

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES

On June 12, 2018 the Board of Education held its regular meeting at the Timothy Edwards Middle School, 100 Arnold Way.

Members present: Arthur Adduci, Beth Esstman, Michael Gonzalez, David Joy, Michael Paré, Rick Stahr and Craig Zimmerman

Members absent: Erica Evans, Jessica Waterhouse

Also present: Superintendent 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.

Mr. Adduci read the district vision statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 regular meeting. (*Adduci/Joy*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2018 special meeting. (*Esstman/Joy*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Carter reviewed *Good News from Schools*. In addition, she thanked the outgoing student representatives for their service to the board. Dr. Carter also introduced Alicia Wetherbee who will serve as the Associate Principal for Pleasant Valley, noting that she comes to South Windsor from Manchester Public Schools and is a product of the South Windsor school system. Dr. Carter invited Ms. Wetherbee to say a few words. Ms. Wetherbee noted her excitement for the opportunity and advised the board that she attended Orchard Hill, TEMS and SWHS, in addition to serving the community for the past 15 years. She noted her excitement to be back in the district to serve the community in a new way.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Mortensen reported that Meghna Mazumdar, founder of the Girls' golf team, stopped by prior to the meeting to thank the board for its support of the girls' golf team. She provided some treats and a thank you for the board

Student Representatives:

Kellie Ward reported on the following news:

- South Windsor High School accomplished a great deal in the 2017-2018 school year.

- SWHS graduation will be held on June 20, at 5:30 at Symphony Hall in Springfield.
- Final exams for the school are starting on Friday.
- On June 6, students involved in the Unified programs came out to support the Unified Theater production.
- All of SWHS spring sports teams were able to advance past at least their first round of states.
- On June 7, the annual freshman science fair was held, followed by the freshman Model United Nations world summit and honor roll ceremony on June 8th.

Brandon Sze reported on the following news:

- Orchard Hill's 5th grade recognition will take place on June 19.
- On June 21, the Orchard Hill 5th grade talent show will be held at 9:45 and 2:15.
- Pleasant Valley's 5th grade recognition will be held on June 22.
- Finally, Brandon thanked Principal Sullivan, Dr. Carter, and the rest of the board for the opportunity to serve this year, noting that it was a cool experience to be able to represent the students on the board of education and that it was a pleasure to get to know everyone.

Board Members: Mr. Zimmerman provided his opinion regarding the 4th R program and the need for additional daycare options. He reflected on a recent meeting with town officials and parents and relayed potential solutions that were discussed. He thanked the SWPS administration for the role it played in offering possible solutions, and noted that as Chairman, he was willing to participate in ongoing discussions to find potential solutions for the current 4th R wait list. He asked Dr. Carter what role she saw for the superintendent in this process.

Dr. Carter recounted the manner by which the district has assisted the recreation department in identifying potential solutions for the overcrowding within the 4th R. program. She advised that in January 2017 the district clarified in writing that they were able to offer additional space for the program. More recently the elementary principals and the high school principal met with the 4th R staff and shared their expertise and ideas for consideration. In addition to ideas regarding recruitment of staff, programmatic ideas for expansion were also offered. Dr. Carter reiterated the district's support for the program.

Mr. Joy suggested that if the board were to ask the administration to spend more time on the matter, it should be opened up to the market and an RFP should be created to determine what other providers would propose.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Anthony Leone, 57 Beelzebub Road, addressed the board regarding the 4th R situation and thanked them for the amount of time that they have already spent on the issue. He noted that a lot of parents would like to see the program expanded and advised the board of his willingness to assist with a solution. He encouraged town leaders to come together to resolve the immediate issues within the schools with the highest waitlist.

Corey Tracey, 207 Twin Circle Drive, addressed the board regarding the 4th R situation. She thanked Dr. Carter and Chairman Zimmerman for the time that they've already put into the matter, noting her support for the formation of a committee by the town to continue to investigate solutions. She encouraged continued discussions to provide safe care for the children of South Windsor.

Deputy Mayor Andy Paterna, 301 Strawberry Lane, addressed the board regarding the 4th R situation noting his support for the parents who are looking for a follow-up. He reflected on the community meeting which he attended, noting that there were two opportunities presented at the time: the "Y", who are running programs in classrooms in other districts, as well as a martial arts program that is currently picking up students for after school programs. He noted that the Town Council is trying to put together committee to work on those options.

On another note, he urged the board to pass the policy on the agenda addressing transgender students, noting its importance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Post-Facto Approval of Arts in Education HOT Schools Grant
- B. Appoint Alicia Wetherbee as Associate Principal, Pleasant Valley Elementary School effective July 1, 2018

MOTION: Move the Consent Calendar. (Paré/Joy)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

DONATIONS

MOTION: Move to approve the following donations: \$150 from the South Windsor Lions Foundation to Timothy Edwards Middle School; \$600 from the South Windsor Republican Town Committee to Timothy Edwards Middle School; \$600 from the South Windsor Democratic Town Committee to Timothy Edwards Middle School; \$800 from the South Windsor Public Education Fund to Orchard Hill School; \$2,500 from the South Windsor Public Education Fund to Eli Terry School; \$200 from the South Windsor Public Education Fund to Philip R. Smith School; \$2,456.57 from Stop & Shop A+ Rewards to Orchard Hill School; supplies valued at \$100 from Girl Scout Troop #10931 to Philip R. Smith School; and supplies valued at \$100 from Girl Scout Troop #10931 to Orchard Hill School. (Gonzalez/Paré)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Carter advised that the first four items in her report were perfunctory and required board member approval.

Accept State Project #132-0085, Central Administration Ellsworth School Roof Replacement Project, as Complete

MOTION: Move to accept State Project #132-0085, Central Administration Ellsworth School Roof Replacement Project, as complete. (Joy/Adduci)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

Accept State Project #132-0086, Pleasant Valley Elementary School Oil Tank Removal Project, as Complete

MOTION: Move to accept State Project #132-0086 Pleasant Valley Elementary School Oil Tank Removal Project, as complete. (Paré/Esstman)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

Accept State Project #132-0087, Timothy Edwards Middle School Oil Tank Removal Project, as Complete

MOTION: Move to accept State Project #132-0087 Timothy Edwards Middle School Oil Tank Removal Project, as complete. (Stahr/Adduci)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

Approve Educational Specifications for Central Administration Ellsworth School Elevator

MOTION: Move to approve the Educational Specifications for Central Administration Ellsworth School Elevator, and to request the Town Council to appoint the Board of Education as the School Building Committee for the project, authorize the preparation of necessary schematic drawings and outline specifications for the school building project, and authorize the Superintendent to file an application with the Commissioner of Administrative Services for a school construction project. *(Esstman/Adduci)*

Discussion: Mr. Joy questioned what the reimbursement rate was for the elevator, to which Mr. Hankard indicated the cost for the elevator is anticipated to be \$318,000 to be reimbursed at a new construction project rate of 47.27%. Mr. Joy noted that while he would support the project, he would do so with some reluctance. The installation of the elevator would assume that Ellsworth will continue to serve as the administrative offices in the unforeseeable future. He relayed his belief that districtwide space planning should take place beyond the 10-year elementary facilities plan. He encouraged the board to look into conducting this type of long-range space planning.

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (7-0)

Spotlight on Summer Reading: Mrs. Mortensen introduced Candice Irwin, Literacy Curriculum Specialist, to highlight the high school summer reading program. Mrs. Irwin presented information regarding the Capstone project on behalf of three current juniors: Kaylee Correnti, Anna Garvey, and Ashley Goudreault, noting that the goal for their project was to transform summer reading experiences for students. The entire SWHS community was invited to participate in a shared reading experience with the purpose of building a culture of literacy. She credited the current seniors who assisted in launching the initiative last summer: Hannah Leibowitz, Eva Lewis, and Skyler Pruneau. A committee of over 35 students read and vetted over 50 titles to identify books for this Capstone project. Over the summer, students will be required to read the book they selected from the listing and come prepared to discuss their book at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Spotlight on Invention Convention: Mrs. Mortensen advised that students in grade five participated in the Invention Convention, and that three of the four 5th grade inventors who participated in the national competition were at the meeting to provide the board with information related to their projects. Mrs. Mortensen introduced Mrs. Sullivan, Science Curriculum Specialist, to provide information.

Mrs. Sullivan advised that as part of the elementary STEM program, all grade 5 students take part in the Invention Convention. Students investigated a problem meaningful to them, and researched a solution. She introduced three of the four students who represented the state of CT at the national convention in Dearborn, Michigan earlier this month: Aditya Patel, Julia Rondinone, and Jacob Tyropolis. Ninety-seven schools participated in the convention and fifty-five fifth graders moved on to nationals. She introduced the STEM teachers (Pam Brennan, Mary Clark, Jennet DaSilva and Amy Graney) and commended them for their successes. Following Mrs. Sullivan's introduction, each of the students provided the board with a description and demonstration of their inventions and responded to board member questions. Board members and the administration congratulated the students on their successes.

2017-2018 Annual Professional Learning Status Report Annual Status Report on the Educator Evaluation and Development Plan

Mrs. Mortensen provided introductory remarks related to the reports contained in the board packet. The professional learning status report included an overview of professional development activities that have taken place through the last school year. Also included in the report was a summary of the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) activities, including overseeing the PD process and making revisions to the teacher evaluation plan. She noted that this year there were no revisions recommended. The second report provided information on the teacher evaluation observation schedule. Mrs. Mortensen responded to board member questions. Mrs. Mortensen responded to board member questions.

Personnel Report

Mr. McNamara reported on the following resignation:

- Christina Lewis, language arts teacher at Timothy Edwards Middle School, has resigned effective June 30, 2018.

Mr. Stahr excused himself from the meeting at 8:15 PM.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Approve BOE Policy #5145.52 Nondiscrimination Students

Approve BOE Policy #5132 Student Dress

Dr. Carter advised the board that no changes had been made to the policies since the first readings.

MOTION: Move to approve BOE Policy #5145.52 Nondiscrimination Students as presented. (*Esstman/Paré*)

Discussion: Mr. Paré echoed Mr. Paterna's prior comments, and noted his support for the adoption of the policy.

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (6-0)

MOTION: Move to approve BOE Policy #5132 Student Dress as presented. (*Adduci/Esstman*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (6-0)

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports made.

Approve the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation & Contract

MOTION: Move to approve the superintendent's annual evaluation for the 2017-2018 school year. Further move to extend the contract of employment with the superintendent, Dr. Kate Carter, for one additional year, and authorize the chairperson to sign the related contract on behalf of the board. (*Esstman/Joy*)

Discussion: Chairman Zimmerman noted that the board is in unanimous support of Dr. Carter and her leadership and looking forward to the coming years.

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (6-0)

Hearing of Visitors: Mary Justine Hockenberry, 16 Foxglove Lane, relayed her pride in the school system, reflecting on the students' participation in Robotics, and the students that presented at this evening's meeting. She noted that she is proud of the administration and the board. She remarked that it does not just take the board or superintendent, but the parents who provide the school with the wonderful children.

Items for Future Agendas: There were no items for future agendas.

Proposed Executive Session: Discussion Regarding Non-Union 2018-2019 Salary Recommendations

MOTION: Move to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing non-union 2018-2019 salary recommendations. Further move to invite Dr. Carter to join the executive session. (*Gonzalez/Paré*)

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (6-0)

The board adjourned the executive session by consensus.

Approve Non-Union 2018-2019 Salary Recommendations:

MOTION: Move to approve the 2018-2019 non-union salary recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Approved/Unanimous (6-0)

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Esstman, seconded by Mr. Paré , the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 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