



## **SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

196 North Main St.  
Southington, CT 06489  
860.276.6275 | [schd-ct.org](https://schd-ct.org)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Special Meeting**

**Date:** June 24, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Southington Municipal Center  
196 North Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489  
Superintendents Office Conference Room

Virtual Meeting link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81352979770?pwd=ZAu5DraQb0I2Ktkp0LaRbkdNoVM4nY.1>

Meeting ID: 813 5297 9770

Passcode: 306779

**Present:** Elliott Colasanto, Chair (Virtual)  
Robert Yamartino, Vice Chair (In person)  
Ann Marie Conaty (Virtual)  
Betsy Gaudian (Joined at 2:10 pm via phone)  
Joseph Marino (In person)  
Sharon O'Brien (Virtual)  
Alex Ricciardone (Virtual)  
Michael Paulhus (Virtual)  
Susan Lonczak, DOH (In person)

**Absent:** -

Meeting called to order at 2:06 pm by Mr. Yamartino.

Board Chair, Mr. Colasanto joined the meeting by phone. Vice Chair, Mr. Yamartino stepped in to assume the duties of Chair, running the meeting.

#### **I. Roll call**

The roll call showed a quorum was present at 2:06 pm

#### **II. New business**

##### **i. Discussion and vote to approve FY26 Budget.**

Mr. Yamartino offered Ms. Lonczak the opportunity to address the BOD regarding adjustments she had made to the draft budget proceeding the June 12, 2025 meeting. She discussed the motion to amend the FY26 Budget proposed at the June 12, 2025 meeting which proposed cutting district expenses by \$138,992.35— the sum of salary line item of three previously grant funded positions encompassing the entire Community Health Division. This included the PT Public Health Nurse, FT Community Health Specialist, and PT Health Educator. The intention was to remove these three (3) positions completely.

Ms. Lonczak summarized key points addressed in her June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 letter to the BOD which outlined her professional opinion of the proposed funding cuts and concerns for negative impacts to the district's ability to continue providing required services, diminishing existing staff morale and daily operations.

Ms. Lonczak presented the updated draft budget for approval, highlighting strategic decisions she made to balance the budget with all staff remaining. She discussed her concerns providing justification for maintaining all positions to meet legal mandates and serve the community effectively. She noted that the district is the youngest in the state and additionally significantly understaffed in Community Health related positions in comparisons provided of other districts. She emphasized the high functioning performance of the current staff and importance of retaining qualified personnel. She also highlighted the history of the district's growth, strategic collaborative planning for the last three (3) years with the BOD to fund the community health division positions, and union contract approval (2022 – 2025) for permanency of new positions created during negotiations.

Ms. Conaty stated she did not remember voting on retaining grant funded positions once funding was no longer available. Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Yamartino spoke to the approved FY25 budget with included an approved 3-year town per capita increase with the specific intention of maintaining these positions to maintain continuity. Ms. Lonczak noted that minutes from the FY24 budget noted BOD members discussion for future planning to increase revenue to sustain positions. Mr. Yamartino noted that the Union Contract was approved and ratified by the BOD in 2023 when positions were created.

The board discussed salary increases, with Ms. Lonczak proposing a 2.5% wage increase for most staff and maintaining flat salaries for herself and the Chief. The 2.5% wage increase was a reduction from the originally proposed 3% increase. Several BOD members expressed concerns about the fairness and impact of this decision. The board agreed to discuss wage increases in executive session, considering the need to support the district's leadership and maintain fiscal responsibility.

## **MOTION**

Mr. Yamartino made a motion to approve the budget as present with a modification to include wage increases to include all staff representing consistent wage increases across the board. The percentage increase would be determined during a subsequent union contract extension vote, Ms. Gaudian seconded the motion.

Mr. Yamartino, Mr. Colasanto, Mr. Marino, Mr. Paulhus, Ms. Gaudian voted to approve the budget as present. Ms. Conaty, Ms. O'Brien, and Mr. Ricciardone voted to not approve as present. The motion failed with 5 votes in favor and 3 votes in opposition.

## **MOTION**

Mr. Yamartino made a motion table the vote on the FY26 Budget extending the existing FY25 budget for ninety (90) days ensuring no disruption to district operations. Mr. Marino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ricciardone left the meeting 2:36 pm

Mr. Yamartino asked Ms Conaty and Ms. O'Brien who voted against the budget to provide direction to Ms. Lonczak on what changes would allow them to vote yes in the future. Ms. Conaty proposed that the PT Nurse position become a FT position and absorb the PT Health Educator position. Ms. Lonczak explained the roles of both positions stating that the primary responsibility of the PT Health Educator is IT based managing all digital communications, website development assistance, scheduling of events, and social media management. The two positions have inherently different roles and specialties as well as educational backgrounds, certifications and state licensure. A request was made for Ms. Lonczak to provide a financial comparison of the current structure and the hybrid conversion suggested by Ms. Conaty.

Ms. Lonczak will provide a comparison and schedule a special meeting in the near future to go over findings and hold another Budget Approval meeting.

Mr. Ricciardone made a motion to table the vote on the FY26 and hold a special meeting during the summer to hold another vote. Mr. Yamartino seconded the motion

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

### **III. Executive Session -**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Paulhus made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Marino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 3:28 pm.

Executive session ended at 3:32pm

### **IV. Next meeting: TBD**

### **V. Adjournment**

#### **MOTION**

Ms. Conaty made a motion at 3:34 pm to adjourn meeting.  
Mr. Marino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Lonczak