

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, January 12, 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, Derek Zelek

Absent BOE Member: Kim Radziewicz

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin

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 December 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the December 8, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of December 8th, Board of Education Meeting. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway updated the Board that the annual indoor air quality assessments were completed in all three buildings in December. No issues were reported, and everything was in accordance with the checklist items.

Superintendent Galloway conducted classroom walkthroughs upon the return to school following winter break and expressed optimism regarding the implementation of CKLA and the new mathematics curriculum. He noted the use of RULER practices, instruction that is strongly aligned to standards, and a notable improvement in the quality of dialogue among data teams.

Board Member Sharon Goulet requested that Superintendent Galloway elaborate on his optimism regarding the new mathematics program. Superintendent Galloway explained that students are solving single problems using multiple strategies, clearly demonstrating their thinking, and showing increased levels of engagement.

A discussion followed regarding the importance of tracking data over time. This included references to the use of FIABs and Looker Studio as tools to collect, organize, and analyze assessment data in order to identify trends. Superintendent Galloway emphasized that consistently exposing students to high-quality, grade-level instructional materials must begin at the elementary level in order to raise expectations as students progress to the middle and high school levels.

Superintendent Galloway reported that a formal budget presentation will be made to the Board of Education on 1/26/26. Questions regarding the budget will be addressed at that time.

Capstone presentations are scheduled to take place on 01/13/26. Additionally, 26 students are scheduled to be inducted into the Junior Beta Club at MBA on 1/13/26.

Superintendent Galloway provided a detailed update on winter athletics, including current season records for wrestling, girls' basketball, hockey, and boys' basketball. He congratulated Harrison Accorsi and William Accorsi for winning their respective weight classes at a recent tournament in Canton, and noted that Harrison Accorsi achieved his 100th career win.

4.2. Monthly Budget Report

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

Discussion: Stephanie Levin presented the monthly budget report. A long-term substitute science teacher was permanently replaced at SHS requiring a change to the funding source. It was noted that Title I funds have historically been used to support tutoring positions. Due to uncertainty surrounding potential changes at the federal level, there have been questions about whether this funding would continue. The funding was confirmed in the fall, and as a result, these tutoring positions do not need to be included in the salary line. There was a change to the instructional resources category due to the purchase of additional social studies textbooks at SHS.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Gina Olearczyk, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

Discussion: A question regarding a payment to Ellington BOE was raised. Stephanie Levin shared that this was a tuition payment.

6.1. Warrant of December 22, 2025

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of December 22, 2025.

6.2. Warrant of January 12, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of January 12, 2026.

6.3. Resignation

Rationale: Isabella Frijia, SES Paraeducator, resigned effective immediately December 7, 2025.

6.4. Retirement

Rationale: Stanley Targonski, MBA Math Teacher, will be retiring effective June 30, 2026. Mr. Targonski will have been with SPS, primarily at SHS as a Math Teacher, for 19 years.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. FY26 Q2 BOE Transfers

Rationale: The Board to approve the FY26 Q2 BOE transfers. Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will be available to answer questions.

Motion to approve FY26 Q2 Budget Transfers. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

Discussion: Quarterly transfers for October through December were presented to the budget subcommittee on 1/8/26. Social studies textbooks were purchased at SHS for \$7,200 along with additional supplies for the curriculum department. Money was transferred from the Consumer Science department at SHS; however, consumer science classes are not currently running. Funds were also transferred from the general supplies category. These transfers are done in consultation with administrators.

The change from annual to quarterly transfers has been successful. The Board is better informed, and funds are more accurately allocated to reflect actual budget needs.

8.2. March 2026 NYC Art Trip

Rationale: Mr. Kyle Kipfer, SHS Art Teacher, will present the March 2026 NYC trip to the Board.

Motion to approve March 2026 NYC art Trip. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

Discussion: Kyle Kipfer, SHS Art Teacher, addressed the Board to discuss the proposed Honors and AP Art field trip and share the itinerary. The trip is intended for six senior students enrolled in advanced art courses and serves as both an experiential learning opportunity and a reward for students who have

demonstrated a commitment to the arts. The trip is scheduled earlier in the school year this year to provide inspiration for students as they prepare for their senior art show.

The trip is scheduled for 3/27/26-3/28/26. Students will travel by school bus to New Haven and then by train to New York City. Two chaperones will accompany the six students. The group will visit the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and engage in structured instructional activities, art reflection, and on-site sketching. Students and chaperones will stay at Pod 51 Hotel and return to Somers on 3/28/26.

The estimated cost is \$250 per student. Two student-led paint night fundraisers may offset costs. One has already taken place, and another is scheduled for 2/10/26.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum

The committee met on 1/12/26 and reviewed MBA course proposals for general music and creative literacy. The subcommittee voted to move both proposals forward to the full board. The next meeting will be on 2/23/26 at 6 p.m.

9.2. Policy (next meeting 1/26/26, 6 p.m.)

The Annual Report was provided to all BOE members, including a list of all 32 policies in the last 12 months. The next meeting will be held on 1/26/26. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. but may be adjusted based on the length of the agenda. Chair Briggs thanked Ms. Kirkpatrick for putting together the policy books.

9.3. Planning/Finance (next meeting 2/2/26, 4 p.m.)

The next meeting will be held on 2/2/26 at 4 p.m.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

This committee is on hold.

9.5. Building

A response regarding funding for the SES HVAC project has not yet been received. The Building Committee will continue to meet bi-weekly.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

There is no CIP report, and the next meeting is rescheduled. There is no CREC report. The next meeting will be held on 1/21/26. Board Member Sharon Goulet will attend part of it. The next SEF meeting will be held on 1/15/26 at 7 p.m.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

The BOE photo will be taken on 1/26/26. Mr. Kevin Nichols from Morgan Stanley will attend the next BOE meeting virtually to review the pension.

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary