

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Secretary, Chris Donahue, and Sara Baker. Member Absent: Craig Esposito, Kevin Agnello. Late Arrival (6:36pm) Dan Kelley. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Student Government Representative Kyle Lowry and members of the administration staff.

### **Communications & Recognitions**

Chris Donahue congratulated Mary Anne Butler, the new Superintendent, Alisha Stripling, Director of Finance and Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent. He also acknowledged all retirees and congratulated them on their long career with the district. Heidi Simmons recognized West Vine Street School for her recent lunch invitation and tour of the classrooms. Sara Baker communicated about the wonderful student art class exhibit going on at the Mystic Museum of Art in Mystic. Kyle Lowry reported on the success of the National Honor Society blood drive that took place today.

Retirement Recognitions – Farouk Rajab, Chair recognized retirees and their years of service, while presenting them with a resolution, a small gift and a small reception. The following is a copy of the resolution and list retirees:

#### *Resolution*

*The Board of Education of Stonington, Connecticut, at its regular meeting on May 12, 2022, adopted this resolution in respect to:*

*Paula Agins – Social Worker – District Office  
Ellen Effman – Music/Choral Teacher – Stonington Middle School  
Tim Flanagan – Language Arts/Technology Teacher – Stonington Middle School  
Mark Friese – Principal – Stonington High School  
Angelo Guido – Full time Custodian – West Vine Street School  
Vicki McCord – Food Service Worker – Stonington Middle School  
Susan McVeigh – Paraeducator – West Vine Street School  
Andrea Nardone – Special Ed Coordinator and PPT Facilitator – Stonington High School  
Dr. Van Riley – Superintendent of Schools – District Office  
Sharon Riley – Paraeducator – Stonington High School  
Therese Roush – HR/Benefit Coordinator – District Office  
Gary Shettle – Director of Finance – District Office  
Elisa Whitman – Science Teacher – Stonington High School  
Bernie Worden – Maintenance Supervisor – Maintenance Department*

*WHEREAS, This individual has completed seven years of faithful and conscientious service as an employee in the Stonington Public Schools and has now retired and*

*WHEREAS, This individual has devoted much effort in his/her job assignment to the extent that he is held in high admiration for his/her dedication and personal contributions to the varied needs of the Stonington Public Schools to the extent this person is held in the greatest esteem by all.*

*RESOLVED, That the Board of Education in a regular meeting assembled on this date attest to the valuable service rendered by this individual to the cause of education in the Town of Stonington, and*

*Be it further RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Board of Education, and that a copy be presented to this honored individual as a testimonial of the Board's sincere appreciation of loyalty, character, and service.*

Farouk Rajab, Chair invited those in attendance to share in congratulating the retirees present and paused the meeting for refreshments. The Regular Board Meeting paused at 6:41pm and reconvened at 6:53pm.

### **Comments from Citizens Regarding Items on the Agenda**

Ashley Toole - Congratulated the retirees noting this event is a great tradition. She congratulated Tim Smith and Alisha Stripling for their new roles and looks forward to see their work in their new roles. She voiced her concern regarding the declining enrollment. She noted it has been invigorating to see the field trips and basket raffle and seeing the smiles on the students' faces. She thanked Principal McCurdy adding the events are going great and knows they are also going well at the other schools. She spoke of her concern about state requirements regarding student health surveys. She would like administration to revisit the issue of Columbus Day on the school calendar. She suggested maybe there is an opportunity to recognize both days Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day.

**Board Presentation**

Junior Project – Presented by: SHS Junior Students – A group of Stonington High School Junior students, Sergio de Oliveira, Anders Dahl, Kelsea Anderson, Sarah Berger, Will Fyke, Diya Patel, Martha Bellet and Etta Lund presented their junior project which includes a 6'x6' courtyard mural showcasing the school mascot and colors, which will be hung in the courtyard. They gave a summary of the project and cost and answered the Board's questions. (Presentation attached)

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes – April 7, 2022/April 28, 2022
- B. Checks and Bills – May
- C. Personnel Report

The following motion was made by Chris Donahue and seconded by Heidi Simmons:

**Motion 1:** To approve the Consent Agenda A-C as presented.  
All: Aye

**Second Read/Approval of Curriculum**

- A. Stonington History
- B. Patterns and Designs

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Chris Donahue:

**Motion 2:** To approve the curriculum as presented.  
All: Aye

**First Read of Curriculum**

Vocational Math/Entrepreneurship - Farouk Rajab, Chair asked the Board to review the curriculum noting this item will be brought back at the June meeting.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Riley reported that a list of all the end of the year school events has been shared with the Board. He gave a COVID-19 update noting the district has had a few students and staff who tested positive but is hopeful we can get through the end of the year with the exiting protocols.

**Budget Discussion/Direction**

Ending Balance – Dr. Riley communicated that Gary Shettle, Director of Finance confirmed that as of right now it is the intention to not have an ending balance and it be a zero balance.

CIP – SMS HVAC – Dr. Riley gave an update on the funding for the SMS HVAC project and what has been approved by the Board of Finance and suggestions on how to proceed.

\$308K Reduction - Dr. Riley shared a spreadsheet of his recommendations to the Finance Subcommittee and Board members. The committee has also voiced their recommendations for the reductions. The Board and administration had discussions around items such as, night custodian position, magnet transportation, instrumental teacher at the elementary schools, and increase in hours for paraprofessional positions, HR Director position, business office vacancy and athletic trainer position. Farouk Rajab, Chair asked Dr. Riley to update the spreadsheet with the Board's recommendations and bring it back to the Board for the June meeting for a vote.

**Incoming Superintendent Updates**

Mary Anne Butler gave an update on her transition plan. She reported she met with the Selectman and the new Chief of Police and will be meeting again in June. She reminded all of a meet and greet taking place on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Pawcatuck Fire Station. She spoke of a grant opportunity with the Mystic Seaport. She shared information about the partnership with NESS for a professional development opportunity in the fall. Mrs. Butler spoke on the new program with the Electric Boat for the elementary schools. She communicated about her recent trip to Hartford for the Teacher of the Year Celebration with Noreen Elliott. She also reported that interviews for the Assistant Principal at the high school have concluded and the interviews for principal at the middle school are scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Monthly Reports

Heidi Simmons had questions for Kyle Lowry, Student Government Representative on items on his monthly report specific to VOICE events. Mr. Lowry answered her questions.

### Items for Future Agendas

Dan Kelly requested a discussion surrounding evaluations of athletic coaches and reviewing the safe guards currently in place with regards to communications with students. Chair Rajab asked Mr. Kelley to connect with Dr. Riley first and then if there are still questions, this issue can be discussed with the entire Board if needed.

### Board Comments/Concerns

Dan Kelly thanked the voters for passing the budget but wished there was more participation. He communicated he recently attended the spring band concert put on by band students which had great music. Mr. Kelley congratulated Tim Smith and Mrs. Dawe for their new roles as principal for the high school and assistant superintendent. Mr. Kelley commented on college decision day for athletes and suggested perhaps students that join the armed service and all students be also recognized in the same way. He recognized Kyle Lowry, Student Government Representative who received a free ride to UCONN. Mr. Kelley shared information regarding the recent presentation at the high school on drugs. He added it is great to see all the PTO activities and the high school fields full every day. He congratulated teachers Ellen Effman and Mr. Flanagan, and Ms. Vicki McCord, food service worker at the middle school on their retirement

### Adjournment

The following motion was made by Chris Donahue and seconded by Sara Baker:

**Motion 3:** To adjourn 7:50p.m.  
All: Aye

---

Heidi Simmons, Secretary



---

# Courtyard Mural

Junior Project *(Class of 2023)*

---





---

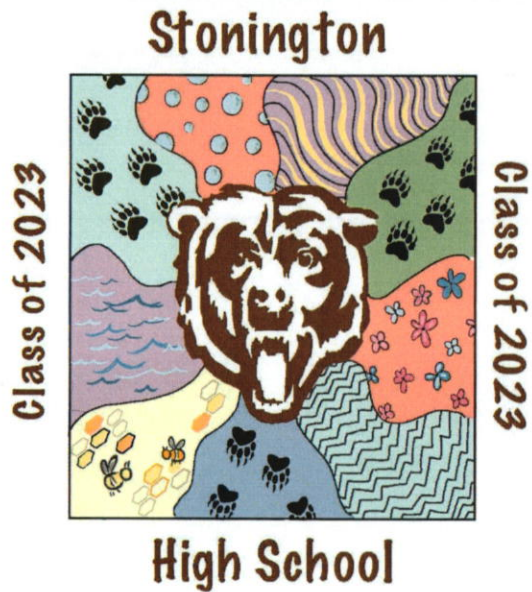
## Objectives and Goal

- Fall and Spring
- Teachers and Students love to take advantage of the nice weather by holding class **outside** or eating lunch in the **courtyard**
- Welcoming, better looking, and **promotes school spirit**





## Design and Changes made to Lower Costs



Changed  
method from  
paint to vinyl  
sign



Cut out some  
colors and  
patterns to  
decrease  
expense





# Location





---

## Resources and Advisors

- **Mrs. Dentch:** *Student Government Advisor*
  - Guided us through process, met with us to organize
- **Mr. Anderson:** *SPS Facilities Director*
  - Assisted in getting a quote for the project, parameters of project
- **Kristen King:** *Human Services Youth and Family Administrator*
  - Helped us find out about potential grant opportunities
- **Julie Holland:** *Human Services*
  - Linked us with Human Services







---

## Plan to Accomplish

- Received **approval** from Mrs. Dawe/Mr. Friese/Mr. MacDonald for mural design on courtyard wall
  - **Met** with Mr. Anderson to figure out **location** and **size/material** of mural
  - Had Mr. Anderson **send design** for the mural to Printing Plus for a Quote on the print
  - Applied for **grant** from Stonington Human Services and found means of **fundraising**
  - Presented to **Student Government** on April 28th
  - Presented to **SHS staff**
  - Present to **Board of Education** on May 12th
  - After approval, **print mural** and have maintenance crew **hang up in courtyard** (overseen by Mr. Anderson)
-



---

## Costs

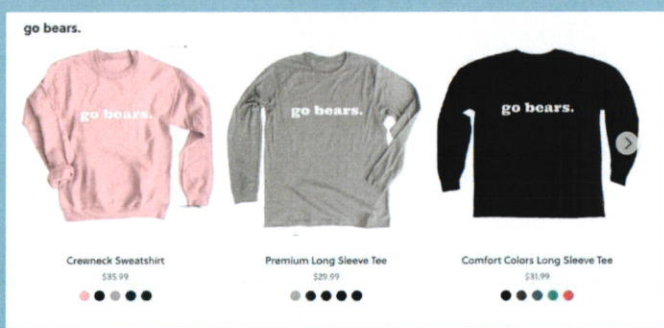
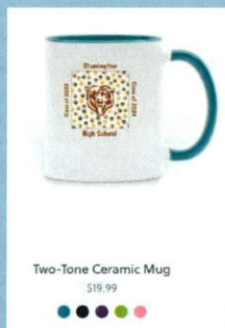
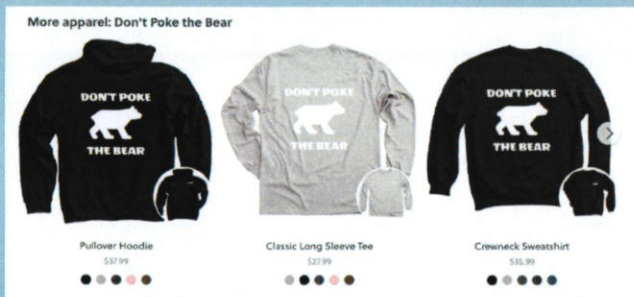
- We have been working closely with Mr. Anderson to get our mural printed and were waiting for the quote from him, which he was getting from Printing Plus
  - We received the **quote** today for the final design:
    - \$1152- PVC
    - \$1296- Aluminum
  - Therefore, we also have **looked into other viable options online** to get the mural printed and will go with the most cost-effective option.
-





# Fundraisers

- Bake sale in the community
- Apparel shop on bonfire.com
  - Mugs of the print
  - Bears apparel with different designs
    - Sweatshirts, crewnecks, t-shirts, etc.





# Connection to 4C's

CONVINCE: *Why is this project beneficial to SHS?*

Putting up a mural in the courtyard will promote a **creative and positive environment** both in and out of the classroom.

COMMUNICATE: *What does this project involve?*

Our group **worked collaboratively** to choose a location in the school that would be best fit for a mural, finalizing a design, and opting for an implementation option that encourages longevity as this mural will be made on a vinyl sign making it resistant against outdoor conditions.

CONSIDER: *What is the purpose of our project?*

We hope to **beautify our school** to make lunch and classes outdoors more enjoyable during warm weather as it will help **promote school spirit** among our student body.

CONNECT: *How has technology helped us become an active participant in our community?*

Helen used an **online program** to create our design. Technology was also used to **gather information** on the logistics of our project and to **contact admin and teachers** at SHS and Human Services.

---



---

# Questions?

---

---

**Thank you for your time!**

---