

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Members present were Chris Donahue, Dan Kelley, Sara Baker, and Craig Esposito. Late Arrival 6:38 pm - Heidi Simmons, Secretary. Member Absent: Kevin Agnello. Also present were Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent of Schools, Student Government Representative Diya Patel, Recording Secretary, Ana de Oliveira, and members of the administration staff and citizens.

Farouk Rajab, Chairman opened the meeting with a moment of silence to recognize the Columbine massacre and the people hurt in school violence.

### **Communications & Recognitions**

Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent recognized Stephanie Deason, Food Service Director who will be sharing reports on her department and explaining the motions that the Board will be voting on. She also recognized her for being elected to a three-year term with the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut. She also recognized Abigail Gauthier for receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. Superintendent Butler also gave a shout-out to Officers, Howard, Browning, and Chief DelGrosso for their collaboration in hosting an event at the Westerly Yacht Club on school violence prevention. More than sixty law enforcement and school educators attended. She acknowledged Chris Williston and Tim Smith for the setup of the event. She thanked Principal Brucoli and Principal McCurdy for their help in hosting three members of the Board of Ed from Stratford who will be visiting the schools to learn more about trauma-sensitive practices and how the district measures student engagement. She communicated the town will be offering an FOI workshop for Board of Ed members on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm at the District Office. Superintendent Butler also communicated that West Vine Street School is a semi-finalist for the CAS School of the Year award. The site visit will be in early May.

Dan Kelley recognized the paraprofessionals for their attendance at the meeting and their work with the students at the middle school. He noted paras are the lowest paid and acknowledged all the work they do. He shared how well the sports teams at the high school are doing and he is excited to see all the senior college announcements. He recognized Will Fyke, for receiving a full academic scholarship to Southern State University, Sergio de Oliveira for receiving the Nutmeg Scholarship for UCONN, and Joshua Mooney for receiving the full athletic scholarship for UCONN. Farouk thanked the paras for their attendance at the meeting.

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

There were no comments from citizens.

### **Board Presentation – Food Service Department – Stephanie Deason**

Ms. Deason gave a presentation on her professional background in food service, updates on the current food service program, and shared information on future programs. (PowerPoint presentation attached)

### **Approval to Participate in the Healthy Food Option of HFC**

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Chris Donahue:

**Motion 1:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Stonington Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

**All: Aye**



**Approval to Allow Food Exemptions**

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Chris Donahue:

**Motion 2:** The Stonington Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

**All: Aye**

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Anchor Club Enrichment (ACE) - Superintendent Butler reported the ACE has successfully opened with 41 students enrolled and thanked Alisha Stripling and Nikki Salaun for getting that rolling.

Update on Sidewalk Construction – After meeting with the Town, construction will start after graduation and is set for as start date of June 19<sup>th</sup>. We should also expect some issues in the opening of school and want families to be prepared for transportation disruptions at that time.

Summer School Program – We have advertised for middle and elementary school teachers and several teachers showed interest. Transportation for both middle and elementary school students will be provided.

Transportation/Start Times - We were hoping that we could combine middle and high school buses but have met with First Student and we do not have enough drivers to accommodate. We are down to 19 drivers and we would need 24 drivers, so we are not confident that we could do this in the fall. This is an area we could have cost savings but will need more bus drivers. With the added 15 minutes of instructional time, we will be looking at publishing the new staggered bus times.

The Superintendent has also shared concerns about waivers. She added going forward we will not be granting new waivers. She noted we would approve waivers for siblings of those that are already grandfathered in. Craig Esposito asked what the magnitude of the requests are. Superintendent Butler explained it is more significant than anticipated. He also asked how much savings was expected if the school times were changed and if it would be possible to offer more money to the drivers. Peter Anderson noted it would be a cost savings but the difficulty is finding the drivers, there are not enough. Chris Donahue asked if there are incentives for drivers. The administration explained there are sign-on incentives. Mr. Donahue questioned if the waivers were mostly the shift from West Vine to Deans Mill. Superintendent Butler explained yes, but with the new after-school program, it might shift the other way. Dan Kelley asked if there needs to be a formal vote for the end to waivers. He noted waivers need to be the exception rather than the rule. Both elementary schools are very comparable and if they are not the Board needs to know. Both schools are excellent. Farouk Rajab, Chairman explained that is covered under a policy. The board can move along with the policy in place to have the Superintendent make that decision.

**Consent Agenda**

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Sara Baker:

**Motion 3:** To approve the consent agenda.

**All: Aye**

### **Sub Committee Reports**

Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee - First Read - [Physical Oceanography and Advanced Health & Wellness](#)  
Chairman Rajab explained there are curriculums for the first read. Sara Baker explained there was a Trade Book adoption during the meeting. Heidi Simmons said the committee will read the Trade Book, and artificial intelligence was also discussed.

Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee – Chris Donahue reported the committee discussed the closing out of the middle school roof and a vote was made. The committee also reviewed the usage of ESSER funds but will have more detail information after the referendum. Chairman Rajab noted he appreciated the middle school roof committee's approval to close out the roof project.

Policy Sub-Committee – Dan Kelley reported the committee met yesterday and will meet again before the next Board meeting to bring policies forward for the first read.

### **Monthly Reports**

There were no comments on the monthly reports.

### **Board Comments and Items for Future Agendas**

Dan Kelly communicated he would like to see AEDs installed outside the schools and perhaps reach out to the Recreational Department and collaborate with them. He would like this item added to the May Board agenda for further discussion and vote.

### **Adjournment**

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

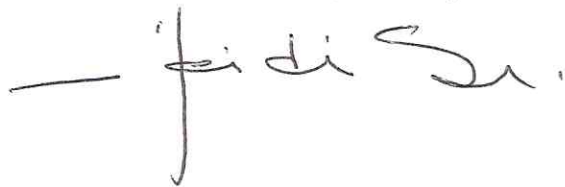
**Motion 4:** To adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

**All: Aye**

Complete Board Meeting can be heard on the Stonington Public Schools YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFXjoLyIU1KT9YnO3SQSryQ/>

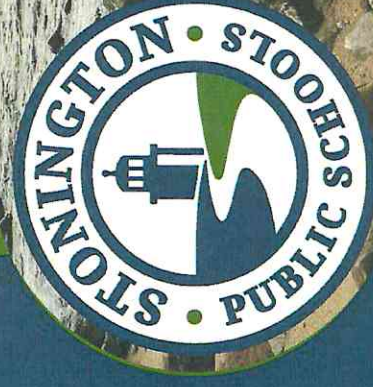
Heidi Simmons, Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heidi Simmons", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.



# 2022-2023 SPS Food Services Operations Report

Stephanie Deason, MS, RD, SNS  
Director of Food Services





# Introduction



Diane Dorfer, farmer, Mansfield Center, CT

## University of Connecticut Class of 2011 & 2013

- BS Nutritional Sciences, Food Science Minor
- MS Health Promotion, Coordinated Masters Program in Dietetics

## Registered Dietitian

Experience working with developmentally disable populations in group home settings

## Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- State level involvement, diversity liaison



# Past Experience in School Nutrition



Pandemic feeding at Mansfield Public Schools

2016-2022  
FSD for Mansfield Public Schools

Regular classroom and student group  
involvement, enrichment clusters,  
Middle School LCS classes

Recognized by the USDA for outstanding work  
through COVID

Local Kale Zucchini Bread featured in nationally  
published School Nutrition magazine

Taste of Mansfield  
Champion Award





# SNACT Involvement

**SNA** is the professional association  
for school nutrition



**S**CHOOL  
**N**UTRITION  
**A**SSOCIATION

"SNA empowers and supports school nutrition professionals in advancing the accessibility, quality and integrity of school meal programs."

## Previous Experience:

- Education Committee Chair
- Yankee Chapter Regional Representative
- Strategic Planning Committee

## New endeavor!

- SY 23-24 Vice President
- SY 24-25 President elect
- SY 25-26 President

## Benefits to Stonington:

- Regional and national conferences
- Best practices from around the country
- Latest policy information



# Farm-to-School Involvement

Hubbard Squash, Himmelstein Homestead, Lebanon, CT



Susan Mitchell, farmer, attending a Community Dinner

## 2017 CT Dept. of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant Recipient

- Pilot local produce processing program
- Staffing, blast chiller, vacuum sealer

## Community Dinners

## State and Regional Farm-to-School Professional Development:

- CT Farm to School Collaborative
  - Strategic Mapping
- NEFTI Summit
- Northeast Farm to School  
Institute 2020







# Local Produce Processing



# SY 22-23 Timeline



Judy Lathrop, SHS Kitchen asst. manager  
serving at the Empty Bowls event

## New point-of-sale

### State SMART Funds Rollercoaster

Sept. - Oct. 31	Free
Nov. 1 - Dec. 23	Tiered P/R/F
Jan. 3 - 18	Free
Jan. 19 - Feb. 28	Tiered P/R/F
March 1 - June	Free

## Happenings & Events

- Veteran's Dinner
- Student led food services survey & article in The Brown and White





# SY 22-23 Timeline



SHS & DMS staff at the Fall Feast for Veterans

Photo: The Westerly Sun

## Happenings & Events continued

- Hosted a UConn Dietetic Intern
- March PD Soup & Chili
- Empty Bowls
- NHS Induction Ceremony
- Hall of Fame Induction
- DMS Student Leadership Group
- Unified Prom
- WVSS 5th Grade Celebration Lunch







District Wide March PD Day Catering

Great food AND school spirit!

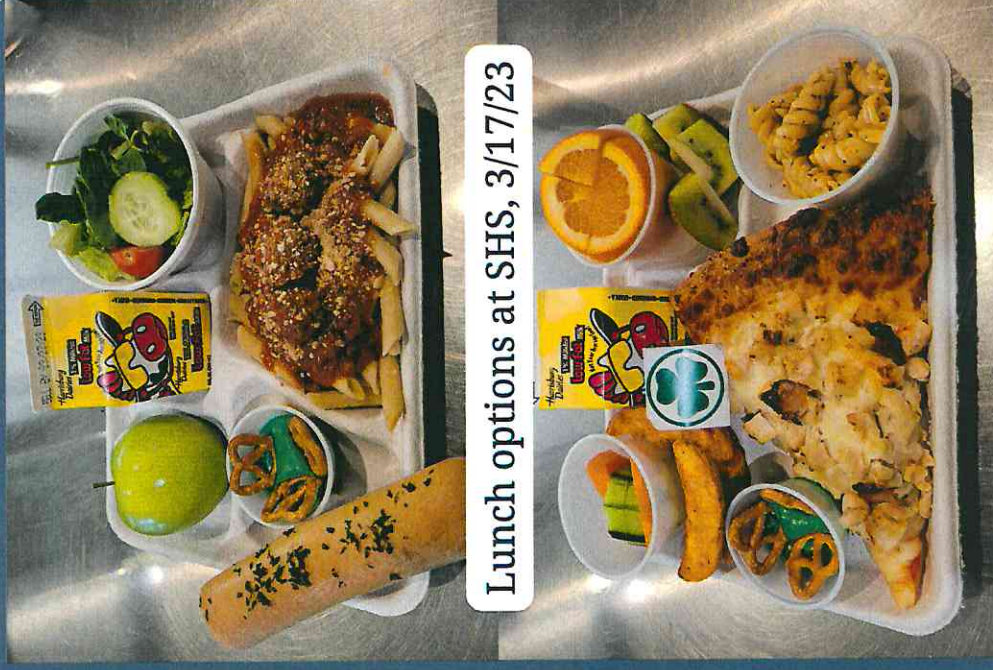


Specialty salad offerings at SMS





# Future Planning



- License and use DO kitchen
- Farm-to-School local produce processing
- Sea-to-School pilot
- School meals "boot camp"
- Diversify menu choices across ethnicities and dietary preferences
- Catering
- Outdoor cookouts

