

Goal of the Board of Education

The goal of the Board of Education is to conduct Board business openly, solicit, and encourage broad based involvement by the public, staff, and students in the Board's decision-making processes.

The Board believes every attempt should be made to form "partnerships" among the schools, the staff, and the community.



Philosophy of Education

The primary purpose of South Country School District is to impart knowledge and develop as fully as possible the total capabilities of each and every pupil and to prepare him/her to contribute in American society and the world.

This two-fold purpose demands sound instruction in basic skills in accordance with New York State Statutory Requirements, the effective teaching of subject matter, and the development of each child's mind, character, and physical well-being to the end that he/she may cultivate reasoning, sound judgment, and creativity.



Board of Education 2010-2011

*Victor Correa, President
Kevin Kirk, Vice President
Michelle Cavaleri
Owen Durney
Lisa Di Santo Grossman
Marian McKenna
Julio Morales
Robert Powell
Barbara Schatzman*

*Joseph L. Cipp, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools*

Location of Meetings

*Board of Education Meetings
are held at the South Haven School,
located at 2714 Montauk Highway,
Brookhaven, NY 11719*

For More Information

*Those seeking additional information
concerning the South Country Central School
District Board of Education should contact
District Clerk Nancy Poulos at
(631) 730-1542*

Guide to Meetings of the South Country Central School District Board of Education



***Administrative Office
189 Dunton Avenue
East Patchogue, New York 11772
(631) 730-1501***

The Role of the Board

The general responsibilities of the board are to:

- Select the superintendent.
- Establish policies for the total operation of the district.
- Upon recommendation of the superintendent, approve the hiring of all personnel and changes in employment status and set salaries for all district employees.
- Decide how district resources will be used.
- Adopt an annual school budget.
- Represent the community regarding educational matters.
- Communicate the needs and progress of the district to the community and other educational governing boards, municipal bodies and legislators.

Resident Concerns

There are many ways to share your concerns and opinions:

Talk to your child's teacher or principal

If you are concerned about your child or a problem in your child's school, the place to begin is with your child's teacher. He or she needs to know about concerns you have about your child's education. The school principal is the next person to see. If concerns persist, contact the district Superintendent in writing.

Speak at Board Meetings

During public session meetings, residents are welcome to speak on agenda and non-agenda items.

Join Your School's PTA

Active parental involvement is a tradition in the South Country Central School District. Parent groups play a vital role in the success of our schools.

Welcome

We are pleased that you have come to a South Country Central School District Board of Education meeting. Your attendance will allow you to become aware of the educational issues that affect the future of our children and community. Informed and involved parents and citizens are the best guarantees of excellence in our public schools.

Public Session

The regularly scheduled South Country Central School District Board of Education meetings are listed on the district calendar usually held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

The board encourages comments on agenda and non-agenda items alike, but sets certain guidelines for that discussion. A community member who wishes to speak must complete a comment card found in the rear of the room before the meeting. The Board President will only recognize residents who have completed and submitted a comment card to the District Clerk. Comments from each speaker are limited to 4 minutes. There will be no sharing of minutes. Public sessions are limited to 30 minutes and continue as long as they are conducted in an orderly fashion. All questions must be directed to the Board of Education and be relevant to school district matters.

- Comments from the audience on any agenda or non agenda items will be heard *after* the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Time permitting, additional comments may be heard *after adjournment* of the public meeting.
- The board may recognize a speaker not more than twice on the same topic.
- Neither the South Country Board of Education nor the Superintendent of Schools will entertain, in public, comments relating to a personnel matter or individual students. Please be aware that both staff and student privacy are protected under the law. If you have a personnel concern or an issue regarding a staff member or student(s), please contact the Superintendent of Schools at (631) 730-1500.

Executive Session

The Board of Education may adjourn to executive session any time during a meeting to discuss personnel decisions, contract negotiations, sale of property, litigation and other confidential matters. Executive sessions are closed to the public.

Conduct and Remarks Out of Order

Interruption or interference with the orderly conduct of the South Country Board of Education is not permitted. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The Board President may terminate the speaker's privilege to address the Board and/ or the public session should he/she persist in engaging in improper conduct or remarks.

Charges, Complaints or Challenges

At a public meeting of the board no person shall orally initiate charges or complaints against individual employees of the district, invade student privacy, or challenge instructional materials used in the district. All such charges, complaints, or challenges shall be presented to the Superintendent or the Board in writing and signed by the complainant. All such charges, if presented to the Board or Superintendent directly, shall be referred to the proper channels for investigation and reported back to the complainant. Privacy rights of both students and staff will be honored.

Distribution of Materials to the Board

Any written or printed material to be distributed to the South Country Board of Education at a board meeting must be submitted to the District Clerk by the Wednesday preceding the meeting. Material will be transmitted to the members of the board for review prior to the meeting.