

Southington Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2026 7:00 PM
John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room
200 North Main Street
Southington, CT 06489



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Celebration of Excellence
 - a. Wheeler/Young VFW Post #201 State Teacher of the Year - Gretchen Yatzook
4. Approval of Minutes - January 8, 2026
5. Public Communications
 - a. Communications from Student Board Representatives
 - b. Communications from Board of Education
 - c. Communications from Administration
 - d. Communications from Public - Agenda Items Only
6. Old Business
 - a. Town Government Communications
 - b. Proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar - Second Reading
7. New Business
 - a. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips
 1. SHS Varsity Winter Guard - West Chester Township, OH
 2. SHS Varsity Winter Guard - Bethlehem, PA
 - b. Southington High School Graduation Date
 - c. Board Member Roles & Responsibilities Presentation
8. Public Communications
 - a. Public
9. Adjournment

The minutes presented within the 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 <https://www.southingtonschools.org>. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education Meeting.

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, SOUTHINGTON, CT

Regular Meeting

Committee of the Whole

January 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM

John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room

200 North Main Street Southington, CT 06489

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oshana Board Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Dawn Derynoski-Anastasio, Mr. Zaya Oshana

Board Members Absent: Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson, Mr. Cecil Whitehead

2. Executive Session

MOTION made by Mrs. Clark and seconded by Ms. Cammuso “Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing the searching and hiring process for the position of Director of Pupil Services; upon conclusion reconvene to public session.” Motion carried 5-0.

Executive session began at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Madancy was invited to join the meeting.

a. Discussion concerning the search and hiring process for the position of Director of Pupil Services

Mr. Whitehead arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Carson arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Baczewski arrived at 6:36 p.m.

Executive session ended at 6:54 p.m.

3. Reconvene Meeting - Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Oshana called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mr. Sean Carson Mrs. Dawn Derynoski-Anastasio, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mr. Cecil Whitehead

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Terri Carmody

Cabinet Members Present: Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent; Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Director of Business & Finance; Mrs. Amy Aresco, Interim Pupil Services Director

Student Board Representatives Present: Mr. Ethan Hoffman, Mr. Samrath Singh

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Moment of Silence

David Perlot passed away December 15, 2025.

Mr. Perlot was hired in September of 1994 and retired in June of 2026.

Stephen Leggett passed away January 2, 2026.

Mr. Leggett was hired in April of 2004 and retired in February of 2014.

5. Approval of Minutes - December 11, 2025

MOTION made by Mrs. Clark and seconded by Mr. Baczewski,

**“Move to approve the BOE Minutes from December 11, 2025.” Motion carried 7-0.
1 abstention.**

Attachments: (1)

6. Public Communications

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Mr. Hoffman gave the School Report:

- New high top tables have been added in the cafeteria with flexible seating options and outlets on the side.
- The Drama Club announced the spring show would be Mama Mia
- Mid-term exams will begin January 16, 2026; Midterms have increased to 10% of the students grade where last year they counted as 5%.
- On January 7, 2026, members of the graduating class of 2025 came back to speak to the current seniors about their experiences after high school graduation.

Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Singh gave the District Report:

- Mrs. Yatzook, teacher at Flanders, won the VFW State Teacher of the Year. She will be honored at a luncheon on January 11, 2026, at the Aqua Turf.
- JFK collected winter items and toiletries for the Agape House collection drive.
- In December 2025, the CCMC PJ Day was held for students provided they gave a small donation; JFK raised over \$1,300.
- JFK and JAD’s play will be Frozen; it will take place during March and April.
- JAD Basketball season has begun.
- JAD hosted an appreciation breakfast for Southington’s first responders Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMT workers.

Mr. Singh gave the Sports Report:

- SHS Boys co-op Ice Hockey is undefeated, 5-0.
- SHS Girls Basketball is near the top of their division, 5-2.
- SHS Boys Basketball is off to a good start, 3-2.

- SHS Boys Swimming and Gymnastics are undefeated, 1-0.
- SHS Indoor Track is off to a great start with student breaking records and qualifying for State Championships.
- SHS Wrestling has placed well in early tournaments and will host its first duels this coming weekend.
- SHS Cheer Team will compete in its first competition on January 10, 2026.
- All Home Games in the West Gym starting this year are live streamed and available for viewing on the NFHS Network.
- The Robotics, Team 195 has its season kick off on January 10, 2025.

Ms. Arshi Roy arrived and joined the other Student Representatives.

b. Communications from Board of Education

Mr. Brown spoke about the book, *The Anxious Generation*. He urged everyone to read it. The book discusses troubling issues but also offers suggestions on how to deal with them. Mr. Brown suggested forming a subcommittee in the future for discussion on cellphones and internet use.

On January 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Brown will be teaching a class at the library; the subject will be *The Anxious Generation* book.

Mr. Bown was contacted by a parent about an online workshop regarding dyslexia. He doesn't have a ton of information yet but reach out to him if you are interested.

Mr. Oshana presented Ms. Cammuso and Mrs. Dawn Derynoski-Anastasio with their elected official pins.

On Friday December 12, 2025, The position for the Director of Pupil Services was posted. Mr. Oshana explained how he wanted 3 Board Members to be present for the first 3 rounds of the interviews and all 9 Board Members present for the fourth round of the interviews. This is different that what has been done in the past.

Mr. Oshana would like to restart a program where Board Members adopt a school. Board Member will go to the parent organization meetings at their adopted school to be there as a conduit to the BOE Members.

Mr. Oshana asked Mr. Brown to present the Curriculum & Instruction Report that was not able to be presented at the previous meeting.

- PE Curriculum revised K-5 Health Curriculum. The revisions align with National and State Standards and are presented via the Coordinated Approach To Child Health, otherwise known as CATCH. From kindergarten students learning about their five senses and the importance of brushing and flossing their teeth to fifth graders setting goals for healthy lifestyles.

- Revised Sixth Grade Science Curriculum for both middle schools. Students create an Initial Class Consensus Model and develop a Driving Question Board, which are continuously revisited as lessons unfold. Final assessments for each unit force students to use the knowledge gained through the lesson experiences and apply to a novel challenge, demonstrating true comprehension.
- New textbooks request, AP Human Geography and AP Government and Politics. Advanced Placement courses require the textbooks be from an approved list, as these two recommended texts are. The cost for AP Human Geography is \$11,268 and AP Government and Politics is \$11,264. Both are electronic with six-year licenses.
- Proposal for a new course titled Advanced Pottery. Currently no such opportunity exists for students who want to build skills beyond Pottery 1. The major components of the course feature advanced hand building techniques, extensive wheel throwing, slip casting, slump molds and glazing and decorative techniques. For the course to run, a request for three wheels needs to be added over three years. Each wheel costs \$1,800.00. The current wheels in use are 24 years old and were added when the art wing was established in 1988.
- New proposal, SHS Emergency Technician (EMT). There is a shortage of EMTs; the course will be taught through Hunter Ambulance. There is possible GRANT money to help pay for the course.
- SHS proposed Archery Unit. Archery was taught at SHS up until 2016 as an outdoor activity. It phased out because of the many uncontrollable variables such as wind and other difficulties. The new proposal is for an indoor course.
- Ag Sci presented four new course proposals.
 - Advanced Equine Science
 - Advanced Livestock Science
 - Veterinary Technology
 - Advanced Wildlife.

There are funding sources if there were to be a cost for these proposals.

c. Communications from Administration

Mr. Madancy Spoke about the following:

- A donation was received from a resident in the community in the amount of \$1,500 to help with the unpaid meal balance debt.

- On December 27, 2025, there was a Recognition Ceremony for the West Gym. for Mr. Queen, the basketball coach who tragically passed away, Mr. Leary and Mr. Cooper were recognized with a plaque that is now placed in the gym.
- Linda Bass-Reilley and Paul Lopatowski approached Mr. Madancy about spreading kindness in the community. They want to place Kindness Benches at seven elementary schools to help start a Kindness Campaign across the district to teach and promote intentional kindness. Mr. Madancy asked them to come present at a February Board Meeting.
- The Robotics Kick Off Event will take place Saturday January 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
- Sloper Plunge is going to take place on February 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
- The Southington Education Foundation Community Basketball Game will take place on January 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. This is a free event to build community.
- Mr. Madancy would like to bring Mrs. Yatsook to a future BOE meeting for a Celebration of Excellence for being voted the VFW Teacher of the Year.

Attachments: (1)

- d. Communications from Public - Agenda Items Only
No Public Comment

MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Baczewski, “Move agenda item 10.a to agenda item 6.e.” Motion carried 8-0.

- e. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips
1. SHS - CyberKnights Robotics Team - Burlington, VT
MOTION made by Mr. Baczewski and seconded by Mrs. Clark “Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip request as presented by the administration.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)
 2. SHS - CyberKnights Robotics Team - Houston, TX
MOTION made by Mr. Baczewski and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip request as presented by the administration.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

3. SHS - Grades 10-12 (especially Latin students) - Rome and Sicily, Italy
MOTION made by Mr. Baczewski and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip request as presented by the administration.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

7. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee Meeting - December 30, 2025

Ms. Cammuso reviewed the minutes from the Finance Committee. The following topics were discussed:

- RFP 2026-002 ASTE Barn. This barn will be constructed on Pleasant Street next to JAD and will be a Key resource for the Ag Sci Program.
J.A. Rosa Construction LLC was identified as the lowest bidder with a base bid of \$717,425. The recommended award amount is \$803,990. This amount included several key additions. This project is not funded by the BOE Operating Budget. This project is proposed to start in January and conclude in August 2026.
Attachments: (1)
- Food Service Financial Update FY 2025-26. Following the return to Pre-Covid reimbursement rates, meal counts have decreased by 7,798 lunches and 5,230 breakfasts through November 2025.
The district is actively communicating to collect the funds for the negative meal debt totaling \$10,492 through November 30, 2025. Food Service is a self-sustaining program and is not part of the BOE Operating Budget.
- General Review of the BOE Finances for the FY 2025-26.
The state has released their anticipated reimbursement rates for the Special Education Excess Cost of 70.3%. The district is expected to receive \$3.3 million of excess cost reimbursements; the first payment is expected in late February.
In September the district was notified of an award of Title 1 funds; these funds are being used to pay hourly tutors at Title 1 schools.
Additional items review – all salaries, benefits and taxes have been encumbered in the system and the district continues to monitor fluctuations in electricity expenditures and spending in general. The committee has been informed about their consideration of a soft freeze on purchases; this is consistent with prior years.

MOTION made by Ms. Cammuso and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move to award RFP 2026-002 to J.A. Rosa Construction LLC of Wolcott, CT in the amount of \$803,990 as presented by the Finance Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.

Attachments: (1)

Mr. Carson and Mr. Whitehead asked about the funding of the Barn Construction. Mr. Madancy clarified we have been accruing the funds over a period of years; we know we have the amount needed to fund the project.

Mr. Baczewski asked about the parking lot of the Barn. Mr. Madancy clarified the barn will have its own entrance due to it needing a fence and probably being a mixed-use property in the future.

Mr. Baczewski asked about the Food Service debt. Mrs. Mellitt clarified we only have recorded through the end of November 2025 but we are still ahead with the meal count from where we were pre-Covid.

8. Superintendent's Report

a. Personnel Report

MOTION made by Mrs. Clark and seconded by Mr. Baczewski, “Move that the Board approve the Personnel Report as submitted by the HR Department.” Motion carried 8-0.

Attachments: (1)

9. Old Business

a. Town Government Communications

No comment made.

b. Policy 5131.7 - Restorative Practices Response - Second Reading

MOTION made by Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Brown, “Move to approve Policy 5131.7 - Restorative Practices Response as presented by the Policy & Personnel Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.

Attachments: (1)

c. Policy 6154 - Homework - REVISED - Second Reading

MOTION made by Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Brown, “Move to approve Policy 6154 – Homework – REVISED as presented by the Policy & Personnel Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.

Attachments: (1)

d. Policy 6161.2 - Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy - NEW - Second Reading

MOTION made by Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Brown, “Move to Education approve Policy 6161.2 – Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy as presented by the Policy & Personnel Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.

Attachments: (1)

- e. Policy 6161.3 - Library Display and Program Policy - NEW - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Brown, “Move to approve Policy 6161.3 – Library Display and Program Policy as presented by the Policy & Personnel Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- f. Policy 6161.4 - Library Material Review and Reconsideration - NEW - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Brown “Move to approve Policy 6161.4 – Library Material Review and reconsideration by the Policy & Personnel Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- g. K-5 Health - New Course Curriculum - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark “Move that the Board of Education approve the K-5 Health - New Course Curriculum - as presented by the C & I Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- h. Grade 6 Science - New Course Curriculum - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the Grade 6 Science - New Course Curriculum - as presented by the C & I Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- i. SHS AP Human Geography - Textbook Adoption REPLACEMENT - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS AP Human Geography- Textbook Adoption REPLACEMENT- as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- j. SHS AP Government and Politics - Textbook Adoption REPLACEMENT - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS AP Government and Politics- Textbook Adoption REPLACEMENT - as presented by the C & I Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)

- k. SHS Advanced Pottery - New Course Proposal - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Advanced Pottery - New Course Proposal- as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)
- l. SHS Emergency Medical Technician - New Course Proposal - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Baczewski, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Emergency Medical Technician- New Course Proposal- as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)
Board Members commented on the wide range of courses offered in Southington and also what a great opportunity this course is going to be. Mr. Cammuso asked for more information about the course, costs, and timing of when it would be held.
- m. SHS - Archery Unit Proposal - Second Reading
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Baczewski, “Move that the Board of Education table the approval of SHS Archery Unit Proposal until a future meeting in order to review new information.”
Roll Call:
- **Mr. Baczewski: Yes**
 - **Mr. Brown: Yes**
 - **Ms. Cammuso: Yes**
 - **Mr. Carson: No**
 - **Mrs. Clark: Yes**
 - **Mrs. Derynoski-Anastasio: Yes**
 - **Mr. Oshana: Yes**
 - **Mr. Whitehead: Yes**
- Motion carried 7-1.**
Attachments: (1)
- n. SHS - Agricultural Science - Course Change Proposal - Second Reading
1. Proposal #1 - Advanced Equine Science
MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Agricultural Science Course Change Proposal - Proposal #1 - Advanced Equine Science - as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)
 2. Proposal #2 - Advanced Livestock Science

**MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Agricultural Science Course Change Proposal - Proposal #2 - Advanced Livestock Science - as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)**

3. Proposal #3 - Veterinary Technology
**MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Agricultural Science Course Change Proposal - Proposal #3 - Veterinary Technology - as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)**
4. Proposal #4 - Advanced Wildlife
**MOTION made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Clark, “Move that the Board of Education approve the SHS Agricultural Science Course Change Proposal - Proposal #4 - Advanced Wildlife - as presented by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.” Motion carried 8-0.
Attachments: (1)**

10. New Business

- a. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips
A Motion was previously made to move item 10.a to item 6.e. on the agenda.
- b. Proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar - First Reading
The Calendar will be provided to the community for feedback.
Feedback is then provided to the Board.

Mr. Oshana asked the Student Representatives about the committee they were on with Mr. Aroian to compile information about Holidays. They concluded that there are too many holidays for the calendar to observe all of them with a day off from school. The students proposed to change the Board Policy language to not exclude tests, major project, or field trips but rather coordinate with the student observing the Holiday with appropriate accommodation.

Attachments: (1)

- c. ECCS Presentation
Mrs. Joanne Kelleher gave the Board a presentation regarding Early Childhood Collaborative. She spoke about Early Start CT; there are currently multiple funding streams for state funded programs. As of July 2025, the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington has a contract with the State of CT to be the Local Governances Partner (LGP) for our community.
Mrs. Kelleher elaborated on what is expected from them as the LGP:

- Family engagement
- Support and Monitoring
- Community Engagement
- Reporting with the OEC
- Quality Enhancement
- Developing a Community Table
- Conducting a local needs assessment
- Putting together a community plan

Mrs. Kelleher provided upcoming dates for their next meeting, she indicated communities such as Southington probably will not get funding in year 1, but as the endowment grows overtime, by year 3-5 slots should be available and funded. She encouraged the Board Members and the public to volunteer, donate and help with the community needs assessment when it happens in the spring.

Mr. Oshana thanked Mrs. Kelleher for what she is doing for our community and all her invaluable hard work.

Mr. Baczewski asked about cost. Mrs. Kelleher replied it cost about the same for full-time childcare as it does to send a child to college, depending on the program. She could provide specific numbers at a later date.

Mr. Carson inquired about Southington having a need but being bypassed for slots. Mrs. Kelleher explained, at this time, the assessment was based on communities being a “childcare desert” which Southington is not. Southington has spots, they are just not affordable slots.

Attachments: (1)

d. Superintendent's Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Presentation

Mr. Oshana indicated there are two budget workshops coming up on January 13 & 15, 2026, Mr. Madancy is presenting the budget tonight so the Board Members have time to review the budget books and compile any questions they may have in preparation for the upcoming workshops. Mr. Madancy will also be giving the presentation again on Tuesday.

Mr. Madancy presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Board Members. The \$130,299,074,000 proposed budget reflects a 6.89% increase. Reasons for the increase include:

- Contractual obligations for our employees’ salaries and benefits.
- Balancing the challenges of the current economy and providing a first-class education for students
- Higher energy
- Transportation

- Rubbish Removal
- Minimal State and Federal aid support
 - Some sort of an inflation tool needs to be built into the education cost share formula
 - Percentage of State aid is decreasing while operating costs are increasing
- 41 staff related requests spanning Special Education, Technology, Maintenance and our increasing multi-lingual population

The goal throughout the process is to ensure that the students' needs stay at the forefront even with economic restraints.

Mr. Madancy continued by giving a high overview of the budget and the process:

- Vision of a Graduate
- The Strategic Plan
- Enrollment and percentages
- Where we compare in the State
- History of budget increases
- The process of adopting the budget
- Budget reductions and adjustments
- One Time Funding is outside of the Operating Budget
- Budget Summary
- Extended School Year
- Salaries – existing and new personnel
- Benefits
- Student transportation
- Special Education outplaced tuition
- Technology
- Title 1 funding
- One time funding expenses

Mr. Madancy provided important budget meeting dates and stated that community input is extremely important when the community is able to make public comment.

Attachments: (1)

11. Public Communications

a. Public

Susan Zabohonski, 28 Werking Street, Plantsville, CT 06479

Ms. Zabohonski spoke of her disappointment with the previous BOE meeting relating to how a recap of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting was not given.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Ms. Cammuso and seconded by Mrs. Clark, "Move to adjourn." Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justice Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Recording Secretary

Board of Education

Administrative Report

January 22, 2026



1. Donation for STELLAR Transition Program
2. Archery Update
3. Elementary Project Update
4. Safety Breakfast at JAD 1.13.26
5. Former Southington student heading to Winter Olympics

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

Informational Only _____ Board Meeting Date January 22, 2026

Decision Requested X Agenda Code 6 b.

AGENDA REPORTING FORM

Agenda Topic: Proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar ~ Second Reading

Summary of Issue: The attached school calendar is provided to the Board for their comments and recommendations.

Background: The calendar was reviewed by the Board at the January 8, 2026 meeting.

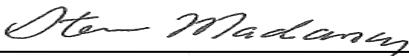
Alternative Strategies: 1) Incorporated Staff and Parent Feedback

Cost (if applicable): N/A **Funding Source:** N/A

Beginning Date of Program or Project: _____

Ending Date of Program or Project: _____

Recommendation or Comment: Move that the Board of Education approve the revised Proposed School Calendar for the 2026-2027 School Year as presented.



Signature of Superintendent of Schools

Title of Attachment

1. Proposed School Calendar for the 2026-2027 School Year

2026-2027 CALENDAR (DRAFT)

August – 3 Days					September – 21 Days					October – 21 Days					November – 16 Days				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2	2	PD	4	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	(7)	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	(11)	-12-	13
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	(12)	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	-19-	20
PD	PD	PD	*27*	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	(25)	(26)	(27)
~31~					28	29	30			26	27	-28-	-29-	30	30				
December – 17 Days					January – 19 Days					February – 18 Days					March – 22 Days				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4					(1)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	(15)	(16)	17	18	19	15	16	-17-	-18-	19
21	22	23	(24)	(25)	(18)	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	(26)
(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)		25	26	27	28	29						29	30	31		
April – 17 Days					May – 20 Days					June – 7 Days					181 Instructional Days (186 Staff Days)				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	KEY				
	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	KEY				
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	Early Dismissal- Listed Schools				
19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	Early Dismissal - Listed Schools				
26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	()	Holiday/Vacation – No School			
					(31)					28	29	30			PD	Workday/PD – No School for Students			

8/27/2026 *First Day of School for K-12 Students*

8/31/2026 ~First Day of School for Preschool Students~

8/24/2026, 8/25/2026, 8/26/2026, 11/3/2026 – Staff Workdays/PD – No School for Students

Any unexpected school closings will be made up following the scheduled last day of school up to June 30, 2026. If additional weather-related days are needed beyond these days, we will begin with April 16, 2026 and move backward.

Early Dismissal – Listed Schools /	Early Dismissal – Listed Schools - -	NO SCHOOL ()
9/15/26 K-12	SHS / KSA	9/7/26 Labor Day
10/20/26 K-12	11/12/26 – SHS Conferences	10/12/26 Columbus Day
12/1/26 K-12		11/11/26 Veterans Day
12/23/26 Preschool-12	JAD & JFK Middle Schools	11/25/26 - 11/27/26 Thanksgiving Recess
1/12/27 K-12	11/19/26 – M.S. Conferences	12/24/26 - 1/1/27 Holiday/Winter Recess
2/2/27 K-12		1/18/27 Martin Luther King Day
3/2/27 K-12	Elementary Schools (Preschool-5)	2/15/27 - 2/16/27 Presidents' Day Recess
4/6/27 K-12	10/28/26 & 10/29/26 - Elem. Conf.	3/26/27 Good Friday
5/4/27 K-12	3/17/27 & 3/18/27 - Elem. Conf.	4/12/27 – 4/16/27 Spring Break
6/9/27-Tent. Last Day Preschool-12		5/31/27 Memorial Day

Facility/School	Phone	Hours	Address	Special Observation Days
Board of Education	860-628-3202	7:30-4:30	200 North Main Street	9/11/26 - 9/13/26* Rosh Hashanah
Southington High School	860-628-3229	7:37-2:15	720 Pleasant Street	9/20/26 - 9/21/26* Yom Kippur
Karen Smith Academy	860-628-3379	7:37-12:50 & 1:50 (WL Class)	242 Main Street	9/25/26 - 10/2/26* Sukkot
STELLAR Program	860-628-3200	8:00-2:00	48 North Main Street	11/8/26 Diwali
J. A. DePaolo Middle School	860-628-3260	8:05-2:40	385 Pleasant Street	1/6/27 Three Kings Day
J. F. Kennedy Middle School	860-628-3275	8:05-2:40	1071 South Main Street	Begins 2/7/27* Ramadan
Derynoski Elementary School	860-628-3286	8:55-3:25	240 Main Street	3/9/27 - 3/10/27* Eid al Fitr
Flanders Elementary School	860-628-3372	8:35-3:05	100 Victoria Drive	3/22/27 Holi
Hatton Elementary School & Wrinn Preschool Center	860-628-3377	8:35-3:05	50 Spring Lake Road	4/21/27 - 4/29/27* Passover
Kelley Elementary School	860-628-3310	8:55-3:25	501 Ridgewood Road	*Holiday begins at sundown the evening of the first date specified.
Oshana Elementary School	860-628-3450	8:35-3:05	70 Church Street	Southington BOE Policy 5113 considers observance of a religious holiday an excused absence, and faculty will make appropriate accommodations for students affected by these and other special observation days.
South End Elementary School	860-628-3320	8:35-3:05	Maxwell Noble Drive	
Strong Elementary School & Wrinn Preschool Center	860-628-3314	8:55-3:25	820 Marion Avenue	
Thalberg Elementary School	860-628-3370	8:35-3:05	145 Dunham Street	

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

Informational Only _____ Board Meeting Date January 22, 2026

Decision Requested X Agenda Code 7 a. 1.

AGENDA REPORTING FORM

Agenda Topic: Out of State: Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip

Summary of Issue: The Board of Education must give approval for field trips that are over 200 miles in distance from Southington, trips to foreign countries, or overnight field trips. Presented here is the following trip:

- SHS – Varsity Winter Guard– West Chester Township, OH
 - April 7-12, 2026

Background: N/A

Alternative Strategies: N/A

Cost (if applicable): N/A **Funding Source:** _____

Beginning Date of Program or Project: N/A

Ending Date of Program or Project: N/A


Recommendation or Comment: Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip request as presented by the administration.

Titles of Attachments:

1. Field Trip Application



Signature of Staff Member Submitting Report



Signature of Superintendent of Schools

**Southington High School
Varsity Winter Guard**

West Chester Township, OH

(April 7- April 12, 2026)

Application for Out-of-State/In-State/Overnight Field Trip

Submit to Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: 12/05/2025 School: Southington High School

(Must be at least two weeks prior for field trips that do not require BOE approval)

BOE

Out of State: Yes No
Overnight: Yes No

Miles Round Trip: 1492

Class/Group/Grade: Southington Varsity Winter Guard

Date of Trip 04/07/2026 thru 4/12/2026

Name and Address of Destination Fairfield inn and suites by Marriott - Cincinnati North, 9241 Floor Dr, West Chester Township, OH 45069

Reason for Field Trip Winter Guard Competition

Itinerary - BOE only See attached

Departure Date/Time 04/07/2026 10:00 pm Return Date/Time 04/12/2026

Type: Academic (15:1) Non-Academic (10:1) Abroad (8:1) Required Ratio (Student: Teacher/Chaperone)

of Students: 18 # of Total Chaperones: 5 # of Buses: 1

Yes No - Do any of the students who will be attending this field trip currently have Specialized Transportation?

Yes No - If so, has Specialized Transportation been considered when scheduling transportation for this trip?

Have definite arrangements been made at the field trip destination? Yes No

Have met with a nurse to address student health needs.

Nurse's Signature [Signature] Date 12-15-25

TRIPS REQUIRING BOE APPROVAL ONLY: Have NOT met with the nurse. Will meet with the nurse to address student health needs when the student roster is complete. This meeting will take place approximately one month prior to the scheduled trip.

Destination is handicap accessible: Yes No Lift Van Needed? Yes No

COST AND FINANCING

Source of Funds	Totals	Additional Notes
TOTAL Anticipated Cost of Trip	\$	
Board of Education Contribution	\$ 0	
Other	\$ 0	
Fundraising Activity	(\$)	Students will have the opportunity to fundraise the complete trip
BALANCE	\$	
Student Contribution		
Transportation	\$	Students @ \$
Entrance Fees, Room & Board	\$	Students @ \$
TOTAL Cost of Trip to Each Student	\$1850	

SIGNATURES - PLEASE PRINT & SIGN

Teacher PRINT: Sara Ossias SIGN: [Signature] Date 12/20/25

Principal PRINT: R. ARDIAN SIGN: [Signature] Date 12/20/25

Staff PRINT: Joseph Gaudet SIGN: [Signature] Date 12/20/25

Approved

~~Assistant Superintendent~~

[Signature] Date 1/8/26 Not Approved

Board of Education Approval***

YES NO

Date _____

WGI World Championships Itinerary 2026

SHS Varsity Winter Color Guard

Tuesday, April 7th

- Students meet at SHS, load the charter bus with belongings and equipment, depart for hotel at 10:00 pm

Travel to Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott - Cincinnati North
9241 Floer Dr, West Chester Township, OH 45069 (746 miles, about 14 hours with stops for bathroom and breakfast)

Wednesday, April 8th

- Arrive to hotel around 12:00 pm
- Students will clean the bus and have downtime in the hotel
- Load the bus and travel to rehearsal
- Rehearse locally
- Team dinner at the hotel
- Lights out at 9:00 pm

Thursday, April 9th

- Complementary breakfast as a team, travel to rehearsal site
- Rehearse and load bus
- Travel to show site
- Perform in prelims
- Immediately load trailer
- Return to hotel for downtime
- Team meeting to review the Friday schedule (based on results from preliminary competition) and lights out

Meal times TBD based on performance time

Friday, April 10th

- Complementary breakfast as a team, travel to rehearsal site
- Rehearse and load bus
- Travel to show site
- Possible performance in Semi finals
- Immediately load trailer
- Possible performance in Finals
- Watch awards and return to hotel

Saturday, April 11th

- Complementary breakfast as a team, clean rooms and check out

- Load the bus and travel to team lunch
- Load bus and travel to University of Dayton Arena
- Watch Scholastic and Independent World Class Finals
- Load bus and travel to Southington High School (around 12:00 am)

Sunday, April 12th

- Arrive at Southington High School around 2:00 pm
- Clean and unload bus
- Team meeting and dismissal

Times and performance venues will be provided once WGI releases the master schedule approximately 3 weeks prior to the event.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

Informational Only _____

Board Meeting Date January 22, 2026

Decision Requested X

Agenda Code 7 a. 2.

AGENDA REPORTING FORM

Agenda Topic: Out of State: Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip

Summary of Issue: The Board of Education must give approval for field trips that are over 200 miles in distance from Southington, trips to foreign countries, or overnight field trips. Presented here is the following trip:

- SHS – Varsity Winter Guard– Bethlehem, PA
 - March 20-22, 2026

Background: N/A

Alternative Strategies: N/A

Cost (if applicable): N/A **Funding Source:** _____

Beginning Date of Program or Project: N/A

Ending Date of Program or Project: N/A

Recommendation or Comment: Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip request as presented by the administration.

Titles of Attachments:

1. Field Trip Application



Signature of Staff Member Submitting Report



Signature of Superintendent of Schools

**Southington High School
Varsity Winter Guard**

Bethlehem, PA

(March 20- March 22, 2026)

Application for Out-of-State/In-State/Overnight Field Trip

Submit to Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: 12/05/2025 School: Southington High School

* Returning Trip

(Must be at least two weeks prior for field trips that do not require BOE approval)

Out of State: Yes X No
Overnight: Yes X No

Miles Round Trip: 378 Miles

* BOE *

Class/Group/Grade: Southington Varsity Winter Guard

Date of Trip: 03/20/26 - 3/22/2026

Name and Address of Destination Liberty High School, 1115 Linden St, Bethlehem PA, 18018

Reason for Field Trip Winter guard competition

Itinerary - BOE only See attached

Departure Date/Time 03/20/26 5:30 pm Return Date/Time 03/22/26 9:00 pm

Type: Academic (15:1) Non-Academic (10:1) Abroad (8:1) Required Ratio (Student: Teacher/Chaperone)

of Students: 18 # of Total Chaperones: 4 # of Buses: 0

Yes No - Do any of the students who will be attending this field trip currently have Specialized Transportation?

Yes No - If so, has Specialized Transportation been considered when scheduling transportation for this trip?

Have definite arrangements been made at the field trip destination? Yes No

Have met with a nurse to address student health needs.

Nurse's Signature [Signature]

Date 12-18-25

TRIPS REQUIRING BOE APPROVAL ONLY: Have NOT met with the nurse. Will meet with the nurse to address student health needs when the student roster is complete. This meeting will take place approximately one month prior to the scheduled trip.

Destination is handicap accessible: Yes No

Lift Van Needed? Yes No

COST AND FINANCING

Source of Funds

	Totals	Additional Notes
TOTAL Anticipated Cost of Trip	\$ _____	
Board of Education Contribution	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	All costs associated are budgeted in Winter color guard budget through band backers
Fundraising Activity	(\$ _____)	
BALANCE	\$ _____	
Student Contribution		
Transportation	\$ _____	Parents to drive students
Entrance Fees, Room & Board	\$ _____	Students @ \$ _____
TOTAL Cost of Trip to Each Student	\$ _____	

SIGNATURES - PLEASE PRINT & SIGN

Teacher PRINT: Sara Ossias SIGN: [Signature] Date 12/20/25

Principal PRINT: RARON SIGN: [Signature] Date 12/30/25

Staff PRINT: Joseph Gaudet SIGN: [Signature] Date: 12/20/25

Approved

Steve Mademcy Date 1/8/26

Not Approved

Assistant Superintendent

Board of Education Approval***

YES NO

Date _____

East Power Regional Itinerary 2026

SHS Varsity Winter Color Guard

Friday, March 20th

- Parents meet at SHS and travel to Tru by Hilton Easton, PA (189 miles, about 4 hours), dinner is on your own on the way
- Depart at 4:00pm
- Curfew 10:00pm

Saturday, March 21st

- Complementary breakfast as a team, travel to rehearsal site
- Rehearse and head to Liberty High School
- Perform in Prelims
- Immediately load trailer
- Bagged lunch included for students
- Watch competition
- Team meeting and pizza included
- Curfew 10:00pm

Sunday, March 22nd

- Pack, load
- Complementary breakfast as a team, travel to rehearsal site
- Rehearse and head to Liberty High School
- Perform in Finals
- Immediately load trailer
- Student lunch is on your own, concessions available
- Watch awards
- Team meeting and dismissal

Times will be provided once WGI releases the master schedule approximately 3 weeks prior to the event.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

Informational Only _____ Board Meeting Date January 22, 2026

Decision Requested X Agenda Code 7 b.

AGENDA REPORTING FORM

Agenda Topic: Southington High School Graduation Date

Summary of Issue: The high school graduation date is traditionally set once the last day of school is determined.

Background: _____

Alternative Strategies: N/A

Cost (if applicable): N/A **Funding Source:** N/A

Beginning Date of Program or Project: N/A

Ending Date of Program or Project: N/A

Recommendation or Comment: Move that the Board of Education approve Thursday, June 11, 2026 as the date for the Southington High School graduation ceremony. Raindate will be Friday, June 12, 2026.

Signature of Superintendent of Schools

Steve Madorsky



SHIPMAN

Board Members' Roles & Responsibilities

Presented by: Richard Mills

Southington Board of Education

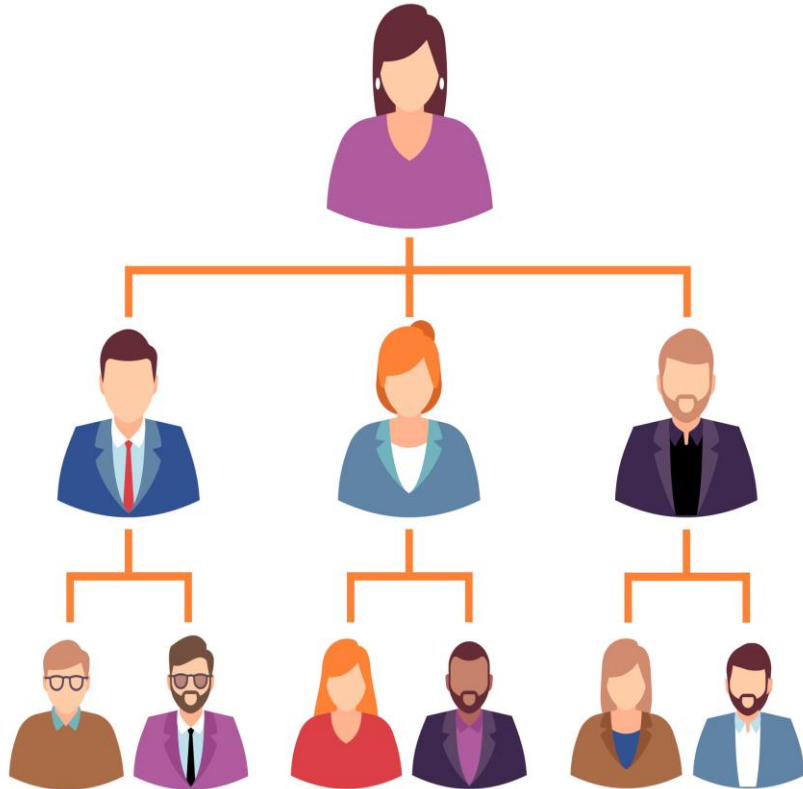
January 22, 2026

Respective Roles of Board and Administration



- The responsibility of Board members is to “see that the schools are well run through effective policies and not to administrate the schools.” (Bylaw 9271)
- The *Administration* retains responsibility for *district operations and the day-to-day activities* of the district.

Employee Performance and Conduct



- Only one Board employee – the Superintendent – reports directly to the Board.
- The Superintendent, acting through the administrative structure, is responsible for evaluating and addressing performance/conduct concerns regarding all other Board employees.

Rights and Authority of Board Members

Authority at Meetings Only

- “. . . authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in a meeting” (Bylaw 9271), although “certain matters can be handled effectively through assignment to standing and ad hoc committees.” (Bylaw 9312)
- “. . . all decisions can only be made by a vote of the Board members at a legally constituted meeting.” (Bylaw 9132)

No Independent Authority

- “The Board of Education is the unit of authority. Apart from their function as a part of the unit, Board members have no individual authority.” (Bylaw 9010)
- Individual Board members may not commit the district to any policy, act, or expenditure, exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools, or command the services of any school employee. (Bylaw 9010)

Rights and Authority of Board Members



- Except when carrying out authority specifically delegated by the Board, *individual Board members have no greater rights than other citizens.*
- Access to information is no greater than non-Board members unless Board members are carrying out a statutory responsibility (e.g., expulsion hearing, non-renewal hearing) or other Board-authorized responsibility.

Rights and Authority of Board Members



- Board members retain First Amendment rights *to speak as individuals* on matters of public concern.
- However, Board members need to be clear that they are *not speaking on behalf of the Board*, unless they are authorized by the Board to do so.

Duties of Board Members



- Referral of parent complaints to Superintendent
- FERPA/Educational need to know
- Impartial decision-maker in statutory hearings

Duties of Board Members



- Confidentiality
 - All matters discussed in *executive session*
 - *Student confidentiality* (FERPA): School officials can be given access to confidential student information *only* to the extent they have a *legitimate educational interest* in the information.
- Conflict of Interest (Bylaw 9270)

Duties of Board Members: Due Process Hearings



1. Expulsion hearings
(Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d)
2. School accommodations hearings
(Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-186)
3. Teacher non-renewal and termination hearings (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-151)
4. Non-renewal and termination hearings for athletic coaches (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222e)

The Right to Due Process



- Right to due process includes a hearing before an *impartial* decision maker.
- Board must make its decision based on the evidence presented at the hearing.
- It is critical that Board members refrain from becoming involved in the factual matters prior to/outside of the hearing.

Role of Board Committees



- “Committees may advise and recommend to the Board, but never determine policy nor discharge administrative duties.” (Bylaw 9132)
- Just like the full Board, committees are *subject to the FOIA*.

Code of Ethics: Bylaw 9271

- Uphold and enforce all laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to public schools;
- Refrain from making personal promises or taking private actions that may compromise the Board;
- Insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical;
- Hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools that, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the school system;
- Refer complaints through the proper chain of command and act on such complaints at public meetings only when administrative solutions have been exhausted.

Scenario

You just received the agenda for this month's Board meeting. The agenda includes an item for the approval of a proposed transportation contract with School Bus, Inc. Your brother-in-law was recently hired as the Chief Financial Officer of School Bus, Inc.

What should you do regarding the upcoming vote?

Scenario

A parent is all over social media after her daughter was suspended by for vaping nicotine in school two days before a high school dance. The parent is livid that her daughter won't be able to attend the dance. The parent calls Benny Board Member, complaining that the principal overreacted and pleading for the Board to correct this injustice.

Benny Board Member calls the Superintendent and asks for a meeting involving Benny Board Member, the Superintendent, the Principal and the parent, to discuss the student's suspension.

Is the Board member's request appropriate?

A. Yes

B. No

How should the Board member have handled the complaint from the parent?

Scenario

Unfortunately, the Board recently had to convene an expulsion hearing. The Board first received evidence about the incident that triggered the expulsion hearing, and during the latter part of the hearing, the Board received evidence about the student's significant disciplinary history. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board voted to expel the student.

The day after the expulsion hearing, a Board member who was unable to attend the hearing stops you in the parking lot of the grocery store. The Board member says: "Rumor has it that the student has been a discipline problem since elementary school. Is that true?"

How should you respond to the Board member?

Scenario

Yesterday, the local newspaper published a front-page story about a teacher employed in the district who was arrested for selling narcotics in the community. The article identifies the teacher by name and school.

Parents from the school come to the next Board meeting, and during public comment, several of them express concern that this teacher must be fired immediately.

Unable to resist, a Board member responds by saying “Rest assured, the teacher is history.”

Is the Board's member's statement appropriate?

- A. Yes, the Board member had every right to express the Board member's views under the First Amendment.
- B. No, the Board member's comments have created legal exposure for the Board.

Scenario

A parent pulls you aside at a soccer game and gives you an earful about his frustration over a recent PPT meeting concerning his daughter. The parent didn't feel his concerns were heard at the PPT and does not believe his daughter's IEP is appropriate. The parent asks for your help in addressing his concerns.

How should you respond to the parent?

Scenario

Benny Board Member is convinced that the district spends too much money on employee overtime. Benny sends an email to the Central Office leadership team, asking the leadership team to prepare an analysis of overtime hours and costs for all non-certified employees, for the past two fiscal years. He requests that the information be sent to him prior to the next Board meeting.

Is Benny Board Member's request appropriate?

Questions?



Thank you for joining us!

Doc #20868314

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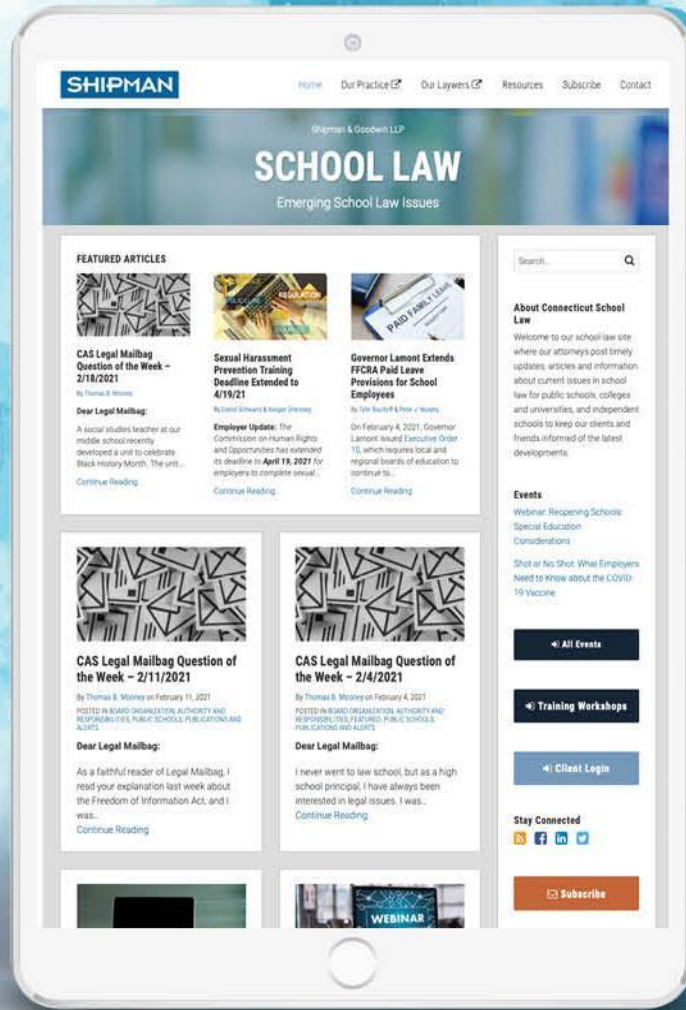


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