

**Somers Board of Education Meeting
Teleconferencing on Zoom
March 22, 2021
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, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jan Martin, Sarah Bollinger, Krista Cherry, Marissa Marks (present on Zoom at 7:01 p.m.), Kate McLellan

Absent Board Members: David Palmer, Jeremy Anderson

Others: Bill Boutwell, Melissa Mucci, Maria Peterson, Cynthia DeRoma, Jim Formica

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Devlin via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Draft Board Minutes of March 8, 2021

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the draft minutes of March 8, 2021.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Draft Minutes passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

3. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

4.1. Warrant of March 22, 2021

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$375,679.67.

4.2. Board to set Graduation Date

Rationale: The Board will set the Somers High School Graduation Date for June 16, 2021.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Board to approve Job Share

Rationale: The Board to approve this 2021-2022 Job Share for 4th grade from Mrs. Dzicek and Mrs. Shannon.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the job share for Mrs. Dzicek and Mrs. Shannon passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Jan Martin. **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

5.2. Somers Public Schools Substitutes

Rationale: Policy 4112.8 requires the BOE approve same family employees.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the list of substitutes passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Jan Martin. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained (Bruce Devlin)**

5.3. Approval for ESSER-2 Grant

Rationale: Mrs. Senecal will present the ESSER-2 Grant to the Board for their approval.

Discussion: Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, stated that SPS received grant allocation of about \$172,000 under ESSER-2. These funds will be allocated in two ways:

- Additional tutors and tutor time at SHS and MBA
- Adding a Grade 2 Teacher at SES

There are other needs listed in the report provided and, hopefully, the American Rescue Plan funds can address these needs.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the ESSER-2 Grant passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Jan Martin. **6 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained (Krista Cherry)**

5.4. 1st Warnings of new courses and books for Somers High School

Rationale: The Board will review the 1st warning on courses and books for 2021-22 for Somers High School.

- New Book - AP US History - American Pageant, AP
- New Course - AP Language and Comprehension - Books for Course - The Norton Reader and The Norton Field Guide to Writing.
- New Course - AP Computer Science - Digital Textbook - CodeHS Pro

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1. Somers Elementary School Online Learning Presentation

Rationale: Mrs. Melissa Mucci, Principal of SES and Mrs. Maria Peterson, will be presenting to the Board Online Learning at Somers Elementary School.

Discussion: Melissa Mucci, SES Principal, introduced Maria Peterson, Grade 5 Teacher and 092 intern, to the BOE. Mrs. Mucci stated that technology has been a part of SES but more so over the last year. Students and parents have access to digital learning platforms for teacher assignments. There are also multiple tools to support learning in addition to the learning platform. Prior to last March, SES supported research on digital learning platforms that would streamline access for parents for posted assignments, enhanced collaboration, and access to student work. SES just implemented the Standards-Based Report Card.

Mrs. Peterson discussed the use of the digital learning platform Seesaw at SES. Tom Eaton, SES Technology Support Specialist, also helps to support staff. Zoom is used in conjunction with Seesaw. Mrs. Peterson provided videos during her presentation describing Seesaw's features. Teachers are provided with a classroom and roster in Seesaw when students sign in. Assignments may be posted, and all student work remains private. Drafts of assignments may be revised by the students who are able to use creative tools such as photos, drawings, and videos. Parents are connected in Seesaw and may visualize their students' work as well as communicate with staff. Teachers are able to give verbal feedback and provide suggestions and encouragement to students. Administrators may also submit Standards-Based Report Cards under Seesaw. There has been positive feedback by the parents. Mrs. Mucci is looking to develop learning portfolios to transfer with students from grade to grade. Discussion ensued among BOE members.

7.2. Superintendent Update

Rationale: Superintendent will update the Board on events at Somers Public Schools.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla was absent for the BOE meeting because he was attending a BOF meeting. Chairman Devlin spoke to the BOE members regarding returning to in-person BOE meetings starting at the next BOE meeting on 4/26/21. BOE members may email Chairman Devlin with any concerns.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: Kate McLellan stated that the first warning for the four SHS textbooks were on today's BOE agenda.

8.2. POLICY

Discussion: Anne Kirkpatrick stated that the next committee meeting will be held in person on 4/26/21.

8.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: No report.

