

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, August 24, 2026
7:00 PM

(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau (7:19 p.m.), Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz, Derek Zelek

Absent BOE Member: JT Galloway

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Melissa Mucci, Mary Kate Tanguay, Aaron Geddis & Family

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Briggs at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the June 22, 2026 BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the June 22, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from June 22, 2026 Regular Meeting. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Ed DePeau, JT Galloway)**

3.2. Approval of the August 10, 2026 Special BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the August 10, 2026 special meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from August 10, 2026 Special Meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Ed DePeau, JT Galloway), Abstain: 1 (Derek Zelek)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway noted that the summer has passed quickly and the district is now preparing to welcome students back. A walkthrough of all buildings and facilities was completed. Superintendent Galloway commended staff for the excellent condition of the schools. Teachers will return to school on 8/26/26. Two certified positions currently remain open: a School Counselor at SHS and a Library Media Specialist at MBA.

Superintendent Galloway thanked the Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee for its \$1,000 donation to the music program and noted the strong level of community support.

Upcoming student events include the SES Meet and Greet on 8/31/26 from 12:00-1:30 p.m., MBA Student Orientation on 8/31/26 from 1:30-3:00 p.m., and SHS Freshman Orientation on 8/31/26 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Superintendent Galloway recently met with all new hires. The district welcomes several new members of the team across all three buildings.

4.2. Introduction of SES Assistant Principal, Mary Kate Tanguay

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will introduce Mary Kate Tanguay, SES Assistant Principal, to the Board.

Discussion: The district welcomed Ms. Mary Kate Tanguay as the new Assistant Principal at SES. Ms. Tanguay is an internal hire who began her career at SES and most recently served as a school psychologist. Superintendent Galloway praised her strong performance throughout the interview process and expressed enthusiasm about welcoming her to the administrative team.

4.3. Introduction of SHS Assistant Principal, Aaron Geddis

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will introduce Aaron Geddis as the SHS Assistant Principal to the Board.

Discussion: The district welcomed Mr. Aaron Geddis as the new Assistant Principal at SHS. Mr. Geddis earned his degrees from Central Connecticut State University and brings experience as an English teacher, department head, and leader of a Freshman Academy. He most recently served in the Bloomfield Public Schools. The Superintendent noted that he has known Mr. Geddis since his student-teaching experience and has been proud to watch his professional growth and leadership trajectory over the years.

4.4. FY26 EOY Report

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the June budget report.

Discussion: Ms. Stephanie Levin presented the end-of-year financial report as of 7/31/26. Final invoices for furniture related to the SHS library project and the divider at MBA have been received. The district has an estimated remaining balance of approximately \$135,000, which will be finalized following the audit in November. Approximately \$100,000 of the balance resulted from the unfilled SHS School Counselor position, with additional funds received through the Excess Cost Grant.

4.5. FY27 July Report

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the July budget.

Discussion: Ms. Stephanie Levin reviewed the Fiscal Year '27 budget. Ms. Levin noted that the July report is preliminary as the district continues to reconcile salaries, new hires, unassigned funds, and other budget items. Compared with last July, the district is seeing the impact of the tighter budget this year. A clearer financial picture is expected in September.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Ed DePeau, JT Galloway)**

6.1. Warrant of June 30, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of June 30, 2026.

6.2. Warrant of July 13, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of July 13, 2026.

6.3. Warrant of July 20, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of July 20, 2026.

6.4. Warrant of August 3, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of August 3, 2026.

6.5. Warrant of August 21, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of August 21, 2026.

6.6. Warrant of August 24, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of August 24, 2026.

6.7. Resignations

Rationale:

- Danielle Bernard, SES Math Tutor, resigned effective June 30, 2026.
- Courtney Suttle, MBA Grade 8 ELA Teacher, resigned effective July 10, 2026.
- Charles Lewis, MBA Science Teacher, resigned effective July 20, 2026.

- Andrew Thorne, Groundskeeper, resigned effective August 21, 2026.
- Jacqueline Rivard, MBA Library Media Specialist, resigning effective September 30, 2026.

Discussion: Ms. Kim Radziewicz inquired whether the resignations were unexpected. Superintendent Galloway explained that while some were expected, there were also some unexpected and late resignations.

6.8. Leave of Absence

Rationale: Erin Maynard, SHS Science Teacher, is requesting a leave of absence from approximately October 13, 2026 through January 15, 2027.

6.9. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect

6.10. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9321 - Time, Place, and Notice of Meeting

6.11. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9120 - Officers

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. FY27 Budget Adjustments

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the budget adjustments.

Discussion: Ms. Stephanie Levin reviewed the FY27 budget adjustments, noting that the budget is an estimate and requires adjustments as staffing placements change. The adjustments were previously reviewed by the Budget Subcommittee and primarily reflect movement within salary accounts, along with some curriculum-related changes.

8.2. FY26 EOY Transfers

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the FY26 EOY transfers as reported by Stephanie Levin.

Motion to approve FY26 EOY Transfers. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

Discussion: The transfer request reallocates funds to ensure accounts remain within Board policy regarding overages. The Finance Subcommittee has reviewed the proposed transfers.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum

9.2. Policy

The Policy Committee met on 8/24/26 and accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to transition policy services to Shipman & Goodwin. The district will continue using CABA policies during the current school year as a transition period, with the goal of completing the move by the end of the school year. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9/14/26.

The committee has reviewed and updated older policies, first addressing those more than 10 years old and then those more than 5 years old. The review of Board of Education policies is now complete, with the oldest policy currently only two years old.

9.3. Planning/Finance

The Planning and Finance Committee reviewed budget transfers and year-end financial reports. The committee also began discussing policies that may be more appropriately reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee than by other subcommittees.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

Negotiations are complete across several employee groups including the administrators, custodians, and nurses' units. Teacher negotiations will continue 8/25/26 at 5:00 p.m., with salary among the topics to be discussed.

9.5. Building

The Building Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9/1/26 at 4:00 p.m. STV is serving as the owner's representative. The committee is awaiting final review from the building and fire officials before the project can begin.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

The next CIP meeting will take place on 9/10/26. There are no CREC updates. The SEF Annual Meeting took place over the summer. The grants awarded throughout the year were recapped.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

The first day of school for students will take place on 9/1/26. There is no school on 9/7/26. An early release day is scheduled for 9/18/26 for professional development. The CABA/CAPSS Convention will take place on 11/20/26 and 11/21/26 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton.

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Dr. Rechenberg encouraged Board members to visit the SHS Library Media Center to see the recent updates.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rationale: The Board will enter Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway and Stephanie Levin into Executive Session to discuss the ratification of the UFCW contract.

Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. and invite Dr. Galloway and Stephanie Levin to discuss the ratification of the UFCW contract. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

Motion to approve the contract between the UFCW Local 1459 Union and the Somers Board of Education for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary	Date
Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary	