karen Stoj, World Language Curriculum Specialist, to share with the board achievements from the first year of the Elementary World Language program. This is the first year that students in grades 1 and 2 received Spanish instruction. Ms. Stoj

and elementary Spanish teacher, Marisa Lewis, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the first year curriculum for the program as well as the implementation for the second year. Students from Eli Terry and Orchard Hill introduced themselves in Spanish and performed a song in Spanish for the board. Parents of students in the program addressed the board noting how grateful they were for the introduction of Spanish in grade 1 and relayed the positive impact that the class has had on their children and families. Ms. Stoj and Ms. Lewis responded to board member questions. Board members expressed their gratitude for the students' performance and noted their excitement for the continued expansion of the program. Dr. Carter thanked the students, and parents as well as Ms. Stoj and Ms. Lewis, noting that the district was very fortunate to have hired Professor Lewis to teach South Windsor's students.

Effective School Solutions (ESS) Update: Mrs. Jessica Kuckel, Director of Special Services, provided an update to the board regarding the pilot ESS program implemented earlier in the year. She advised that there are currently 18 students in the program, with the program's capacity being 18-20. She noted that ESS played a role in the total of ten students either being brought to district or being maintained in district rather than being outplaced which has resulted in a cost savings of \$120,000 and cost avoidance of \$300,000. She reported that the students enrolled in the program are seeing great success and improvements and provided positive quotes from students and parents related to the program. Following her report Mrs. Kuckel responded to board member questions.

Textbook Adoption – First Read: Mrs. Mortensen referenced the memorandum in the board packet which outlined the new textbooks being presented for consideration: a French book for all three levels at TEMS and a Health text to be used to supplement the new grade 9 Health course. She noted that both texts have online components. Mrs. Mortensen provided her recommendation for approval of these texts and responded to board member questions. The board will be requested to approve the textbooks at their May 28 meeting.

Approve South Windsor High School Graduation Date: Dr. Carter advised that statute requires boards of education to set the graduation date after April 1st each year and that the board's approval at tonight's meeting confirms the date for families.

MOTION: Move to confirm the official graduation date of the Class of 2019 of South Windsor High School as Monday, June 17, 2019. (*Joy/Waterhouse*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

Personnel Report: Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff: Dr. Carter reviewed the process for non-renewals, noting that it is common practice to give notice to teachers during the budget process as a precaution. She advised that the administration works with principals, the teacher's union and teaching staff during this process in order to be sure that everyone knows that the notice is not a reflection of their performance, but is a precautionary measure.

MOTION: Move that the contract of employment of the certified staff listed on the April 23, 2019 memo from Mr. McNamara to Dr. Carter, and distributed to members of the South Windsor Board of Education for the April 23, 2019 meeting, not be renewed for the following year upon their expiration at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action. (*Paré/Joy*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (8-0)

Committee Reports: No committee reports were made.

Items for Future Agendas: There were no items brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Paré, seconded by Mr. Adduci, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Joy
Secretary

Minutes completed by Ann Walsh, Clerk to the Board, on behalf of the Secretary

A video recording of the entire meeting may be found on the district website,
www.southwindsorschools.org