Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, October 26, 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, JT Galloway, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Georgia Roberts

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 October 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the October 13, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the October 13, 2026 meeting. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

3.2. Approval of the October 19, 2026 Special BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the October 19, 2026 special BOE meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the October 19, 2026 special meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway highlighted initiatives at each school that foster student connections and a sense of belonging.

- **SES:** The Spectacular Spartan Award recognizes two students per grade level each month for demonstrating kindness, respect, perseverance, responsibility for their learning, safe behavior, and efforts to improve the school community.
- **MBA:** Student conferences provide an opportunity for staff and administrators to meet individually with every student to discuss academic progress, review grades, i-Ready and SBAC results, review attendance, and

establish goals. This initiative complements the new report card and helps ensure every student feels seen, heard, and supported.

- **SHS:** The SPAR program was developed in response to students expressing a desire for greater connection within the school community. Superintendent Galloway acknowledged the important role student representatives played in bringing the initiative to SHS and the responsiveness of the Board and administrators to student feedback.

4.2. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: SHS student representatives will update the Board on recent events.

Discussion: Student representatives provided updates on recent activities, athletics, and upcoming events at Somers High School. Highlights included Senior Sunrise, Open House, voter registration, a UConn Clean Air project, Capstone Mentorship Mixer, AP U.S. History trip to Boston, FAFSA Night, PSATs, Fall Paint Night, and the Beta Club/NHS Blood Drive, which had more than 25 donors. A College Information Night was held on 9/17/26 to help parents of juniors and seniors prepare for the college application process. More than 100 colleges and universities attended the College Fair on 10/1/26. Student representatives shared photos of many events.

Students participated in the Four Town Fair Parade, where the SHS band earned Best Overall Band and the senior class won Best Float after working together to repair a damaged float just before the festivities.

MBA students and their families celebrated growth in math and reading on the SBAC assessments during the SBAC Breakfast. MBA students also went on a field trip to Boston.

Athletic updates were shared, including boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey, and cross-country records and upcoming games and matches. Two cross-country runners earned All-Conference recognition. The state meet is scheduled for 10/31/26.

Upcoming events at SHS include Broadway Night, a Veterans Day Ceremony, Pops Concert, Spirit Week, Homecoming dance, and the NHS Induction Ceremony.

Student representatives expressed appreciation for the SPAR program, noting its positive impact on connections between freshmen and upperclassmen and helping students feel more comfortable within the school community.

Board members thanked the student representatives and SPAR leaders for their contributions. Mr. Clement was recognized for his appointment as SHS Assistant Principal following his service as a business teacher and interim administrator. Discussion also included the positive momentum at SHS, improvements in student achievement, and the importance of continued collaboration and budget support to sustain progress.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

Motion to add item 8.5 to hire CABE Executive Search Services to conduct the Superintendent search. This motion, made by Anne Kirkpatrick and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by JT Galloway and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

6.1. Warrant of October 26, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of October 26, 2026.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Interim Superintendent

Rationale: The Board to hire Dr. Paul Gagliarducci as Interim Superintendent, effective December 7, 2026.

Motion to hire Dr. Paul Gagliarducci as Interim Superintendent effective 12/7/26 pending contract. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Sharon Goulet, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: This appointment is pending final contract adjustments.

8.2. FY27 Q1 BOE Transfers

Rationale: The Board to approve the FY27 Q1 BOE transfers. Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will be available to answer questions.

Motion to approve FY27 Q1 Transfers. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: Ms. Stephanie Levin presented the first-quarter budget transfers for July through September. Savings from a special education hire below the budgeted amount and additional preschool grant funding were transferred to offset higher-than-anticipated costs for a replacement school psychologist.

Funds were transferred to contracted services to reflect the transition from in-house substitute payroll to ESS.

Funds were also transferred from testing and assessment supplies to educational software to cover an $8,000 BrainPOP expense.

8.3. 1st Posting of CIP Projects

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on CIP projects.

Discussion: Ms. Stephanie Levin presented the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, noting that projects are typically carried forward and adjusted annually. The SES playground replacement was moved to the 2027-2028 fiscal year, with a goal of installation by spring 2028. Originally installed in 1993, the playground has experienced significant rusting and requires ongoing repairs. A vendor has assessed the site and provided preliminary replacement options. The playground is used by both students and the broader community, including Parks and Recreation programs, sporting events, and families outside school hours.

8.4. 1st Posting 2027 BOE Meeting Schedule

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will present the 2027 BOE meeting schedule. This will be approved at the next BOE meeting on 11/9/26.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway shared the proposed 2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule. The proposed schedule adheres to the same cadence and format as the previous year. One correction is needed to adjust the calendar to reflect only one August meeting date.

8.5. Superintendent Search

Rationale: The Board to consider hiring CABE Executive Search Services to assist in the search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

Motion to hire CABE Executive Search Services to assist in the search for a new Superintendent of Schools subject to final negotiation of the contract. This motion, made by Anne Kirkpatrick and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum

The next meeting will be held on 11/18/26 at 5:30 p.m.

9.2. Policy

This committee met on 10/26/26. Several policies will be shared at the next meeting.

9.3. Planning/Finance

This committee is on hold.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

This committee met last week to finalize the teachers' contract. This contract will be reviewed and ratified by the Board.

9.5. Building

The last meeting of the Building Committee was canceled.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

The next CIP meeting will be held on 11/12/26. There are no updates from CREC. SEF grants were due on 10/23/26. The Board will meet on 11/4/26 at 7 p.m. to review all grant applications.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

Discussion: Upcoming Event Dates were shared:

- 10/30/26: Broadway Night at SHS, 7:00 p.m.
- November early release days (vary by school)
- 11/10/26: PTO Meeting
- 11/11/26**:** Veterans Day Ceremonies
    - SES: 9:30 a.m., SES Gym
    - MBA/SHS: 10:00 a.m., SHS Gym, with breakfast provided for veterans prior to the ceremony
- 11/20/26-11/21/26: CABE Convention at the Mystic Marriott in Groton
- 11/26/26-11/27/26 Thanksgiving Recess

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

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Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary