

Somers Board of Education Meeting
November 12, 2018 7:00 PM
Board of Education Room

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members: Jeremy Anderson, Bruce Devlin, David Palmer, Barbara Capuano, Anne Kirkpatrick, Rick Lees, Jan Martin, Kate McLellan (arrived at 7:05 PM)

Absent Board Members: Sarah Bollinger

Others: Bill Boutwell, Dr. Irene Zytka, Rob Wilson

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education meeting room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Draft Minutes of October 29, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

Rationale: The Board is to review and approve the draft Minutes of October 29, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the minutes of the 10/29/18 Board of Education Meeting passed with a motion by Barbara Capuano and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Discussion: Chairman Devlin received an impressive email from a student and will share it with the BOE.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the complete consent agenda as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

7.1. Warrant of November 12, 2018

Rationale: Board to consent to Warrant of November 12, 2018 in the amount of \$257,286.07.

7.2. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 3324.1 - Business Contracts

Rationale: 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 3324.1 - Business Contracts

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

7.3. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4112.1 Staff Contracts

Rationale: 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4112.1 Staff Contracts

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

7.4. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4112.2 Staff Certification

Rationale: 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4112.2 Staff Certification

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

7.5. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4113.2 Cert. Change of Status

Rationale: 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4113.2 Cert. Change of Status

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

7.6. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4115 - Personnel Certified - Evaluations

Rationale: 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 4115 - Personnel Certified – Evaluations

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS**8.1. SHS Field Trip Overnight**

Rationale: Somers High School Music Department will be taking students to the All State Festival in Hartford at the Connecticut Convention Center from April 11th thru April 13th, 2019.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve field trip as presented passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

8.2. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4148 4248 Cert/NonCert Employee Protections

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4148 4248 Cert/NonCert Employee Protections

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

8.3. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4148.1 -to Delete

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 4148.1 -to Delete

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

8.4. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5141.21 Admin Reg definitions

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5141.21 Admin Reg definitions

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

8.5. 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5144.1 Student - Restraint

Rationale: 1st Warning Somers Policy DBS 5144.1 Student - Restraint

Discussion: Questions may be directed to Anne Kirkpatrick or any member of the Policy Committee.

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1. Curriculum Presentations on Social Studies and Science

Rationale: Dr. Irene Zytka will do Curriculum Presentations on Social Studies and Science.

Discussion: Dr. Irene Zytka, Director of Curriculum, updated the BOE on the Social Studies and Science curricula. In Social Studies, staff have continued to enter curriculum into Atlas. MBA and SHS will continue with diversity training which began last year. The "Facilitating Civil Discourse in the Classroom" training with CREC will be held on February 19, 2019. Seventh grade will host and in-house African workshop this spring, and eighth grade is looking into a Civil War Reenactment group. SHS is supplementing their curriculum with Open Registration Resources and Discovery Education.

In Science, staff continue to input curriculum into Atlas with a deep understanding of the new intricate and rigorous standards. SPS participated in a NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) pilot. Some interim assessments will be rolled out next month for staff to view. Staff continue to explore outside resources and implement Discovery Education online textbooks as curriculum supplementation. No new textbooks are needed for Social Studies or Science.

10.2. 2018-19 Professional Development Plan

Rationale: Dr. Irene Zytka will present the Board with the 2018-2019 Professional Development Plan.

Discussion: Dr. Irene Zytka, Director of Curriculum, updated the BOE on the 2018-19 Professional Development plan. Continuing work on equity and diversity is the primary focus involving specific strategies to use in the classroom. Dr. Zytka is working with a Civil Discourse Consultant who will be utilizing real-life scenarios that teachers have experienced. SES will be moving forward in ELA with Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Continuum in February. MBA will focus on aligning with SES in developing Growth Mindset as part of their Social

Emotional Learning advisory curriculum. SHS will focus on their two-year NEASC report. In order to establish equity in evaluation, administrators will obtain training on teacher evaluation and calibration.

10.3. Five-Year Somers Public Schools Technology Plan

Rationale: Rob Wilson will present the Board of Education with the five-year Somers Public Schools Technology Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Rob Wilson, Director of Technology and Information Services, updated the BOE on the five-year SPS technology plan. In order to sustain a 21st century learning environment, equipment must be updated for students, staff, and teachers. The district continues to move away from textbooks and towards online resources. The five-year plan is subject to change due to budget. Equipment for support staff had to be postponed this year. Fourth grade requested Chromebooks this year instead of iPads. A Web Filter Appliance is slated for next year which will allow Chromebooks to be protected with the same content filtering they receive when in school. Ideally, the technology department would like to update one building at a time. The district continues to be unique when it comes to utilizing technology system-wide.

10.4. Veteran's Day Report

Rationale: A report that shows what all schools are doing on Veteran's Day.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla provided the BOE with a report on Veterans Day activities throughout the schools. He attended all of the ceremonies and was very pleased. He stated the veterans were all so appreciative and honored to be asked to share their stories and reflect on the meaning of Veterans Day with the students.

10.5. Long-Range Facility Plan Update

Rationale: The Superintendent will update the Board on the Long-Range Facility Plan Update.

Discussion: Dave Palmer reported that there was a meeting on 11/12/18 prior to the BOE meeting. A report of the projects was distributed to BOE members. Dave Palmer stated that at the 1/14/19 BOE meeting, the BOE will be asked to approve a professional firm to move ahead with the track. The track will require a great deal of management and oversight. The Planning Committee is the designated committee that will advise and make recommendations to the BOE. The BOE, however, will have the final say. Communication with the public will be consistent throughout the process. Superintendent Czapla stated that the oil tank at SES is mandated to be removed in the summer of 2019 and will need professional services to guarantee compliance with EPA regulations. The auditorium lighting will be a summer 2019 project. All organizations, agencies, and clubs that utilize the auditorium during the summer have been asked to look elsewhere.

10.6. Superintendent Update

Rationale: Our Superintendent will update the Board on current events.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reported that not much is currently going on. The main focus has been on the bonding project, and he was pleased with the number of people at the polls who voted in favor of it. He gave his thanks and gratitude to the Boosters Club, PTO, and Rotarians who were very supportive of the bonding project. Superintendent Czapla and Anne Kirkpatrick spoke of the Strategic Planning Committee. The subcommittees are in data acquisition mode and will report back to the group as a whole and craft a final draft. Superintendent Czapla and Anne Kirkpatrick are pleased with the process and progress.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

11.2. POLICY

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick stated that the committee is on hold. The next meeting will be held on 11/26/18 at 6:15 p.m.

11.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: Dave Palmer stated that there will be a meeting on 12/10/18 with a pension update.

11.4. PLANNING

Discussion: As stated above under agenda item 10.5.

12. OTHER

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick will be attending the Convention on Friday. She went to a CREC meeting and will be going to a training meeting in December. She stated that there is a lot to learn and will report back to the BOE.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary