

Somers Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Meeting Room
August 26, 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, Anne Kirkpatrick

Others: Brian Czapla, Bill Boutwell, Margot Martello, Michael McDonnell, Jackie Nappo, Patrick Soucy

Updated Attendance:

Kate McLellan was updated to present at 7:04 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECOGNITION

3.1. New Assistant Principal at Mabelle B. Avery School

Rationale: Mr. Michael McDonnell is the new Assistant Principal at Mabelle B. Avery School.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Mrs. Margot Martello, MBA Principal, to the BOE. Mrs. Martello introduced Mr. Michael McDonnell, MBA Assistant Principal, to the BOE. She stated that he comes to MBA from SES where he taught as a reading interventionist as well as a Grade 4 teacher for 16 years. Mrs. Martello congratulated Mr. McDonnell and stated that his love of learning, patience, work ethic, and sense of humor will be an asset to MBA. Mr. McDonnell thanked Mrs. Martello and the BOE. He stated that he is excited and looks forward to serving the district.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Draft Board of Education Minutes of June 24, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the June 24, 2019 Board of Education minutes.

Discussion: Jeremy Anderson noted that Superintendent Czapla presented, not Mr. Krevolin, under agenda item 9.2.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve minutes from the 6/24/19 Board of Education meeting passed with a motion by Barbara Capuano and a second by Kate McLellan. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4.2. Approval of Minutes from Special Board of Education Meeting on July 25, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and approve minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on July 25, 2019.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve minutes from the 7/25/19 Special Board of Education meeting passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Kate McLellan. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

7.1. Warrant of July 8, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the July 8, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$110,127.83.

7.2. Warrant of July 19, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the July 19, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$155,594.37.

7.3. Warrant of July 26, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the July 26, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$306,804.33.

7.4. Warrant of July 31, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the July 31, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$17,929.48.

7.5. Warrant of August 12, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the August 12, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$334,295.40.

7.6. Warrant of August 26, 2019

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the August 26, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$309,296.35.

7.7. Retirement of MBA Grade 6 Math Teacher

Rationale: Mrs. Mariella Luginbuhl, MBA Grade 6 Math Teacher, handed in her

retirement for June 30, 2019. She has been at Somers Public Schools for 20 years.

7.8. Resignation of Somers High School PE/Health Teacher

Rationale: Mr. Rob Hanover, PE/Health teacher at Somers High, has handed in his resignation and will be teaching overseas.

7.9. Resignation of MBA Tutor

Rationale: Mrs. Agnieszka Banas, Math Tutor at MBA, has handed in her resignation on July 31, 2019.

7.10. Resignation of Occupational Therapist at Somers Elementary School

Rationale: Mrs. Shawna Frazer, Occupational Therapist, has handed in her resignation as of August 9, 2019.

7.11. Resignation of ParaEducator at MBA

Rationale: Mrs. Melinda Roberge, ParaEducator at MBA, handed in her resignation as of August 21, 2019.

7.12. Retirement of Media/ParaEducator at MBA

Rationale: Ms. Jean Mandirola, Media/ParaEducator at MBA, handed in her retirement letter On August 2, 2019 after 17 years in Somers Public Schools.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Approval of 2018-2019 Budget Transfers

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the 2018-19 Budget Transfers.

Discussion: Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, answered questions from Jeremy Anderson regarding the salary lines and from Anne Kirkpatrick regarding electricity.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the 2018-2019 budget transfers as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick.

9 Yeas - 0 Nays.

8.2. BOE Workshop

Rationale: The Board will discuss and approve the Board of Education Candidate Workshop for September 26, 2019.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla asked the BOE to consider the September 23, 2019 BOE meeting to be converted to a workshop for the new candidates running for the BOE in November. He presented a draft of the agenda which will be completely facilitated by each one of the BOE members. A representative from CAFE has been contacted to discuss role and responsibilities. Items to be discussed include leadership profile, Board responsibilities, policies, curriculum instruction, budgeting, long-range facility plan, strategic plan, security improvements, organizational efficiencies, and special education programs. Each BOE member will discuss a topic. Superintendent Czapla would also like to bring

in a student to discuss their perspective over the last two years. Documents and packets will be created to distribute to the candidates. Superintendent Czapla will meet with each Board member to discuss the topics.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Board of Education Candidate Workshop for September 26, 2019 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1. Activity Account Report

Rationale: Mr. Boutwell will be present for any questions the Board might have on the 2018-19 Activity Fund Report.

Discussion: Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, provided the BOE with the 2018-19 Activity Fund Report. SPS has approximately 100 different activity fund accounts that run through the Business Office. Mr. Boutwell stated that money left over from grants that were completed was returned to SEF. As far as SHS class accounts, Mr. Cotzin, SHS Principal, works with the advisors who then contact class officers to determine how they want to use the balance.

10.2. Superintendent Update

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla provided BOE members with a staffing report including transfers and new hires. There has been a spike of enrollment of at least 25 students at SES. SPS is hiring an additional Grade 5 teacher which will bring student numbers to 20-21 per class. This will be in line with SPS's Strategic Plan providing staff and students with the best possible educational environment to ensure success.

Another new development involves crossing guards to be posted at dismissal time at the intersection between MBA and the library. The school has been working with American Legion to provide the school with people for this position. The police will provide them with training.

Convocation was a huge success. Superintendent Czapla thanked the BOE members who were able to attend. He stated that it was good to see all the staff back and that there is a high level of energy. The new leadership team at MBA got off to an incredible start.

The track project has begun. The plan is to have 95% of the work done in the fall. They will be installing turf, bleachers, lighting system, and the track foundation. They will not be able to lay the coating down for the track due to the time of year. That will be done in April. Coaches have been made aware. Mr. Alan Walker already started the athletic scheduling process back in the spring for the fall sports and continues to work on the schedule for the spring sports. David Palmer asked for a schedule to be made in case the public has any questions.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

11.2. POLICY

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick reported that the committee just received a new packet and are on hold.

11.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: David Palmer reported that they will commence with teachers in October. There will be a discussion before then to discuss direction for the Board.

11.4. PLANNING

Discussion: No report.

12. CREC UPDATE

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick provided a handout to the BOE members. She is now on the Board of Directors as well as the CREC Council. She reported that there was much confusion during the year as to how the CREC Council is like and unlike the BOE. There have been many people on the CREC Council for a number of years which has changed and developed as schools have been added. There will be new Board members as three officers will be leaving. She will be meeting with Greg Florio, Executive Director, in two weeks. There have been many good things happening including the distribution of 1200 backpacks to children. A reminder will be sent out to parents regarding the date of the first day of school. Bus schedule changes have been made, and bus routes have been posted on the school website.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 7:48 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary