SOMERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, Connecticut 06071
(860)749-2270 Fax (860)763-0748

Somers Board of Education
Mr. Michael Briggs, Chairperson

Minutes

Committee: Curriculum
Chairperson: Dr. Edward DePeau
Date: November 18, 2026
Start Time: 5:32
End Time: 7:17 pm
Place: Board of Education Meeting Room

Members Present: Dr. Edward DePeau, Mrs. Anne Kirkpatrick, Mr. Shane Manning, Mrs. Gina Olearczyk (Arrived 5:35)

Others Present: Dr. Sam Galloway, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Principal of Somers High School; Mrs. Margot Martello, Principal of Mabelle B. Avery Middle School: Mrs. Melissa Mucci, Principal of Somers Elementary School.

Agenda:

1) Approval of the April 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
Mrs. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mr. Manning seconded. Carried. Yea: 3 (Dr. DePeau, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Manning). Absent: 1 (Mrs. Olearczyk)

2) 2026 Summer Reading & Summer Work results and feedback.
The committee discussed AP Biology and Honors English summer assignments. Dr. Rechenberg stated that expectations were established for teachers that assignments be graded and entered into the portal within two weeks without carrying excessive weight. Students who did not complete Honors English summer work were moved to a lower-level course.

3) Update on current district student performance results.

Dr. Galloway presented the district's accountability results, highlighting improvements across all three schools and connecting student achievement to the district's Theory of Action, standards-aligned curricula, professional development, and targeted interventions.

The district's overall Performance Index reached **84.7**, with notable improvements in elementary and middle school performance, academic growth, attendance, and science achievement.

Principal Muccie reported Somers Elementary School's highest Performance Index since 2014 (82.3). Improvements were attributed to curriculum implementation, targeted interventions, and professional development. Continued priorities include student goal setting, formative assessments, and data-informed instruction.

Principal Martello reported an 11-point increase in Mabelle B. Avery Middle School's Performance Index to 78.9. Improvements were attributed to stronger PLCs, curriculum alignment, and collaboration between teachers and interventionists. Next step priorities include strengthening student use of feedback, expanding enrichment, and improving science curriculum coverage.

Principal Dr. Rechenberg reported Somers High School's Performance Index of 85.9 and the school's highest science performance to date. The presentation emphasized the need to increase instructional rigor based on PSAT/SAT trends, reduce chronic absenteeism, and strengthen college and career readiness. Improvements in school culture, student leadership, and extracurricular participation were also highlighted.

Board of Education members discussed:

- Using color, clearer visuals, and simplified explanations to make performance data more accessible to noneducators.
- Highlighting trends, comparisons, and key takeaways rather than presenting extensive numerical data.
- Reviewing midyear student screener data to monitor progress.
- Continuing efforts to strengthen curriculum implementation, student feedback, academic enrichment, and attendance.

Superintendent Dr. Galloway reviewed comparative performance data showing Somers outperforming several neighboring districts, including Simsbury, Avon, and Coventry. The superintendent emphasized that recent improvements establish new baselines for continued growth.

4) Adjournment. Mrs. Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Manning seconded. Carried. **Yea: 4. Nay: 0.**