

**Somers Board of Education Meeting  
Board of Education Room  
April 22, 2019  
7:00 PM**

**Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:**

Present Board Members: Jan Martin, Sarah Bollinger, Barbara Capuano, David Palmer, Bruce Devlin, Rick Lees, Jeremy Anderson, Kate McLellan (arrived at 7:08 PM), Anne Kirkpatrick

Others: Brian Czapla, Bill Boutwell, Dr. Irene Zytka, Dick Webb, Alan Walker, Dina Senecal, Broderick Rheault, Fiona Cheyney, Edwin Genece, Todd Rolland

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

**Discussion:** Fiona Cheyney and Edwin Genece updated the BOE on SHS events. Varsity Baseball won against SMSA while Varsity Softball has a current record of 4-1. Junior Varsity Softball won against Granby on 4/18/19. Boys Varsity and JV Lacrosse have won all games and have games scheduled for 4/23/19. Varsity Girls Lacrosse won their last game 18-0. Boys Tennis has won two out of three games so far. The National Honors Society are starting their annual blood drive on 4/24/19 from 8:30-1:30 p.m. The Beta Club Induction was held on 4/3/19. The Senior class is getting ready for their Talent Show in June. During spring break, students in the Drama Club worked on cleaning the stage, and it is now ready for MBA to hold their production. Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Kraus are preparing for the COTA Concert (Celebration of the Arts). The Art Show will begin Thursday, 4/25/19 at 6 p.m. at the Somers Public Library.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1. Draft Minutes of March 25, 2019 Board of Education Meeting**

**Rationale:** Board to review and approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve minutes from the 3/25/19 Board of Education meeting passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Jan Martin.

**8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

**5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**

## 6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

### 7. CONSENT AGENDA

**Discussion:** The Board of Education recognized the service of the staff members who are resigning/retiring.

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

#### 7.1. Warrant of April 5, 2019

**Rationale:** Board to review and consent to the Warrant of April 5, 2019 in the amount of \$262,450.54.

#### 7.2. Warrant of April 22, 2019

**Rationale:** Board to review and consent to the Warrant of April 22, 2019 in the amount of \$309,622.84.

#### 7.3. Retirement of Principal of Mabelle B. Avery Middle School - Clay Krevolin

**Rationale:** Retirement as of June 30, 2019 of Principal of Mabelle B. Avery Middle School - Clay Krevolin. He has been at Somers Public Schools for five years.

#### 7.4. Resignation of Assistant Principal of Mabelle B. Avery Middle School – Rob Kapner

**Rationale:** Robert Kapner, Assistant Principal of Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, has submitted his resignation effective June 30, 2019. He has been in the Somers Public Schools fourteen years.

#### 7.5. Retirement of Central Office Administrative Assistant - Joan Jaquith

**Rationale:** Joan Jaquith, Central Office Administrative Assistant has put in her retirement letter effective September 27, 2019. She has been with Somers Public Schools for 34 years.

#### 7.6. Retirement of ParaEducator at Mabelle B. Avery - Pat Doyker

**Rationale:** Pat Doyker, Paraeducator at Mabelle B. Avery, has submitted her retirement to be effective June 30, 2019. Mrs. Doyker has been at Somers Public Schools for 32 years.

#### 7.7. Resignation of Somers High School Math Intervention Tutor – Caroline Gamble

**Rationale:** Caroline Gamble, Math Intervention Tutor at Somers High School, has submitted her resignation effective June 30, 2019.

#### 7.8. Approval of June 12, 2019 Graduation Date

**Rationale:** Approval of June 12, 2019 Graduation Date

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1. Approval of Somers High School Auditorium Lighting Project Contract

**Rationale:** Approval of Somers High School Auditorium Lighting Project Contract by the Board of Education

**Discussion:** Superintendent Czapla introduced Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, to update the BOE on the SHS Auditorium Lighting Project. Mr. Boutwell stated that he worked with Mr. Rob Wilson and Mr. Bob Hall and advertised the project through local papers and the State of CT Department of Administrative Services. There were three companies that received contact from SPS. A mandatory walk-through was held with Supertech as the only participating vendor. Mr. Boutwell stated that Supertech is well qualified and doesn't think rebidding would generate any additional interest. Mr. Boutwell recommended to move forward with Supertech at the bid price of \$197,390.20. This project will be done over the summer.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the Somers High School Auditorium Lighting Project Contract as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

### 8.2. 1st Warning - Grade 6 Transition Course

**Rationale:** Dr. Zytka will present to the Board the 1st Warning of the Grade 6 Transition Course.

**Discussion:** Dr. Irene Zytka, Director of Curriculum, updated the BOE on the first warning of the elimination of the Exploratory World Language Program at SES and the creation of a 6th Grade Transition Program. The objective of this program is to provide students with the necessary tools (i.e. executive functioning, study skills, etc.) to ensure a smooth transition from SES to MBA and beyond. Dr. Zytka met with the Curriculum Council and discussed a number of topics to present in the curriculum including but not limited to social media, digital literacy, a community service project, etc. There will be an introduction to Spanish and French with student language selection to be determined in Grade 7. A curriculum-writing group of sixth grade teachers, social worker, school psychologist, and administrators will meet along with Dr. Zytka in developing the curriculum for this class. The curriculum will be entered into Atlas. A 6th Grade Seminar Teacher (0.6 FTE) position will be posted in the spring. Mrs. Senecal, SES Principal, Dr. Zytka, and Mr. Krevolin, MBA Principal, have worked on restructuring current schedules and have come up with a good plan. Mrs. Senecal stated that teachers will get additional instructional time during the week with the elimination of the Exploratory World Language Program. There will be no Specials at SES on Wednesdays allowing for extracurricular activities (i.e. adapted PE for Special Education students, instrument lessons, students' week in review, picture day, etc.). The 5th Grade will be switching classes through the day in order to transition them to MBA's schedule rotation.

### 8.3. Review of Track Replacement Plan (SMRT)

**Rationale:** An update on the Track Replacement Plan (SMRT) will be presented to the Board.

**Discussion:** Superintendent Czapla introduced Mr. Dick Webb from SMRT to present to the BOE recommendations and the current plan for the track. Over the last four months Gary Cotzin, Chris Boucher, Todd Rolland, Bill Boutwell, Alan Walker, Jim MacFeat, and Superintendent Czapla met with SMRT to discuss what is in the best interest of the track project from budget and location standpoints. Three locations were assessed. The first area considered was the existing natural grass fields behind the school in the lower fields abutting the park. Concerns in that area included remoteness from utilities and parking. The second location considered was where the existing track is located but in a north-south orientation. Concerns to that area included the need to level the dropping grade as well as the septic system located underneath the natural grass field. From an engineering perspective, it is not good practice to locate a permanent paved track over a septic system. The third location is the current track location with a proposal for a new track configuration consisting of six distance and eight sprint lanes. SMRT is proposing the track as an unequal quadrant track as it relates to interior field space. The track will be oval in order to support an interior multipurpose field with soccer dimensionally driving the program geometry. The track will include running, jumping (pair of long and triple jumps, open area for high jump, and rebuilding the pole vault in its current location), and throwing events on the lower fields. The proposed field will have lighting with four 70-80 foot poles. The proposed track will also incorporate a 500-seat grandstand facility that is handicap accessible. There is a proposed emergency access to the track facility including equipment storage, an area highlighting a potential concession building, and access to utilities. The proposed track will move closer to the parking area; however, it will not impact existing parking. Some trees will be impacted, and new trees will be planted. Some of the existing fencing will remain and some will have to be replaced.

The proposed field will be a synthetic turf field with a combination monofilament and slit film fiber with a pad underneath for shock attenuation. The infield is proposed as a sand and rubber infill system. The track material will be a synthetic paved basemat system with polyurethane binders. It will be similar to the existing track but a stronger upgrade. The track will be designed to have a permanent trench drain tied into drainage from the field. SMRT is not a proponent of organic-type of infields for New England as they decompose and may have poor drainage in the freeze/thaw cycle of the seasons. Synthetic turf longevity is 10-12+ years. Studies are finding that it is less about how much a turf is played on as simply the exposure to UV light. The sand and rubber component may be vacuumed which is a recyclable component to the infield. The track will have a 20-24 year lifespan and will need to be re-sprayed and re-stripped every plus or minus six years. Synthetic turf fields are lower maintenance than natural grass fields with an increase in playability. The BOE will need to develop a maintenance budget for the track.

The goal is to have this bid by early July in order to begin construction in the fall. It is possible that the track surfacing may not occur until spring 2020 due to weather. Preliminary estimates are on target with a \$3 million projection cost.

There was discussion among BOE members and Mr. Webb regarding injury rates of synthetic turf versus grass fields. Mr. Webb noted that one particular study used pristine, irrigated, natural grass which was used for games only. He noted it is very difficult to maintain that level of grass. Synthetic turf was noted to have a higher incidence of minor, abrasive injuries versus traumas. One of the key advantages of synthetic turf is consistency of play.

The synthetic turf may be lined for different sports using different colors of paint. This will be discussed with the committee and Mr. Alan Walker. Products may be used to protect the track from benches.

Mr. Webb will be presenting the track project to the public on 4/29/19 at 6 p.m. in the SHS auditorium. BOE members suggested that he bring a list of schools with a similar track as well as samples of the infield.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### 10.1. Quarterly Budget Update

**Rationale:** Mr. Boutwell will present the Quarterly Budget Update to the Board.

**Discussion:** Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, updated the BOE on the current 2018-19 budget. The projection shows a current balance of approximately \$79,000 which will continue to decrease in the remaining two months. He noted that the budget is constructed to account for variances.

### 10.2. Superintendent's Update

**Rationale:** 1. 2019-2020 Budget Update

2. MBA Administrative Search Update

**Discussion:**

1. 2019-2020 Budget Update: Superintendent Czapla reported to the BOE that at the last BOF meeting SPS gave back \$30,000 due to a reduced fuel cost because SPS locked in at a lower rate. The BOF Public Hearing will be held on 4/23/19 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall where the BOF will vote to move the budget.
2. MBA Administrative Search Update: Superintendent Czapla reported that applications have been filing in for both positions. The MBA Principal position will close on 4/30/19, and the MBA Assistant Principal position will close at the end of this week. Superintendent Czapla is putting together a group of teachers, parents, and students to interview for the Principal position. The initial interview for Principal

will occur on 5/13/19. Superintendent Czapla will be leading the search committee for the Assistant Principal position as well.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 11.1. CURRICULUM

**Discussion:** No report.

### 11.2. POLICY

**Discussion:** Anne Kirkpatrick reported that the committee just received the April packet and that Superintendent Czapla reviewed it. The committee does not need to make any adjustments in policies at this time. Another packet will arrive in June.

### 11.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

**Discussion:** No report.

### 11.4. PLANNING

**Discussion:** As stated above under agenda item 8.3 -- Review of Track Replacement Plan (SMRT).

## 12. CREC UPDATE

**Discussion:** Anne Kirkpatrick provided a CREC report for each BOE member. There will be monthly updates on bills in the legislature. There has been a shift to regionalism rather than acquired regionalization. The teacher pension proposal has been removed from the Education Committee.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Kate McLellan. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary      Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary