

Somers Board of Education Meeting
 Somers High School Media Center
 October 26, 2020
 7:00 PM

Attendance Taken at 6:59 PM:

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jan Martin, Jeremy Anderson, Marissa Marks

Absent Board Members: David Palmer, Kate McLellan, Sarah Bollinger, Krista Cherry

Others: Brian Czapla, Dina Senecal, Rob Wilson, Cynthia DeRoma

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 SHS Media Center.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Draft Minutes of October 13, 2020

Rationale: The Board is to review and approve the draft minutes of the Board of Education meeting on October 13, 2020.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the October 13, 2020 BOE Draft Minutes passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Jan Martin.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Jan Martin. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

6.1. Warrant of October 26, 2020

Rationale: The Board will review and give consent to the warrant of October 26, 2020 in the amount of \$97,395.95.

6.2. Resignation of Speech & Language Teacher

Rationale: Mrs. Stephanie Jodice, Somers Elementary School Speech and Language Teacher, has put in her resignation. She was with Somers Public Schools for 10 years.

6.3. Retirement of Director of Cafeteria

Rationale: Mrs. Leslie Gengenbach will be retiring at the end of November, 2020. She has been over the cafeterias in the system and worked daily at Somers High School. She has been with Somers Public Schools since 1989.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the food program. Position may be posted early November.

6.4. Retirement of MBA Custodian

Rationale: Mr. Gary Kane, 2nd shift custodian at Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, will be leaving us on January 2, 2021. He has been with Somers Public Schools since 2004.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. 2021-2022 Budget Process and Calendar

Rationale: The Board is to review and approve the 2021-2022 Budget Process and Calendar.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget process and calendar as presented passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

9.1. 2020 Veteran's Day Report

Rationale: Mrs. Senecal has prepared a report on the 2020 Veteran's Day.

Discussion: Superintendent Czaplá stated that assemblies and visitors have been suspended this year due to COVID and the physical distance guidelines. SES, MBA, and SHS will recognize veterans via digital presentations.

9.2. Diversity & Equity Plan Update

Rationale: Mrs. Senecal has prepared the Diversity and Equity Plan Update.

Discussion: Superintendent Czaplá stated that the Diversity and Equity Plan is reviewed and reported annually. Dina Senecal, Director of Curriculum, updated the BOE on the Diversity and Equity Plan. She stated that the team gathers information on past practice and investigates ways to move forward. There have been two meetings at this time. Courageous Conversations continues at SHS, but the team wants to take it further and continue work in the classroom. Staff has had Implicit Bias Training through Professional Development. Part of the focus this year will be a book study of "Not Light, But Fire" in conjunction with

"Creative Conversations" and following up with PD next fall utilizing these tools and teachings in the classroom. Mrs. Senecal is participating in antiracism training offered by the State. A "Mind the Gap" presentation was held at MBA and SHS. SES will be provided PD in the near future. She also envisions a book study during the summer for teachers and breakout groups in the fall. Mrs. Senecal will distribute a book list to BOE members that have been recommended by the CREC Equity Council.

9.3. Technology 5-Year Plan

Rationale: Mr. Rob Wilson has updated the Technology 5-Year Plan and will answer any questions.

Discussion: Rob Wilson, Director of Technology and Information Services, updated the BOE on the Technology 5-Year Plan. He stated that he has spaced out the updated technology cost more evenly over the five years. There was a high demand and need for every student to have a device. SHS received new Chromebooks this year. Every classroom was hard-wired for the teachers so as not to tax Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi hotspots were purchased in the spring and a few have been distributed. In order to prepare the staff for hybrid and remote learning, there was a significant amount of PD. The SPS Educational Technology Website was created for teachers to easily navigate digital platforms and research tutorials at their own pace. There were major changes that occurred in each classroom by adding secondary monitors and document cameras. Document cameras are portable if SPS moves to a full remote learning model. Superintendent Czapla acknowledged Mr. Wilson and his department for their tremendous work and dedication.

9.4. Superintendent's Update

Rationale: Mr. Czapla will update the Board of Education on issues of Somers Public Schools.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla updated the BOE on recent events. SES has returned to full in-person learning. SES dismissals have been impressive with the purchase of the School Dismissal Manager program which parents download. Parents receive a code which is then scanned at dismissal. Drop-off has also gone smoothly. There are some people who carpool, but there is more ridership on buses now. Superintendent Czapla will be reevaluating full in-person learning at MBA and SHS. There is no target date at this time. He acknowledged the professionalism of the teachers who have been working very hard managing two classrooms. He is looking at different ways to support them and may utilize PD time to help with planning on their part. Discussion ensued among BOE members.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

