

DRAFT

Somers Board of Education Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2018 7:00 PM
Board of Education Room

Attendance Taken at 7:01 PM:

Present Board Members: Sarah Bollinger (exited meeting at 7:37 – returned 7:44 p.m.), David Palmer, Bruce Devlin, Rick Lees, Jeremy Anderson, Anne Kirkpatrick

Absent Board Members: Barbara Capuano, Jan Martin, Kate McLellan

Others in Attendance: Bill Boutwell, Irene Zytka, Melissa Mucci, Dina Senecal, Dee Chlebowski(parent)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education meeting room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

3.1. Introduction of the new Somers Elementary School's Assistant Principal, Melissa Mucci

Discussion: D. Senecal, SES Principal, introduced M. Mucci, the new SES Assistant Principal, to the BOE. Mrs. Senecal stated that Mrs. Mucci spent several years at SES as a Special Education teacher and filled in for herself as well as Dr. D. Messina. She worked as a Special Education Supervisor in East Hartford and has experience with Smart Start. She also helped to establish the FAB program at SES. Superintendent Czapla extended his congratulations.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Draft Minutes of July 9, 2018 meeting

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the Draft Minutes of July 9, 2018 meeting.

Motion Passed: The BOE Draft Minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **Passed 6-0**

5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the consent agenda in its totality, all 16 items, passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick.
Passed - 6 - 0

- 8.1. Retirement of Christine Hillebrecht, Gr 6 Language Arts Teacher at MBA on June 30, 2018**
- 8.2. Retirement of Donna Norige, the Media Specialist at Somers High School on July 13, 2018**
- 8.3. Resignation of Alexandra Maciolek, Somers High School Paraeducator on July 9, 2018.**
- 8.4. Resignation of Maria King, Math Intervention Tutor at Somers High on August 8, 2018 .**
- 8.5. Resignation of Robert Baillargeon, English Intervention Tutor at Somers High School on August 18, 2018**
- 8.6. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9123**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9123 - Secretary of the Board. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.7. 2nd Warning - Board of Education ByLaw Standing Committees - 9132**
Rationale: 2nd Warning - Board of Education ByLaw Standing Committees - 9132 for the Board to review.
- 8.8. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9230**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9230 Orientation of Members. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.9. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321 Time/Place/Notification of Meetings. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.10. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321.1**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321.1 Meetings. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.11. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321.2**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9321.2 Notification. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.12. 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9326.1**
Rationale: 2nd Warning Board of Education Bylaws 9326.1 Minutes. Policy Committee will answer any questions Board Members have.
- 8.13. 2017-18 Budget Transfers**
- 8.14. Warrant of July 20, 2018**

Rationale: Warrant of July 20, 2018 in the amount of \$61,774.39

8.15. Warrant of 7/26/18

Rationale: Warrant of 7/26/18 in the amount of \$648,792.64

8.16. Warrant of 8/27/18

Rationale: Warrant of 8/27/18 in the amount of \$382,749.45

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Teacher Evaluation Plan

Rationale: State has given their approval of the Somers Teacher Evaluation Plan. Now, the Board has to review and give their approval.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Dr. I. Zytka, Director of Curriculum, to discuss the amended Teacher Evaluation document. The administration and staff met as a group throughout the year to work on streamlining the verbiage. There have been two major changes. First, tenured teachers who have received proficient or above scores may be formally observed once every three years. There is always the option to perform more frequent formal evaluations with tenured teachers. The second change involved creating a chart for observations with staff hired during mid-year or part-time.

Motion Passed: Motion to accept the revised system for Educator Evaluation and Development passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

9.2. 1st warning - Somers DBS Policy 2120 - Organizational Chart - to delete policy

Rationale: 1st warning - Somers DBS Policy 2120- Organizational Chart - to delete policy. Board Policy Committee will answer any questions on the policy.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.3. 1st warning - Somers DBS Policy - 2131 - Superintendent of School

Rationale: 1st warning - Somers DBS Policy - 2131 - Superintendent of School. Board Policy Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.4. 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 2400 - Evaluation of Admins. Personnel

Rationale: 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 2400 - Evaluation of Admins. Personnel Board Policy Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.5. 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 9030 -Board/Staff Communications

Rationale: 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 9030 -Board/Staff

Communications. Board Policy Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.6. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 9123 - Secretary of the Board

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 9123 - Secretary of the Board Board Policy. Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.7. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 9125 - Custodian of Moneys - to delete

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 9125 - Custodian of Moneys to delete Board Policy Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.8. 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion

Rationale: 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion. Board Policy Committee members will answer any questions members might have.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.9. 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 5141.4 - Reporting by Mandated Reporters

Rationale: 1st Warning on Somers Policy DBS 5141.4 - Reporting by Mandated Reporters . Board Policy Committee will answer any questions on the policy.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.10. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection Board Policy Committee will answer any questions on the policy.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

9.11. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5113.2 - Truancy

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5113.2 - Truancy Board Policy Committee will answer any questions on the policy.

Discussion: Questions may be directed to A. Kirkpatrick or another member of the Policy Committee.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. 2nd Warning of 2019-2020 CIP Requests

Rationale: 2nd Warning of 2019-2020 CIP Requests

Motion Passed: Motion to accept the recommendations as presented

passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1. Somers Elementary Building Goals

Rationale: Somers Elementary Building Goals will be presented by Mrs. Dina Senecal, Principal.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Mrs. D. Senecal, SES Principal, to update the BOE on SES building goals. Mrs. Senecal stated that while the focus still continues to be on literacy and math, she wants to emphasize focusing on the necessary changes rather than focusing on the results. The Fall data has not been completed; therefore, there were no concrete numbers to report. The changes in Literacy, Math, and Social Emotional Learning were outlined in her attachment.

11.2. SBAC/NGSS Test Results

Rationale: Dr. Irene Zytka, Curriculum Director, will present a summary of the SBAC/NGSS Test Results.

Discussion: Dr. I. Zytka, Director of Curriculum, discussed the overall performance of the Spring 2018 SBAC scores. She has not yet received individual student reports or class data. Fifth grade ELA SBAC scores increased whereas grades 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 dipped. There were a couple of dips in Math SBAC scores in grades 3 and 6. Dr. Zytka has been working with the administration to see where students have not been performing as well. Once more data arrives, Dr. Zytka and staff will be able to see where improvements are needed. Superintendent Czapla explained to the BOE that he provided a list of questions to Dr. Zytka to research. Dr. Zytka stated that the timing of the tests is a factor. SBAC, MAP testing, and the NGSS field test were all given in the same timeframe. MAP and SBAC scores do not correlate. Dr. Zytka stated that students must be taught the information that they will be tested on in SBAC. She reported that the State has come out with a guide that looks at how SBAC scores are interpreted. She will share this with the administrators once she has read through it. The NGSS field test was performed in March. No results will be shared with participating districts. There were the same number of families who opted out of testing at MBA as well as SES.

11.3. Student Activity Report

Rationale: Mr. Boutwell will be here to answer any questions on the Student Activity accounts.

Discussion: There were no questions for Mr. Boutwell.

11.4. New Hires

Rationale: Attached is a list of New Hires for Somers Public Schools for the 2018-2019 year.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reported that there are a total of about 35 new hires. There were various reasons and/or circumstances for the number of staff who left; however, they did not leave because they were

unhappy. A. Kirkpatrick said she is impressed with the new staff's experience.

11.5. Strategic Planning

Rationale: The Superintendent will discuss Strategic Planning

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reminded the BOE that he wanted a year before revising Strategic Planning in order to better understand the district. He stated that what we do in the district ensures and improves students' success. He stated that since this process is going to be a major introspection, he hired a facilitator from EdVance, Mr. Jonathan Costa. The planning committee will consist of administrators, at least two teachers from each school, two members from the BOE, parents, a representative from the Town of Somers, and a member of SEF. Chairman Devlin nominated J. Anderson and A. Kirkpatrick stating that they would be a natural fit. Any Board member is invited. The new instructional strategic plan will be a roadmap for the next five years consisting of six Somers core values to build upon. Once completed, the Strategic Plan will be put in front of the BOE for approval. Updates will be provided throughout the process.

11.6. Superintendent Update

Rationale: The Superintendent will update the Board on recent events including a Back-to-School update.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla updated the BOE regarding the bond for the long-range facilities plan. He stated that the town is looking to move towards issuing the bond for \$6 million for SPS. CIP unanimously moved the bond request for SPS long-range facilities plan on to the Board of Selectmen who then moved it to the BOF. If approved by the BOF, it will be sent to referendum. There will be an informational town meeting. The track continues to be of high priority. We are looking to develop an outdoor athletic facility at the bottom of the hill from the SHS cafeteria that will consist of a regulation-size track; a regulation-size field for sports such as soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey; installed lights; and bleachers. Superintendent Czapla stated that Convocation Day went very well with great enthusiasm. Teachers and Paraprofessionals have Professional Development on 8/28/18. He also reported to the BOE that a Kindergarten teacher resigned very recently and that Mrs. Senecal and Mrs. Mucci have already hired someone with a plan in place to distribute students at the beginning of the school year to veteran teachers who will have additional classroom support until the new hire starts. All parents have been notified. Substitute teachers went through half-day training regarding a certain number of topics. Monitors have also been through training which will be ongoing. There are also two new SRO's who will divide their time equally.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1. BUDGET

No report.

12.2. CURRICULUM

No report.

12.3. POLICY

Discussion: A. Kirkpatrick stated that the next meeting will be held on 9/10/18 at 6 p.m.

12.4. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: D. Palmer reported that he met with the group this evening to discuss the consensus on investment strategy. There will be a presentation to the BOE twice a year.

12.5. PLANNING

Discussion: As previously mentioned under agenda item 11.6.

13. OTHER

Discussion: Chairman Devlin commented on the exceptionally heartwarming and inspirational Convocation Day. He stated it was a beautiful way to start the school year. A. Kirkpatrick commented that staff were genuinely excited to be back. B. Boutwell stated that it was evident that the staff has had a positive reaction to Superintendent Czapla's first year, and they feel good with the leadership in the district as well as the future of the district.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to **adjourn at 8:15 p.m.** passed with a motion by Sarah Bollinger and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary