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Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, October 28, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Present BOE Members: Anne Kirkpatrick, Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Shane Manning, Jan Martin, Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin, Tenley Stoltz, Emma Ciccicarella

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Kirkpatrick 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 15, 2024 BOE Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the October 15, 2024 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of October 15th Board of Education Meeting. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Jan Martin, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (JT Galloway)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

All 3 schools participated in lockdown exercises on 10/21/24 without incident. Superintendent Galloway attended the Board of Finance meeting on 10/22/24. The Board of Finance voted to approve the \$15 million budget for the SES HVAC project. Superintendent Galloway is working with the town to share facts about the plan with the community. Dr. Michael Dietter was hired as the MBA Assistant Principal. Dr. Dietter is the former Deputy Superintendent for the Bristol Public Schools. Dr. Dietter will start on 11/4/24; however, he has already visited the district to meet staff.

Superintendent Galloway attended the assembly at SES on 10/25/24. The First Selectman attended to swear in the new members of the student government and briefed the parents on the new reading program.

Last Friday, the Girls Soccer team defeated Ellington. The winning goal was scored with 3 minutes and 19 seconds left. Superintendent Galloway noted the

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encouragement among the players as they met challenges during the game. The Boys Soccer team also defeated Ellington that night.

4.2. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: Carolyn Castonguay and Emma Cicciarella, students from Somers High School, will update the Board on events.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway introduced Dr. Jaime Rechenberg. Dr. Rechenberg introduced SHS representative Emma Cicciarella. Emma is a Senior at SHS. Emma provided an update on recent SHS events. Carolyn Castonguay was unable to attend due to illness.

A series of events are taking place to support post-secondary planning, including a Senior Planning Night, FAFSA Night, SCOIR, and the College Fair. These events provide information and advice for students and parents about the college application process. The College Fair provides students in grades 9-12 with the opportunity to learn about colleges of interest, technical schools, and military options.

Many field trips have taken place in recent weeks. These field trips include a visit to Rockville Superior Court to interview law professionals and observe cases, a visit to Lime Rock to race cars that students have been working on this fall, and visits to AIC, the Four Town Fair and the Big E.

The Girls Cross Country team tied at the Conference Championship and placed 4th at States. The Boys Cross Country team finished 3rd in the conference and 4th at States. The Boys Soccer team won the Conference Championship. Avery D'Amour, a member of the Girls Soccer team, scored her 50th career goal.

PSATs took place on 10/11/24. Students will review results on 10/29/24. Spirit Week is taking place from 10/28/24-11/2/24 leading up to the Pep Rally and Homecoming Dance. Several events are upcoming, including the Drama Club's Broadway Night, the AP U.S. History class trip to Boston, an accounting workshop at UConn, and the Bring Change to Mind Annual Summit in New York City.

Chair Kirkpatrick added that the College Fair was phenomenal. She noted that it was well organized and easy for students to navigate. Dr. Rechenberg credited Ms. Duffy for the success of the event.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

6.1. Warrant of October 28, 2024

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Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of October 28, 2024.

6.2. Leave of Absence

Rationale: Caroline Hargraves, Director of Pupil Services, will be taking a leave of absence from October 21, 2024 through December 2, 2024.

6.3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 0521 - Nondiscrimination**7. OLD BUSINESS****8. NEW BUSINESS****8.1. Moose Company Construction Donation (Broderick Rheault)**

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the donation from Moose Company Construction for blank goods for laser engraving for the Somers High School Technology and Engineering Department. The total donation cost is estimated to be \$5,544.00.

Motion to approve the donation from Moose Company Construction for blank goods for laser engraving for the Somers High School Technology and Engineering department. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Ed DePeau, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: Approximately \$5,500 worth of materials are being donated to the SHS Technology and Engineering Department. Students will be able to use these materials in the classroom for laser engraving.

8.2. 2024-2025 Quarter 1 (July - September) Budget Transfers

Rationale: The Board to approve the Quarter 1 budget transfers. Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will be available to answer questions.

Motion to approve the Quarter 1 transfers as recommended by the Planning/Finance Committee. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Carl Stebbins, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: Board Member Kim Radziewicz recommended the approval of quarter 1 budget transfers on behalf of the Budget Subcommittee. Stephanie Levin explained that the subcommittee decided to move to quarterly transfers last year. This is the first quarterly transfer. There were changes in the curriculum department that led to some transfers of funds for materials. A clean-up of accounts for the English and World Language departments was also noted. Adjustments were made to the Teacher Salary budget due to degree changes, the filling of vacancies at a higher salary, and for the reallocation of programming for Physical Education.

8.3. CIP Projects

Rationale: Discussion and possible action on proposed CIP projects.

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Discussion: Stephanie Levin reported the CIP recommendations. The four projects listed below would go to CIP at the next meeting on 11/14/24 if approved by the BOE.

- **MBA Roof:** The roof is 25+ years old and will need replacement soon. The roof covers MBA and Central Office. There are active leaks that are patched at the cost of \$5,000-\$10,000 per incident. Each building has a budget of \$40,000-\$50,000 annually to cover these types of repairs. The cost of the roofing project is estimated to be between \$2.4-2.8 million.
- **SHS Library Furniture Replacement:** The furniture in the library is 32 years old. New carpeting and paint have also been requested. Some furniture was damaged during COVID when items were moved to storage.
- **Boiler Replacement:** This is a phased project. There are 24 boilers in the SES basement. They are currently working, but there is concern that they will stop functioning properly. The goal is to replace them before an emergency replacement is needed.
- **SHS Transfer Switch**

Last year, a request was moved forward to CIP for the repaving of the entire SPS campus parking lots. This project was absorbed during the town paving project. The district returned to CIP in December with other projects that were determined after reviewing the Tecton Feasibility Study that was completed the prior year. These projects included:

- **SES Media Center ceiling:** This project was absorbed by the SES HVAC project
- **SHS Culinary Arts Program:** A commercial refrigerator was needed to replace several residential refrigerators.
- **SES Hallway Cabinets:** Open shelving in parts of the building were replaced with cabinetry to keep the hallways clean and safe.
- **SES Hallway Painting:** This project was absorbed by the SES HVAC Project
- **SES Window Hardware:** This project will be reviewed during the SES HVAC Project.

Board Member Shane Manning inquired about the MBA Roof replacement and whether this project could be delayed and rolled into the MBA HVAC project scheduled for 2028-2029. Ms. Levin noted that there is no guarantee that the HVAC project will be approved. Ms. Levin also explained the process that happens when the BOE approves CIP projects.

Board Member Ed DePeau inquired about the advantages of replacing the MBA roof and then installing HVAC units versus installing units and then replacing the roof.

Board Member Shane Manning inquired about what happens with CIP funds that are reallocated to other projects, like the SES HVAC project. Ms. Levin explained that those funds are used to fund new projects. For example, a transition room at MBA was created, new gym mats for MBA were purchased, and repairs were made to all schools' bleachers in the past when funds were reallocated. If the projects that are projected to be covered by the SES HVAC project cannot be funded by the HVAC budget, they will return to the

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CIP project list.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**9.1. Curriculum**

The next meeting will be held on 11/11/24 at 5p.m.

9.2. Policy

The next meeting will be held on 11/25/24 at 6p.m.

9.3. Planning/Finance

The Planning and Finance Committee met on 10/28/24 to discuss quarterly budget transfers, CIP, and to learn more about ClearGov, a budget cycle management tool. The committee also discussed updates to the pension documents with Morgan Stanley. The next meeting will be held on 12/9/24 at 5:30 p.m.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

The committee reached a tentative agreement with the Paraeducators and Secretaries bargaining group. The vote to ratify the agreement is upcoming. If approved, the contract will be brought to the Board in November.

9.5. Building

There are no meetings scheduled at this time. The committee is waiting for approvals from other committees. The town referendum is scheduled for 12/17/24.

10. CABE/CREC/State Dept. of Ed./SEF

Three Board members and Superintendent Galloway will attend the CABE Convention on 11/15/24. There are no CREC updates. Board Member Carl Stebbins will continue to serve as the CREC representative. The last SEF meeting conflicted with a BOE meeting. Board Member Shane Manning shared highlights from the SEF meeting minutes. About \$19,000 have been granted from this year's budget. There are board member openings on the SEF Board.

11. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Jan Martin, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Jan Martin, BOE Secretary Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary