

**Somers Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Chambers
April 26, 2021
7:00 PM**

Attendance Taken at 6:59 PM:

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jan Martin, Jeremy Anderson, David Palmer, Sarah Bollinger, Krista Cherry (joined via teleconference at 7:02 PM), Marissa Marks

Absent Board Members: Kate McLellan

Others: Brian Czapla, Bill Boutwell, Dina Senecal, Jim Formica

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Devlin at 7:00 p.m. in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education meeting room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Draft Minutes of March 22, 2021

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of March 22, 2021.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the March 22, 2021 Draft Minutes passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

Motion Passed: Motion to delete agenda item 9.1 - The Somers High School Online Learning Presentation passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

6.1. Warrant of April 9, 2021

Rationale: The Board to consent to the warrant of April 9, 2021 in the amount of \$549,268.05.

6.2. Warrant of April 26,2021

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of April 26, 2021 in the amount of \$164,551.33.

6.3. 2nd Warnings of new courses and books for Somers High School.

Rationale: The Board will consent to the 2nd warning on courses and books for 2021-22 for Somers High School:

- New Book - AP US History - American Pageant, AP
- New Course - AP Language and Comprehension - Books for Course - The Norton Reader and The Norton Field Guide to Writing
- New Course - AP Computer Science - Digital Textbook - Code HS Pro

6.4. Retirement at Somers High School

Rationale: Mrs. Karen Regan, School Counselor at Somers High School, will be retiring on June 30th, 2021. Karen will have been in her position 13 years.

6.5. Childrearing Leave for Staff in 2021-2022

Rationale: There are two staff members requesting Childrearing Leave:

- Mrs. Jacqueline Rivard, a 7th grade Language Arts teacher, will be out from August 30, 2021 to Monday, November 29, 2021.
- Mrs. Heather Jordan Connors, an 8th grade Language Arts teacher, will be out for the 2021-2022 school year.

6.6. Resignation of a staff member from Somers High School

Rationale: Mrs. Suzy Williams, Somers High School Social Worker, will be resigning at the end of this school year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1. 2021-22 Budget Approval (Reductions from the Board of Finance)

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the 2021-22 Budget after reductions from the Board of Finance.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapl reported that the budget was reduced by \$170,000 for a 2021-22 budget of \$25,239,742. He stated that the line items that were revised were not budget cuts but deferrals. Jeremy Anderson requested clarification on the motion that BOE members were voting on the \$170,000 reduction versus the revised line items. Superintendent Czapl stated that the vote was for the \$170,000 reduction. Discussion ensued among BOE members.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the revised BOE budget for 2021-22 passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by David Palmer.

8 Yeas - 0 Nays.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

9.1. Professional Development Update for 2021-2022

Rationale: Mrs. Senecal prepared the 2021-2022 Professional Development report for the Board.

Discussion: Dina Senecal, Director of Curriculum, updated the BOE on Professional Development for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be half-day and full-day PD scheduled throughout the year. Five full-day PD will occur prior to the start of school. I-Ready Diagnostics will be piloted to replace NWEA MAP testing. The Diagnostics comes with My Pathways which is digital practice for students to build skills. Administrative PD will also be included. Other PD will include continued diversity and equity training as well as the social/emotional learning initiative to include Second Step for adults.

9.2. Superintendent's Update

Rationale: The Superintendent will update the Board of Education on events.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla updated the BOE on current events and preparations for the 2021-2022 school year. He stated that the current Kindergarten enrollment is at 85 which is typically the number seen on September 1st. He anticipates requesting another Kindergarten teacher. The enrollment number may increase which may lead to a second additional Kindergarten teacher. Federal funds may be used for these positions. He continues to monitor the 2nd and 4th grades as well. These are one to two-year positions that he doesn't anticipate becoming part of the operational budget beyond the grant.

There was a meeting at all three schools to discuss end-of-the-year events. The schools plan on utilizing the new field for graduation and step-up days.

Superintendent Czapla continues to wait for the Governor and State Department of Education regarding the status of remote learning for next year. He has spoken with the unions. The superintendent is opposed to remote learning and stated that it is not the best education for the students.

There will be a change in the eMeeting platform. The current platform will expire on 6/30/21. The new company is based on eMeeting; therefore, there will not be much of a change.

Therapy dogs have been working well for the students over the past couple of weeks at SHS. They are trained to seek out anxiety and emotional distress. Superintendent Czapla stated that the therapy dogs may visit MBA. He would like to see this program continue.

BOE members received gifts for BOE Appreciation Month which is typically celebrated in March.

Discussion ensued among BOE members.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

