

Special Somers Board of Education Meeting **DRAFT**
Teleconferencing on Zoom
July 09, 2020
7:00 PM

Video of this meeting may be accessed at:
www.somers.k12.ct.us

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin, Jan Martin, Marissa Marks, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jeremy Anderson, David Palmer, Sarah Bollinger

Absent Board Members: Kate McLellan, Krista Cherry

Others: Brian Czapl, Bill Boutwell

Updated Attendance: Sarah Bollinger was updated to present at 7:11 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Board of Education Meeting via teleconferencing on Zoom was called to order by Chairman Devlin at 7:09 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Approval of BOE Draft Minutes of May 11, 2020 with Corrected Revision

Rationale: Approval of BOE Draft Minutes of May 11, 2020 with corrected revision

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the May 11, 2020 BOE Draft Minutes with the corrected revision passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

2.2. Approval of BOE Draft Minutes of June 8, 2020

Rationale: Approval of BOE Draft Minutes of June 8, 2020

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the June 8, 2020 BOE Draft Minutes passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

3. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion: Discussion ensued among BOE members.

Motion Passed: Motion to delete agenda item 6.3 (Approval of new positions related to reopening of schools in the Fall) passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4.1. Warrant of June 22, 2020

Rationale: Board to consent to warrant of June 22, 2020 in the amount of \$279,795.80.

4.2. Warrant of July 6, 2020

Rationale: Board to consent to warrant of July 6, 2020 in the amount of \$227,997.51.

4.3. Retirement of Somers High Teacher

Rationale: Mrs. Tammy Gowash has given her retirement letter for June 30, 2020. Mrs. Gowash has been the Somers High School Physical Education and Health teacher for over 30 years.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Approval of Nurse Contract for 2020-2023

Rationale: Board to approve Nurse Contract for 2020-2023

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla finished negotiations with the nurses in late June. This is the smallest bargaining unit with the highest turnover rate. The nurses are critical partners moving forward in the COVID-19 process. The nurses agreed to work four extra days in preparation for students' return to school. The Lead RN's stipend increased as she has been in consultation with medical advisors, the Department of Public Health, and Superintendent Czapla. There has been an increase in the Bachelor's differential. New language was added that reassigns nurses where there is a need. The nurses will now engage in Professional Development. Any new employees will no longer be eligible to participate in SPS's pension plan effective 7/1/2020.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Nurse Contract for 2020-2023 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

5.2. Approval of Revision to the 2020-2021 School Calendar

Rationale: The Board to approve the revision of the 2020-2021 School Calendar

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla asked the BOE to change the start of school to 9/8/2020. The week prior will be dedicated to Professional Development as well as finalizing preparations for the facilities, PPE, sanitizing deliveries, etc. The full day of Professional Development on 10/30/2020 was eliminated and moved to the beginning of the school year. Days have been added at the end of the school year. There will not be Convocation Day this year due to social distancing. The calendar may have to be revisited by the BOE during the course of the year.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the revision to the 2020-2021 school calendar passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin.
7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. Superintendent Update

Rationale: The Superintendent will update the Board on current issues.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla shared a draft document regarding reopening plans with the BOE. He is asking the BOE to finalize this plan on 7/22/20. Some of the major components include:

- Providing programming for students who attend school and for students who choose to stay home due to COVID-related issues
- Making sure the facilities have dealt with compliance issues
- Restricting visitors to the schools unless it is an emergency
- Suspending use of building facilities after school by community groups
- Working with the SEA regarding certain demands

Discussion ensued among BOE members. Superintendent Czapla will be sending out a parent blast. The bus survey that was sent out previously resulted in a 60/40 split. Another survey will be sent out to parents regarding school opening once more credible data with details is obtained. Principals have been discussing actions to take among those who do not adhere to the face mask policy. Superintendent Czapla is planning on asking parents to provide two face masks per student. SPS has purchased an excessive amount of face masks, but SES needs pediatric masks. Contributions will be accepted.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn the BOE meeting at 7:46 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by David Palmer. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Jan Martin, BOE Secretary

Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary