

BOE Meeting Template

Monday, January 24, 2011 7:00 PM

Mabelle Avery Middle School District Offices Board Room, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2
4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
 - 1. Reader's Workshop Model Update 6
During the 11/8/2010 Board of Education meeting, the new instructional program for Reading at Somers Elementary School was introduced. The following is an update on its implementation and student results thus far. Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum will answer any questions the board may have.
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 1. Approval of Bills 10
 - 2. Retirement Notification (S. Jodice) 16
Ms. Susan Jodice, SES Kindergarten Special Ed teacher (.5 FTE) has submitted her intent to retire at the conclusion of this school year. Ms. Jodice has been employed in the district since 1986.
8. NEW BUSINESS
9. OLD BUSINESS
10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. Budget
 - 2. Curriculum
 - 3. Policy
 - 4. Salary & Negotiations
 - 5. Planning
 - 6. Other Committees
12. OTHER
13. ADJOURNMENT 17

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ninth District Road

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – January 10, 2011

Members Present:	J.Formeister, A.Kirkpatrick, R.Lees, J.Taylor, B.Devlin, S.Bollinger, T.Potrikus
Members Absent:	D.Palmer, M.Marquardt
Administrators Present:	M.Suffredini, K.Pezza, P.Collin, B.Boutwell, G.Cotzin, J.Morrow, N.Barry, S.Muirhead
Staff Present:	P.Goduti
Citizens Present:	D.Stone, J.Higgins, D.Frisca, T.McGowan, N.McGowan, L.Devine, J.Waskiel
Students Present:	See attached sign-in sheets.
Others:	R.Muirhead (guest), E.Quinlan (<i>Patch.com</i> reporter)

The attached sign-in sheets do not reflect all who were in attendance.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Vice Chairman Formeister in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Vocal Music Room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 December 6, 2010 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (T.Potrikus) to approve the December 6, 2010 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 7-0

3.2 December 22, 2010 Special Meeting – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the December 22, 2010 Special meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 7-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1 CAS 2011 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year
Dr. Suffredini introduced Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Assistant Principal, Susan Muirhead, who was selected by The Connecticut Association of Schools as the 2011 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year.

Mabelle B. Avery School Principal, Nancy Barry, who nominated Mrs. Muirhead, explained the criteria and application process required by CAS. Ms. Muirhead stated that it was a great reflective process and humbling experience.

Mrs. Muirhead will be honored at a recognition event on October 6, 2011 at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT.

The Board and those in attendance congratulated Mrs. Muirhead on receiving this honor.

4.2 Curriculum Presentations

- Food Service

Director of Curriculum, Kathleen Pezza, presented an overview of the Somers High School Food Service and Management curriculum.

Mrs. Pezza explained that the program is broken down into two parts: Food Service and Management 1 and 2.

Food Service and Management 1 covers the basic skills for commercial food industry employment. Food Service and Management 2 covers the skills needed in running and managing a restaurant.

Students enrolled in Food Service 1 and 2 can earn credit at Manchester Community College through the College Career Pathways program. If they earn a C average or better in both classes, they will receive 3 credits from MCC.

All students in the Food Service Program join FCCLA (Family, Community, Career Leaders of America.) Students participate in various volunteer activities.

The Food Service students run a school based restaurant call Horizons Café that is open to the public. It serves students, faculty and staff during the day from November until February. It opens for dinner for the community on Thursday during March and April.

The Food Service curriculum is currently in revision to incorporate updates made by the State. One of the goals of the Food Service teacher is to include more nutrition related objectives and to better align the curriculum with the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI).

- Science

Mrs. Pezza presented an overview of the K-12 Science Curriculum. Mrs. Pezza outlined what areas of science are covered at each grade level and the progression of understanding of the subject areas through the grades. Mrs. Pezza gave examples of integration of science in the use of technology and in the community.

Science is tested on the CMTs in grades 5 and 8 and on the CAPT in grade 10. The CMT and CAPT test multiple years of learning in a single test. The CMT covers three years of learning and the CAPT covers two.

Science teachers are currently working on integrating the Common Core State Standards in Science Literacy into their existing curriculum documents.

Three people from Somers are participating in the CREC/State initiative to develop performance assessments for Science in grades K-2.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence reported.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

- 6.1 It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to add Approval of the December 22, 2010 Special Meeting minutes to the agenda as item 3.2 under Approval of Minutes.
PASSED 7-0

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 1/10/11 (\$231,999.99)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to approve the 1/10/11 Bills in the amount of \$231,999.99 as presented. PASSED 7-0

Approval of Bills 12/30/10 (\$16,788.56)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to approve the 12/30/10 Bills in the amount of \$16,788.56 as presented. PASSED 7-0

7.2 Retirement Notification (B.Kenneson)

It was MOVED (A.Kirkpatrick) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to accept the intent to retire notification received from B.Kenneson effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. PASSED 7-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 SHS Field Trip Request

P. Goduti, Somers High School Social Studies teacher, presented the itinerary for the field trip to Washington, DC he is planning for May 28-30, 2011. Mr. Goduti explained that this trip is meant to complement the AP US History curriculum.

There are tentatively 30 students participating in this trip and there will be 4 chaperones. The cost per student is \$560.00.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to approve the field trip request to Washington, D.C. for May 28-30, 2011 submitted by P.Goduti. PASSED 7-0

8.2 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

Dr. Suffredini and Director of Business Services, B.Boutwell, presented a preliminary draft of the 2011-2012 budget to the Board.

Dr. Suffredini explained that the 2011-2012 Budget is still in the preliminary stages because the information regarding education cost sharing has not yet been received from the state. Dr. Suffredini explained that a conservative budget was drafted based on the information available. The budget draft reflects a 3.55 increase over last year's budget due to increases in health insurance (20-25%) and increases in other contractual obligations.

Dr. Suffredini stated that he is working to maintain all programs and services for students. He is working closely with the town boards and will share information as it becomes available.

Dr. Suffredini recommended that the Board review the 2011-2012 preliminary budget for future discussions.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1. Dr. Suffredini notified the Board that he and B.Boutwell have met with the First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, to discuss renewable sources of energy. They are discussing the possible installation of solar panels on town buildings. DBS Energy will conduct a feasibility assessment of the facilities.

Dr. Suffredini stated that there could be considerable cost savings and there are no up front costs.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Budget

Reported under New Business 8.2

11.2 Curriculum

No report.

11.3 Policy

A meeting is scheduled for January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

11.4 Salary & Negotiations

Dr. Suffredini stated that negotiation meetings would need to be scheduled with the custodians and nurses.

11.5 Planning Committee

No report

11.6 Other Committees

Technology Committee: No report

12.0 OTHER

13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – Ratification of SAA Contract

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to go into Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. for the purpose of ratifying the SAA Contract. PASSED 7-0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to ratify the SAA Contract as presented. PASSED 5-0-2 (T.Potrikus, J.Taylor abstained)

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:29 p.m. PASSED 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Joan Jaquith, Recording Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Readers Workshop Initiative
Executive Summary
Update January 2011

Professional Development

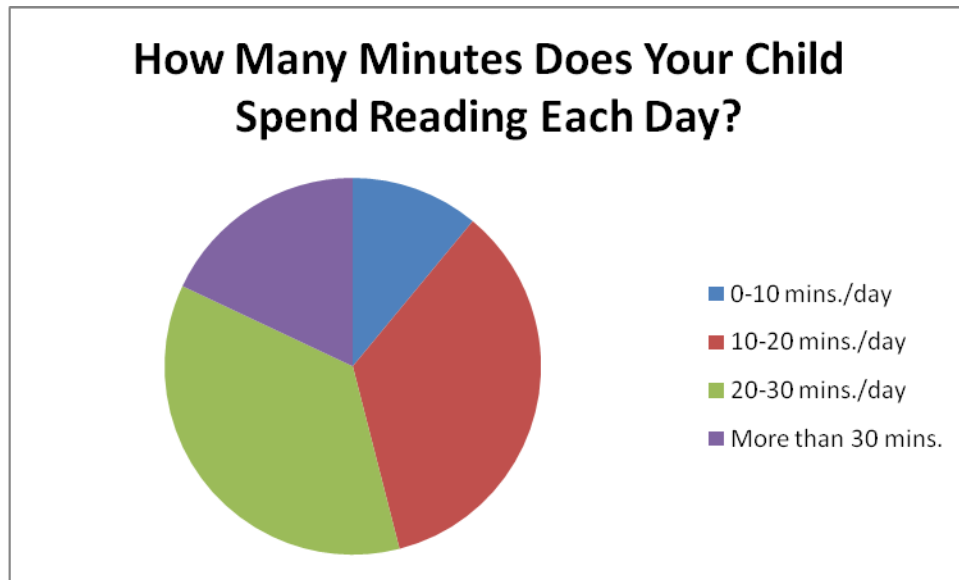
Workshops to Date:

August 26th and 27th: Introduction to Reader's Workshop
October 14th: Technical Support Grades 3-5
October 22nd: Technical Support Grades K-2
December 8th: Technical Support Grades K-2

Up-Coming Workshops:

January 31, 2011: Technical Support Grades 3-5
February 8, 2011: Technical Support Grade K-2

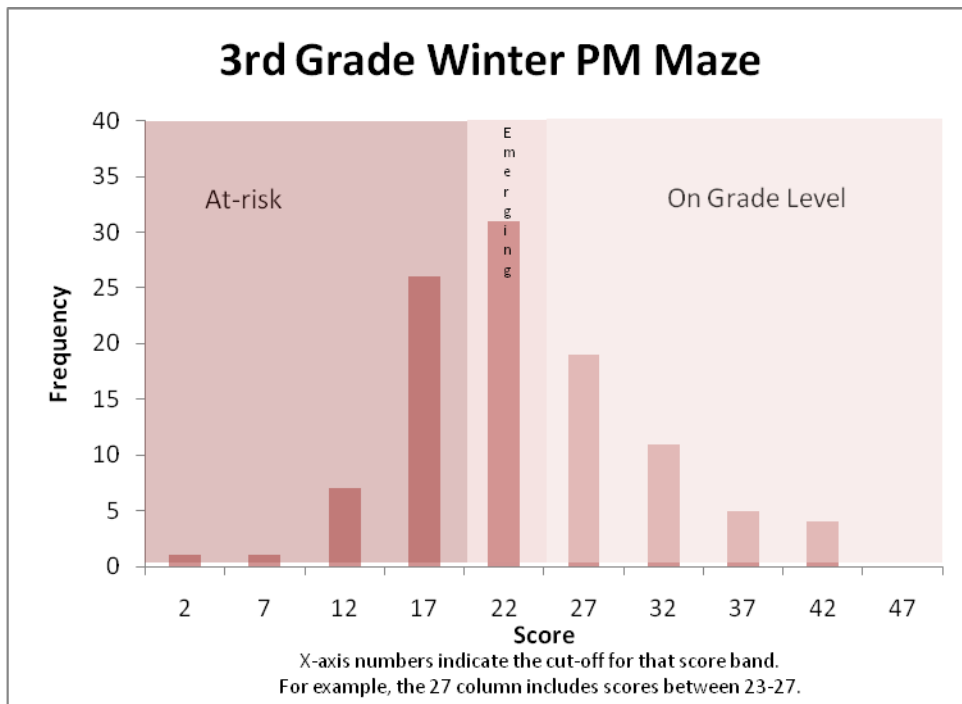
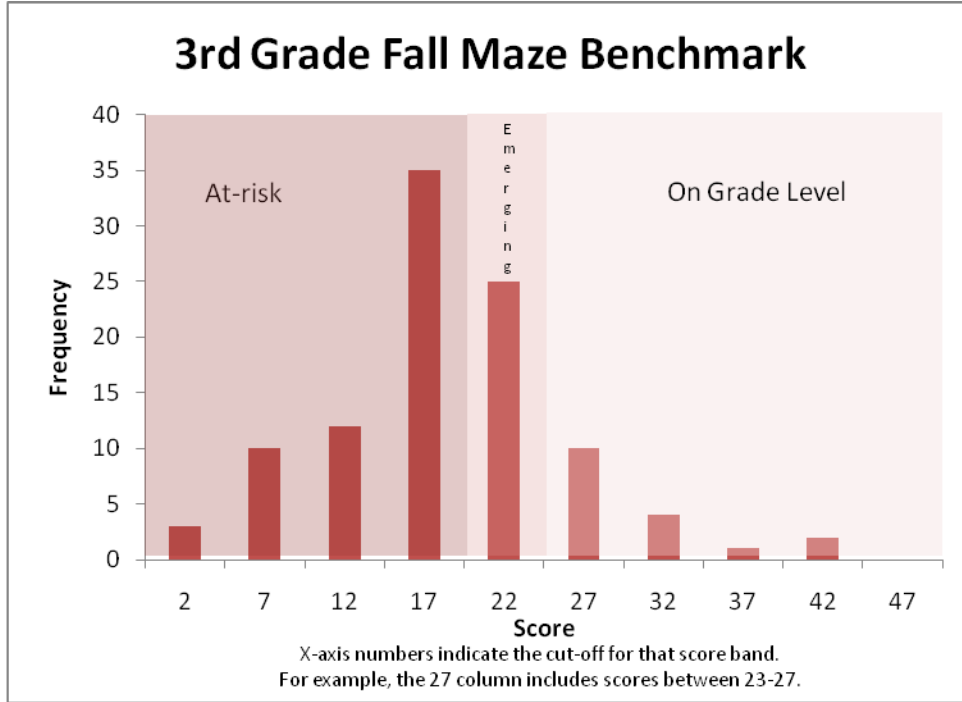
Parent Survey



Of the 50% of parents who responded during our November conferences survey, 73% reported that their children were reading more this year than last year.

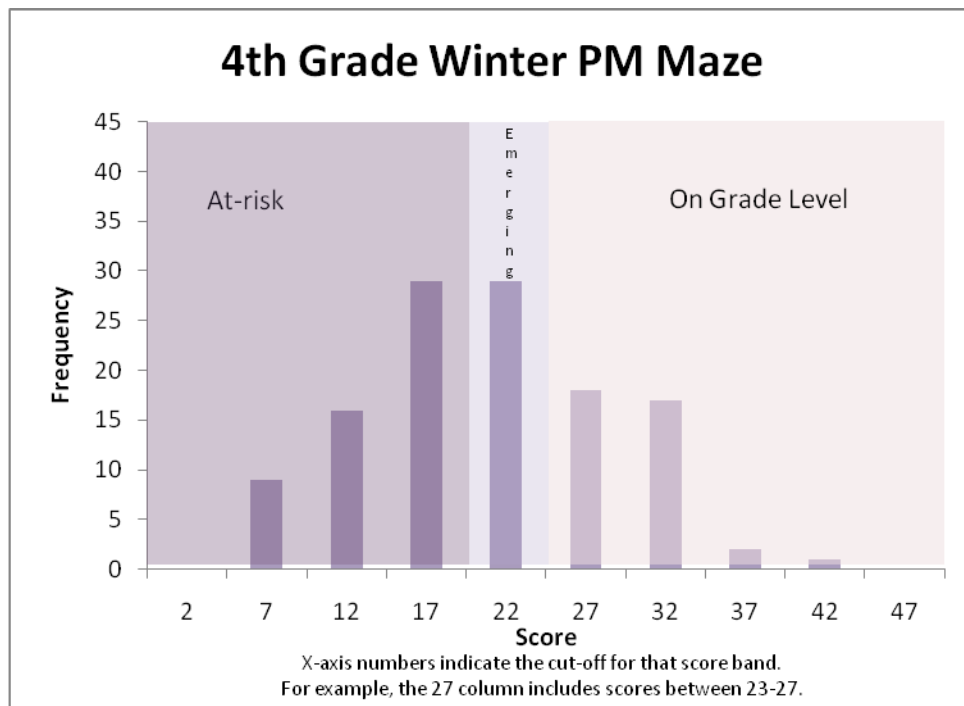
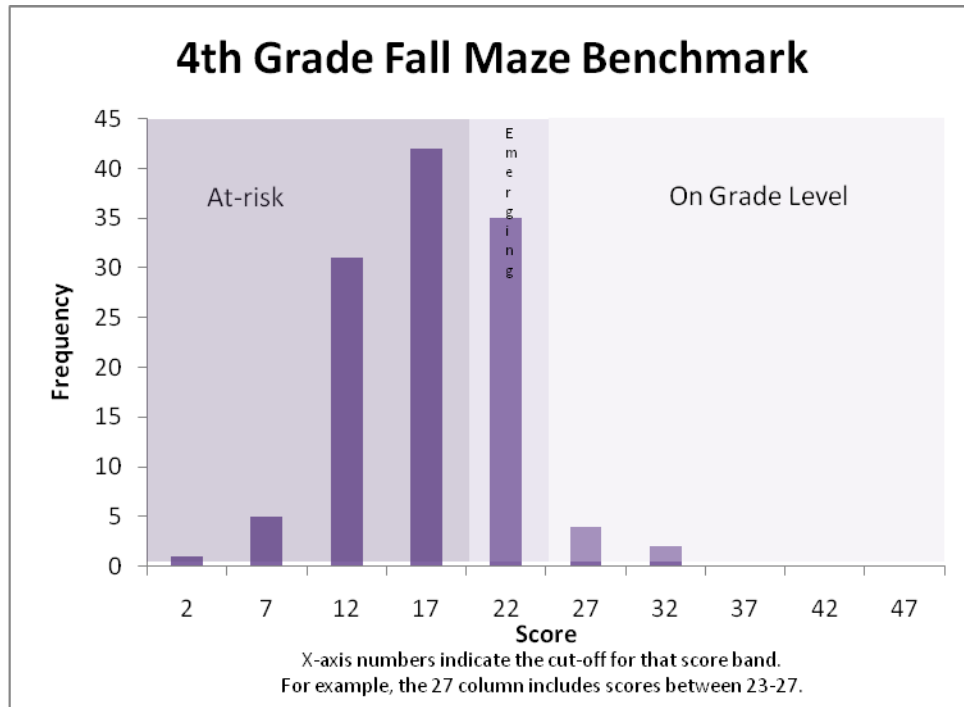
Progress Monitoring with Maze

Grade Three:



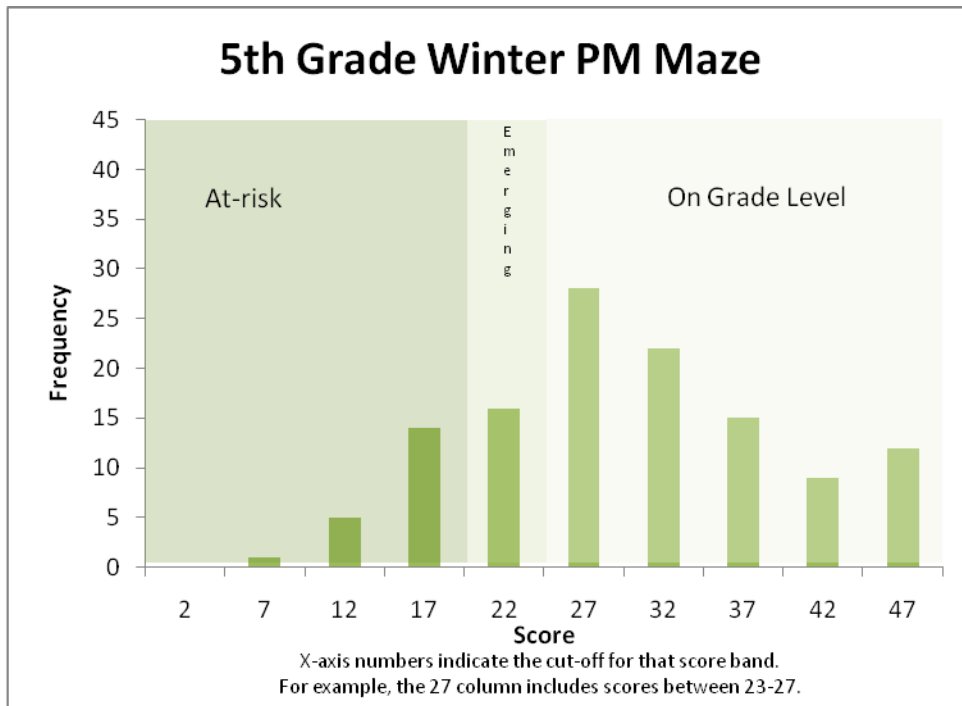
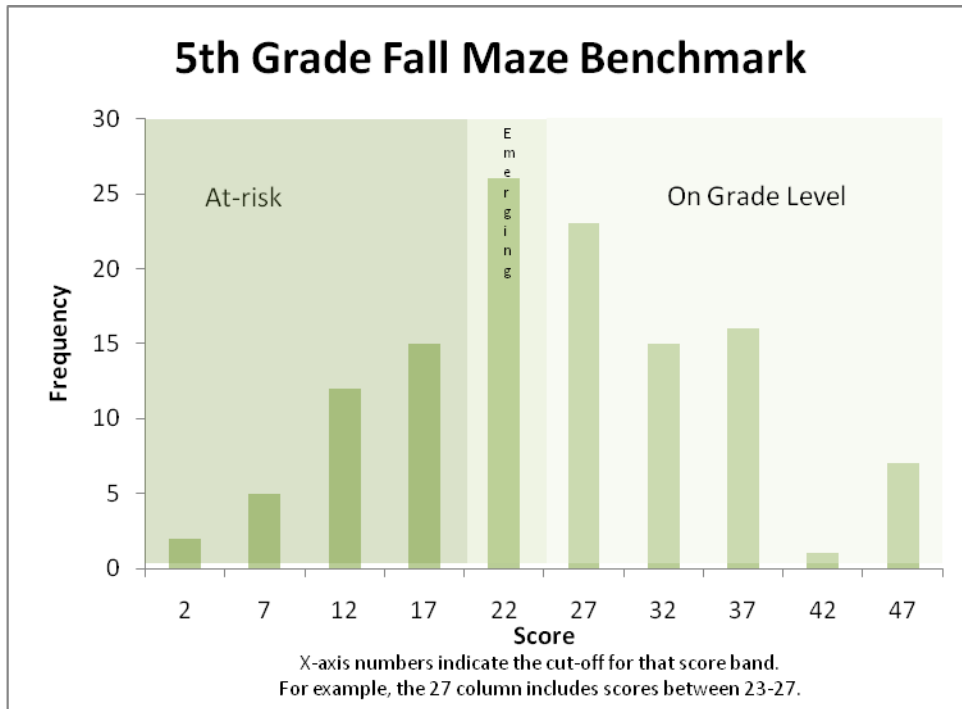
The average score on the Maze in Grade 3 went from 16 in the fall to 21 in the winter.

Grade 4:



The average score on the Maze in Grade 4 went from 15 in the fall to 19 in the winter.

Grade 5:




The average score on the Maze in Grade 5 went from 23 in the fall to 28 in the winter.

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 10087

Check Batch: 3514
 Check Header: (N / A)
 Check Numbers: (First) - (Last)
 Check Dates: (Earliest) - (Latest)
 Cash Account Numbers: (First) - (Last)
 Bank Account Code: (N/A)
 Check Authorization Code: AP GB
 Minimum Check Amount: \$0.00
 Sorted By:
 Include Payable Information: No
 Include Payable Dist Information: No
 Include Authorization Information: Yes

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount	
		Approved by:		Date:			
				1/20/11			
		<u>William B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services</u>					
3514	2417	01/24/2011	V60433	AAatlantic Fitness LLC	0.00	220.00	
	2418	01/24/2011	V00010	ACES	0.00	220.00	
	2419	01/24/2011	V58674	Administrator, Unemployment Compensation	0.00	5,225.17	
	2420	01/24/2011	V60046	Advanced Fitness Designs, Inc.	0.00	427.50	
	2421	01/24/2011	V60363	Albert Ellis Institute	0.00	30.95	
	2422	01/24/2011	V02185	Allston Supply Co. Inc.	0.00	1,450.00	
	2423	01/24/2011	V52670	Amazon	0.00	341.02	
	2424	01/24/2011	V60041	Anthem BCBS	0.00	192,260.75	
	2425	01/24/2011	V00555	AT&T	0.00	54.72	
	2426	01/24/2011	E00046	Calnen, Jean	0.00	40.69	
	2427	01/24/2011	E00047	Campanelli, Anthony	0.00	27.03	
	2428	01/24/2011	V02198	The Connecticut Water Company	0.00	529.09	
	2429	01/24/2011	V60205	CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc.	0.00	42.00	
	2430	01/24/2011	V60408	D&D Security Resources, Inc	0.00	168.00	
	2431	01/24/2011	V60089	Dime Oil Company	0.00	6,677.50	
	2432	01/24/2011	V54168	First Student, Inc	0.00	354,487.42	
	2433	01/24/2011	V01563	Follett Educational Services	0.00	526.36	
	2434	01/24/2011	V60047	Garston Sign Supplies, Inc.	0.00	132.02	
	2435	01/24/2011	V01830	Gerry's Music Shop, Inc.	0.00	1,094.00	
	2436	01/24/2011	V60035	Google, Inc.	0.00	12.75	

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	2437	01/24/2011	V54081	Graduate Pest Solutions	0.00	158.00
	2438	01/24/2011	V53761	GraybaR	0.00	349.09
	2439	01/24/2011	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	83.25
	2440	01/24/2011	V53511	Hall, Robert	0.00	185.00
	2441	01/24/2011	V51232	Hartford Hospital Cashiers	0.00	2,340.00
	2442	01/24/2011	V00639	HB Communications Inc.	0.00	318.46
	2443	01/24/2011	V60090	High Grade Gas Service, Inc	0.00	2,507.46
	2444	01/24/2011	V60132	J&R Corporate Sales	0.00	48.99
	2445	01/24/2011	E00163	Kapner, Rob	0.00	49.98
	2446	01/24/2011	V01777	Lakeshore Learning	0.00	177.28
	2447	01/24/2011	E00207	Machacek, Joan	0.00	51.51
	2448	01/24/2011	V60361	Marlin Leasing Corp	0.00	313.82
	2449	01/24/2011	E00232	Mooney, Steven	0.00	36.00
	2450	01/24/2011	E00234	Morrow, Jim	0.00	56.96
	2451	01/24/2011	V60174	National Beta Club, The	0.00	93.00
	2452	01/24/2011	V02444	Nelson Jr PHD, W. J.	0.00	2,400.00
	2453	01/24/2011	V60076	Ockers Company, The	0.00	155.00
	2454	01/24/2011	V02407	OTIS Elevator Company	0.00	520.49
	2455	01/24/2011	V60186	PC Mall Gov	0.00	219.45
	2456	01/24/2011	V52686	Plimpton & Hills	0.00	1,131.63
	2457	01/24/2011	V60435	Post Reporting Services, Inc	0.00	2,631.40
	2458	01/24/2011	V60068	Pro-Ed, Inc.	0.00	84.70
	2459	01/24/2011	V53994	Queue, Inc	0.00	466.07
	2460	01/24/2011	V02834	R. Pettee Electric L.L.C.	0.00	402.00
	2461	01/24/2011	V51385	Rockwell Communications	0.00	421.90
	2462	01/24/2011	V01779	S & S Worldwide	0.00	429.35
	2463	01/24/2011	V01292	School Specialty, Inc.	0.00	21.74
	2464	01/24/2011	V51347	Scott Electric	0.00	152.17
	2465	01/24/2011	V60031	SNE Building Systems	0.00	900.00
	2466	01/24/2011	V02404	Somers Ace Hardware	0.00	363.11
	2467	01/24/2011	V00886	Somers Lunch Program	0.00	10.50
	2468	01/24/2011	E00322	Suffredini, Dr. Maynard	0.00	74.00
	2469	01/24/2011	V02183	Super Duper Publications	0.00	112.80
	2470	01/24/2011	V60394	SWAN Associates Inc	0.00	260.63
	2471	01/24/2011	M02015	T. J. Conway Company	0.00	279.38
	2472	01/24/2011	V53615	Thurston Foods, Inc.	0.00	217.08
	2473	01/24/2011	V60405	Touchboards	0.00	378.82

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	2474	01/24/2011	M53099	Tull Brothers, Inc.	0.00	130.00
	2475	01/24/2011	V21164	Unum Life Insurance Company of America	0.00	3,829.57
	2476	01/24/2011	V53413	W. B. Mason	0.00	51.41
	2477	01/24/2011	V02738	William V. MacGill & Co.	0.00	137.02
Totals:					0.00	\$586,515.99

61 Checks Listed.

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 10086
Batch: 3503
Transaction: N/A
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch # 3503	Control Total \$586,515.99	Status Posted	Created By lbergamini	Created On 01/18/2011	Last Updated By lbergamini	Last Updated On 01/20/2011
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General Ledger Distribution Summary						
Period, Fiscal Year Account Number	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits	
January, 2011						
Generated Distributions						
10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			579,060.91	0.00	
10-000-0-0-00-000-720-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	579,060.91	
	Total Generated Distributions			\$579,060.91	\$579,060.91	
User-Entered Distributions						
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			766.38	0.00	
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	587,282.37	
10-100-2-2-14-242-611-01-5-00652	K-5 - KINDERGARTEN SUPPLIES			177.28	0.00	
10-100-2-2-20-242-611-01-5-00169	K-5 - MUSIC SUPPLIES			400.00	0.00	
10-100-2-2-22-242-611-01-5-00193	K-5 - PHYSICAL ED SUPPLIES			535.85	0.00	
10-100-2-2-26-220-641-01-5-00105	K-5 - LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOK		Yes	466.07	0.00	
10-100-2-2-28-242-611-01-5-00202	K-5 - SCIENCE/HEALTH SUPPLIES			34.57	0.00	
10-100-2-3-22-242-611-01-5-00194	MA - PHYSICAL ED SUPPLIES			93.00	0.00	
10-100-2-4-12-242-611-01-5-00183	HS - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			45.03	0.00	
10-100-2-4-18-242-611-01-5-00191	HS - MATH SUPPLIES			378.82	0.00	
10-100-2-4-20-242-611-01-5-00168	HS - BAND SUPPLIES			694.00	0.00	
10-100-2-4-22-242-611-01-5-00195	HS - PHYSICAL ED SUPPLIES			228.00	0.00	
10-100-2-4-26-242-611-01-5-01070	HS - ENGLISH SUPPLIES			211.00	0.00	
10-100-2-4-30-220-641-01-5-00125	HS - SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS			315.36	0.00	
10-100-2-4-99-242-611-01-5-00180	HS - SAT PREP			210.49	0.00	
10-100-2-5-14-241-611-01-5-00873	SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES			404.45	0.00	
10-100-2-5-44-242-611-03-5-00222	SW - A.V. SUPPLIES			318.46	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-242-611-01-5-00228	SP ED - K-5 ALP A SUPPLIES			84.70	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-251-580-05-5-00272	SP ED - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE			36.00	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-258-690-04-5-00307	SP ED - OFFICE SUPPLIES			33.42	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01117	SP ED-INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS		Yes	4,740.00	0.00	
10-210-2-9-32-242-611-02-5-00225	SW - SOCIAL WORK SUPPLIES			95.96	0.00	
10-212-2-3-46-242-611-02-5-00224	MA - GUIDANCE INSTRUCT. SUPPLY			93.00	0.00	
10-213-3-4-48-421-323-02-5-01146	SW HEALTH SUPPLIES			137.02	0.00	
10-214-2-3-56-242-611-07-5-01027	SW - SCHOOL PSYCHOL. SUPPLIES			30.95	0.00	
10-215-9-9-94-242-611-02-5-00217	K-5 - SPEECH/HEARING SUPPLIES			112.80	0.00	

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
3503	\$586,515.99	Posted	lbergamini	01/18/2011	lbergamini	01/20/2011
					40.69	0.00
					78.54	0.00
					49.98	0.00
					220.00	0.00
				Yes	2,673.40	0.00
					10.50	0.00
					74.00	0.00
					17.99	0.00
					21.74	0.00
					349.09	0.00
					48.99	0.00
				Yes	222.02	0.00
				Yes	54.72	0.00
					217.08	0.00
					897.07	0.00
					2,030.00	0.00
					0.00	580.00
					56.96	0.00
				Yes	1,237.50	0.00
				Yes	0.00	186.38
				Yes	180.00	0.00
					1,391.38	0.00
					279.14	0.00
					646.92	0.00
					38.94	0.00
					158.00	0.00
				Yes	484.71	0.00
					2,267.40	0.00
					4,410.10	0.00
				Yes	313.82	0.00
					1,347.36	0.00
					1,160.10	0.00
				Yes	529.09	0.00
				Yes	12.75	0.00
				Yes	115,766.00	0.00
				Yes	140,312.00	0.00
					3,690.70	0.00
				Yes	94,718.72	0.00

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
3503	\$586,515.99	Posted	lbergamini	01/18/2011	lbergamini	01/20/2011
		SW - FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCT		Yes	83.25	0.00
		DENTAL			13,990.48	0.00
		L.T.D.		Yes	3,829.57	0.00
		UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			5,225.17	0.00
		SW - HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORG.			51,449.53	0.00
		SW - PREFERRED PROVIDER ORG.		Yes	123,028.76	0.00
		SW - HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT		Yes	3,791.98	0.00
				Total User-Entered Distributions	<u>\$588,048.75</u>	<u>\$588,048.75</u>
				Total for January, 2011	<u>\$1,167,109.66</u>	<u>\$1,167,109.66</u>
				Grand Total for Batch # 3503	<u>\$1,167,109.66</u>	<u>\$1,167,109.66</u>

193 Transactions Listed.

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

January 17, 2011

I wanted to inform you of my intent to retire on June 30, 2011. It has been my pleasure to be a teacher in the Somers School System since March of 1986.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to work in both Special Education and Elementary Education and teach at Mabelle B. Avery and Somers Elementary School. I also am grateful that I was able to be a job sharer in fourth grade many years ago as that enabled me to combine two things I have loved in my life: being a mom and being a teacher.

There have been many changes I have seen in my career. However, I have always been most impressed with the talent and dedication of my colleagues. That always remains a constant. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the children of Somers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Jodice". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan Jodice

Kindergarten Special Education Teacher

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ninth District Road

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – January 24, 2011

Members Present:	D.Palmer, A.Kirkpatrick, R.Lees, J.Taylor, B.Devlin, T.Potrikus, M.Marquardt (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Members Absent:	S.Bollinger, J.Formeister
Administrators Present:	K.Pezza, P.Collin, R.Riola
Staff Present:	M.Suffredini & B.Boutwell attended the BOF meeting prior to the BOE meeting and arrived at 7:35 p.m.
Citizens Present:	D.Stone
Students Present:	
Others:	E. Quinlan (<i>Patch.com</i> reporter)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Board of Education meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 January 10, 2011 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the January 10, 2010 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented.
PASSED 6-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1 Reader's Workshop Model Update

Director of Curriculum, Kathleen Pezza, presented an update on the implementation of the new instructional reading program at Somers Elementary School and a mid-year student progress report.

Mrs. Pezza reported that teachers were introduced to the Readers Workshop instruction program during two full professional development days in August. Technical support workshops were held in October and December. Additional technical support will be provided in January and February.

Parents were surveyed during parent/teacher conferences regarding how many minutes their child spends reading each day. Fifty percent of the parents surveyed responded to the survey and 73% of those parents reported that their children were reading more this year than last year.

Student progress is monitored using an assessment called MAZE. MAZE records how accurately and quickly a student reads and identifies at risk students. Intervention strategies are used to help struggling readers.

Mrs. Pezza stated that the students are making good progress at this mid-year point and she expects to see this trend continue as the students and teachers adjust to this new program.

Somers Elementary School Principal, Ralph Riola, stated that the kids love the program and are very enthusiastic. Teachers now have more data than ever before. Mr. Riola and Assistant Principal, Jennifer Oliver, review the data on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Pezza anticipates higher DRP scores and improvement on the CMTs this year.

Mrs. Pezza reported that they are planning a Family Literacy Night in April to address parent questions regarding how teachers teach reading to K-2 students and how do parents find books for their children in grades 3-5 that their children can and want to read.

Grade 2 teacher, Michael Clarity, has been conducting raising reader programs for parents of kindergarten students.

Reading will be discussed with parents during kindergarten screening this year.

Mrs. Pezza will update the Board again on student progress at the April 11th BOE meeting.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Palmer reported receipt of the following:

- An email regarding the Local Hero's Nomination for the Class of 2017.
- An email from Ms. Lopes. Chairman Palmer will respond to Ms. Lopes email.
- An email from Mr. and Mrs. Stone.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 1/24/11 (\$586,515.99)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (A.Kirkpatrick) to approve the 1/24/11 Bills in the amount of \$586,515.99 as presented. PASSED 7-0

7.2 Retirement Notification (S.Jodice)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (A.Kirkpatrick) to accept the intent to retire notification received from S.Jodice effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. PASSED 7-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 10.1** In regards to the number of school cancellations we've experienced so far this year, Dr. Suffredini stated that he is not planning to cancel any vacation days until all the days remaining for the month of June have been used; however, should we experience more school cancellations it may impact the scheduled March 14th professional development day and some school vacation days. Dr. Suffredini stated that we are in a holding pattern at this time.

The Board requested that this information be communicated to staff and parents.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Budget

Dr. Suffredini reported that he attended the BOF meeting this evening and informed the BOF members that the BOE has put together a draft of the 2011-2012 budget that is level

funded for most line items and level service funded in salaries, insurance, special education and transportation. This represents a 3.5 increase overall. Dr. Suffredini stated that this budget was developed using information currently available. No established guidelines have been received from the state; however, it is anticipated that there will be cuts across all state grants. In addition, Dr. Suffredini was informed that the stimulus money that was held in reserve for use in 2011-2012 may result in a reduction in that amount in local aid received by the town.

Dr. Suffredini shared a letter dated January 14, 2011 that Senator John Kissel sent to Secretary Ben Barnes at the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy & Management. Senator Kissel requested that the state's financial proposals be communicated to the towns prior to the state's budget address on February 16, 2011. The letter stated that many towns are prepared "for the shared sacrifice that has been discussed in recent weeks by the new administration. Some even anticipate a 14 to 18% cut in aid reflecting the lack of federal funds used in past years to fill budget holes."

11.2 Curriculum – No report

11.3 Policy

A meeting has been scheduled for January 31st at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Kirkpatrick has received the latest policy updates from CAFE.

12.0 Salary & Negotiations

The new contracts with the Somers Education Association and the Somers Administrator's Association have been signed by the Chairman of the Board of Education and the presidents of both associations. These contracts will become effective on July 1, 2011.

Negotiations will be scheduled with the nurses' union.

11.5 Planning Committee

CIP has the Board's list of requests should the committee reconvene in the future.

11.6 Other Committees

11.6 Technology Ad Hoc Committee

A meeting has been scheduled for February 3rd at 5:00 p.m. The ad hoc committee is in the process of gathering data from several sources.

12.0 **OTHER**

- B.Devlin reported that he has heard that the Pilot Grant may be restored and suggested that the Board contact their state legislatures requesting them to support reinstating this grant.

13.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 7:47 p.m. PASSED 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Joan Jaquith, Recording Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.