

**Somers Board of Education Meeting
Teleconferencing on Zoom
December 14, 2020
7:00 PM**

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

Attendance Taken at 7:01 PM:

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin, Jan Martin, David Palmer, Sarah Bollinger, Marissa Marks, Kate McLellan

Absent Board Members: Anne Kirkpatrick, Jeremy Anderson, Krista Cherry

Others: Brian Czapl, Bill Boutwell, Dina Senecal, Jim Formica, Chester R

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Devlin at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Draft Minutes of November 23, 2020

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the Draft Minutes of November 23, 2020.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the November 23, 2020 Draft Minutes passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by David Palmer.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

3. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jan Martin. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

4.1. Warrant of December 14, 2020

Rationale: Board to review and approve Warrant of December 14, 2020 in the amount of \$616,652.51.

4.2. 2nd Warning of New Courses at Somers High Schools

Rationale: 2nd Warning of new courses at Somers High School.

4.3. Resignation of Somers High School Math Intervention teacher

Rationale: Mrs. Mary Ann Baldyga has resigned as of December 23, 2020. Mary has been with Somers Public Schools since October 2015.

4.4. Resignation of Somers High School ParaEducator

Rationale: Mr. Eric Uthgenannt, ParaEducator at Somers High School, is resigning as of January 12, 2021. He has been at the high school for 2 ½ years.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. 6-Year Textbook Plan for Somers Public Schools

Rationale: The Board will review the 6-Year Textbook Plan. Mrs. Senecal will be there to answer any questions.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla invited Dina Senecal, Director of Curriculum, to present a 6-year textbook plan from budget and curricular standpoints. Mrs. Senecal stated that the role of the textbook has changed, especially in the Covid environment. There are many digital resources to supplement programs. Her textbook plan also includes renewal of digital resources. There are some new textbooks that have six-year subscriptions with a digital component which will be kept until new textbooks need to be purchased. The math program in 5th grade as well as 6-8th grades is an annual cost because the company does not allow for a multi-year license. Grade levels and textbook names will be reviewed with the Curriculum subcommittee for the next school year. The list provided to the BOE is not inclusive of all subjects but subjects that require textbooks for their course. The current plan will be reassessed and edited as needed.

7.2. Quarterly Budget Report

Rationale: Quarterly Budget Report for the Board to review.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, to update the BOE on the quarterly budget report. Mr. Boutwell stated that the 2nd quarter report is a good representation of the current budget status and educated assumptions over the next few months. He discussed changes since the previous quarter report on 10/13/20 involving the salary and tuition categories. Without the Covid relief fund, SPS would be in a much tougher situation. Superintendent Czapla stated that it was good that the budget was frozen earlier in the year. He is comfortable that SPS will be in a good situation come June regarding this year's budget.

7.3. Superintendent Update

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

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla updated the BOE on Covid within the school district. Although there has been a spike within the town, it has not affected the schools. There was an aggressive recruitment drive for substitute teachers which has paid off well. He is seeing many districts being forced to shut down operations early before and after Christmas due to staffing shortages or positive cases forcing mass quarantines of teachers and students. The goal continues to keep students in the schools for as long as possible as supported by the metrics. Teachers are preparing for remote learning in case of a surge. He continues to meet with the Department of Health.

Superintendent Czapla will be preparing the 2021-22 budget for the first BOE meeting in January. The main drivers are the salaries and healthcare accounts. Healthcare premiums continue to rise. SPS went out to bid in anticipation of this and will be receiving bids at the end of December.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

8.2. POLICY

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla stated that he sent two new policies to Anne Kirkpatrick for the subcommittee to review.

8.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: No report.

8.4. PLANNING

Discussion: No report.

9. CREC UPDATE

Discussion: No report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn the BOE meeting at 7:25 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by David Palmer. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Jan Martin, Board of Education Secretary

Date

Shannin Burns, BOE Recording Secretary