

**Somers Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Room
January 14, 2019
7:00 PM**

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members: David Palmer, Rick Lees, Sarah Bollinger, Jeremy Anderson, Bruce Devlin, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jan Martin, Kate McLellan

Absent Board Members: Barbara Capuano

Others: Brian Czapla, Bill Boutwell, Dr. Irene Zytka, Dr. Denise Messina, Rob Wilson, Cheryl Gustafson, Rob Kapner, Amanda Whalen, Marc Whalen, Shannon Whalen, Jackie Nappo, Clay Krevolin, Melissa Mucci, Betty Wengloski, Gary Cotzin

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1. Recognition to Shannon Whalen, a sophomore at Somers High School.

Rationale: Recognition to Shannon Whalen, a sophomore at Somers High School, for her design of this year's budget book.

Discussion: The Board of Education congratulated Shannon Whalen, sophomore at SHS, for her design of this year's budget book. Superintendent Czapla engaged the graphic design class to develop a multipage budget design. Students interviewed the superintendent while he questioned their rationale, concept, and design intention. The BOE presented her with a gift.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Draft Minutes of December 10, 2018

Rationale: Board to review and approve the Draft Board of Education Minutes from December 10, 2018.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes as presented passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger.

8 Yeas - 0 Nays.

5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

8.1. Warrant of 1/14/2019

Rationale: Warrant of 1/14/2019 in the amount of \$661,979.95

8.2. Child-Rearing Leave for Emily Galloway, an SES teacher

Rationale: Emily Galloway has requested child-rearing leave of absence from January 3, 2019 thru June 30, 2019.

8.3. 2nd Warning - Somers Policy DBS 5118.1 - Admission of Resident Students

Rationale: The Board will review the 2nd warning of Somers Policy DBS 5118.1 - Admission of Resident Students.

8.4. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 5131.7 - Students Weapons & Dangerous Instruments

Rationale: The Board will review the 2nd warning of Somers Policy DBS 5131.7 - Students Weapons & Dangerous Instruments.

8.5. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 5131.111 - Student Conduct and Surveillance

Rationale: The Board will review the 2nd Warning of the Somers Policy DBS 5131.111 - Student Conduct and Surveillance.

8.6. 2nd Warning of the Somers Policy DBS 5131.913 - Students Bullying

Rationale: The Board will review the 2nd Warning of the Somers Policy DBS 5131.913 - Students Bullying.

8.7. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 6141.312 - Instruction Migrant Students

Rationale: The Board will review the Somers Policy DBS 6141.312 - Instruction Migrant Students.

8.8. 2nd Warning of Somers Policy DBS 6141.322 Instruction - Computer web/social media

Rationale: The Board will review Somers Policy DBS 6141.322 Instruction – Computer web/social media.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. 2nd Warning 2019-2020 Annual School Calendar

Rationale: The Board is to review and give consent to the 2019-2020 Annual School Calendar.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the 2019-2020 annual school calendar as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1. Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

Rationale: Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla presented the proposed 2019-20 budget to the BOE. The presentation focused on recent budget history, challenges and priorities, proposed budget impacts, and comparisons structure. Recent budget history included FY 18 (2017-18) and FY 19 (2018-19). In FY 18, the BOE initially approved the budget for \$22.5 million which represented a 2.47% increase from the previous year. Due to the State not approving a budget until November and recisions made by the Governor, the BOE voluntarily gave back \$200,000 which resulted in a \$22.3 million budget or 1.56% net gain. In FY 19, the initial proposed budget in January of 2018 was \$23.2 million which represented a 2.95% increase from the previous year. In light of the fiscal environment and to bring costs down, SPS went out to bid for insurance health premiums and ended up switching from Anthem to ConnectiCare which resulted in a net savings of \$220,000. The approved budget came in at \$23 million which was a 1.97% increase. The Board of Finance cut the budget further in the amount of \$181,500 for a total increase of 1.17% from the previous year.

Superintendent Czapla discussed the challenges and priorities regarding the budget. The two major areas include academic achievement and mental health concerns. Superintendent Czapla has been going through a strategic coherence planning process to set the plan for future budgets going forward. It is not yet complete; however, there are some challenges and priorities that have risen to the top. Academic achievement is one of the top priorities after Dr. Zytka, Director of Curriculum, presented her results from the standardized test scores. Mental health is another area of concern not only in Somers but nationwide. Nationally, 20% of adolescents experience mental health issues. It is necessary to get a handle on and address these issues as it impacts instruction and learning. Some disorders come with dysregulated behaviors in the classroom impacting the student's own learning as well as the entire classroom. Other priorities include Learning Environments, maintenance, and security and safety provisions.

Superintendent Czapla proposed a budget of \$23,914,137 which is a 4.78% increase from last year. This increase is in response to playing catch up over the past two years. He presented the budget breakdown under nondiscretionary categories (salaries, insurance and benefits, tuition, transportation, utilities) as \$22,145,093 which is 92.6% of the budget as well as discretionary categories

(maintenance, equipment, instructional resources, extracurricular activities, administrative overhead) as \$1,769,044 which is 7.4% of the budget. The \$1,091,626 increase from last year will go towards contractual obligations (which includes a salary for a new social worker for the elementary school), instructional resources, equipment, maintenance, and administrative overhead.

Superintendent Czapla presented a PPE (Per Pupil Expenditure) slide. This is the rate at which it costs a town to educate a student. In DRG-C, the average cost to educate a student is \$18,762. This is a 9.6% increase from the previous year. In Somers, the average cost to educate a student is \$15,855 representing a 0.6% increase from the previous year. Superintendent Czapla stated that Somers has not been keeping pace with other towns. He stated if Somers had the same PPE of DRG-C, that would represent an increase of 18.3% which would mean an increase of \$4,376,000 to the budget. He was not advocating to jump to those numbers but wanted to show how far behind we are compared to our peers.

Superintendent Czapla asked the BOE to email him with any questions to be addressed at the next BOE meeting on 1/28/19. The BOE will be asked to approve the budget at the 2/11/19 BOE meeting. The approved budget will then be presented at the Public Hearing in March. He will be presenting the budget to the PTO and will post the budget proposal on the school website. The Campus View will also focus on the budget. The BOE thanked administration in helping to craft the budget.

11.2. Superintendent's Update

Rationale: Superintendent's Update

Discussion: No further updates.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

12.2. POLICY

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick reported that the committee is on hold until they receive the next CABA packet.

12.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: No report.

12.4. PLANNING

Discussion: David Palmer reported that seven design firms responded with a bid regarding the track and field project. Five of the seven firms were interviewed. The next BOE meeting will include an agenda item which will present the recommendation to the BOE of the firm for the design project. The Planning Committee will communicate with the BOE as the process unfolds.

13. OTHER

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to Adjourn at 8:05 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary