

BOE Meeting Template
Monday, April 11, 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 6
 1. Curriculum Presentations (Library/Media/Tech Ed/SES Reader's Workshop Update & Curriculum Action Plan 6

Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum, will give a presentation to the board regarding the Library/Media and Tech Ed Curricula along with an update on the SES Reader's Workshop and curriculum action plan. Ms. Pezza will be available to answer any questions board members may have.
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA 25
 1. Approval of Bills
 2. Resignation (T. Miller)

Thoma Miller, MBA Math teacher has submitted her resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Miller has been teaching in our district since August, 2006.
8. NEW BUSINESS 29
 1. First Warning of DBS Code: 4111/4211 - Recruitment and Selection 29

The Policy Committee has reviewed this policy and incorporated language changes as recommended by CABE. This policy will be included on the 4/25/11 agenda for adoption.
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 31

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – March 28, 2011

Members Present: D.Palmer, J.Formeister, R.Lees, S. Bollinger (arrived at 7:19 p.m.), A.Kirkpatrick, B.Devlin, J.Taylor, M.Marquardt, T.Potrikus (attended the BOF meeting prior to the BOE meeting and arrived at 8:27)

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: M.Suffredini, P.Collin, K.Pezza, G.Cotzin, R.Kapner, R.Riola, B.Boutwell (attended the BOF meeting prior to the BOE meeting and arrived at 8:40 p.m.)

Staff Present: J.Carra

Citizens Present: M.Splain

Students Present: A.Geas, C.Vesce, E.Goodenow, A.Baumann, J.Colon, T.Mathewson, M.Gentile, J.Haynes

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 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 – March 14, 2011

March 14, 2011 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Formeister) to approve the March 14, 2011 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 7-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS – No Comments

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Palmer reported receipt of the following correspondence:

- A copy of a thank you letter from the Antonacci Family and Lindy Farms that was sent to Mark Maciolek and his sixth grade language arts class.
- A letter from Heidi and Martin Green regarding the non-renewal notices that were sent to teachers.
- An invitation from the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School SAVE Club to attend the King Arthur bread baking assembly on April 1st.
- Correspondence regarding scheduling negotiations with the bargaining units with contracts that are up for renewal.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 3/28/11 – (\$264,985.95)

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to approve the 3/28/11 Bills in the amount of \$264,985.95 as presented. PASSED 7-0

7.2 Retirement/Resignation Notifications: (N.Mullaly, SHS Math/ C.Liucci, SHS Art/ J.Jaquith, BOE Recording Secretary

7.2.1 Retirement Notification (N.Mullaly – Somers High School Math Teacher

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to accept, with regret, the intent to retire notification received from Nancy Mullaly effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. PASSED 7-0

7.2.2 Retirement Notification (C.Liucci – Somers High School Art Teacher

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to accept, with regret, the intent to retire notification received from Carol Liucci effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. PASSED 7-0

7.2.3 Resignation – Board of Education Recording Secretary (J.Jaquith)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Taylor) to accept, with regret, the resignation from the position of Board of Education Recording Secretary received from Joan Jaquith effective June 30, 2011. PASSED 7-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Nonrenewal Notices

Due to funding uncertainty. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Maynard M. Suffredini made the following recommendation for the following reasons, any one or all of which he considers to be a sufficient basis for the recommended action:(1) The elimination of the position or loss of position to another teacher; or (2) the failure to meet our minimum standards for continued employment.

In my capacity as Superintendent of Schools, I recommend that the Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Kristin BaberRachel Bray, Kristina Carnevale, Jennifer Carra, Lora Cavallo, Daniel Clement, Amy Cunningham, Paul Dailey, Kimberly Doran, Marina Gates, Caitlin Heintz, Kelly Kimball, Nicholas Kosloski, Sarah McNamee, Melissa Mucci, Theresa Muska, Loretta Nelson, Maria Peterson, Stephanie Poole, Karen Regan, Aliicia Santavenere, Erin Scholes, Jaclynn Shea, Alicia Simoes, Brianna Stronk, Michael Szafir, Stanley Targonski, Joseph Tarpinian, Stephanie Toney, Sharon Yarrow at the end of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and that the Board authorize me to furnish written notice of the action. I also recommend that I be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected teachers and to respond for the Board to any appropriate requests that may be forthcoming from each teacher or his/her representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.

Dr. Suffredini informed the Board that each teacher previously stated has been advised that he intended to make this recommendation. Each teacher has the right under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151 to request the reasons for the board's action to non-renew his/her contract of employment. Further, depending upon those reasons, each teacher may be entitled to a due-process hearing to seek reconsideration of the board's decision to non-renew the contract of employment.

It was MOVED (J.Formeister) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to non-renew the teaching contracts of Kristin BaberRachel Bray, Kristina Carnevale, Jennifer Carra, Lora Cavallo, Daniel Clement, Amy Cunningham, Paul Dailey, Kimberly Doran, Marina Gates, Caitlin Heintz, Kelly Kimball, Nicholas Kosloski, Sarah

McNamee, Melissa Mucci, Theresa Muska, Loretta Nelson, Maria Peterson, Stephanie Poole, Karen Regan, Alicia Santavenere, Erin Scholes, Jaclynn Shea, Alicia Simoes, Brianna Stronk, Michael Szafir, Stanley Targonski, Joseph Tarpinian, Stephanie Toney, Sharon Yarrows at the end of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and to authorize the Superintendent to furnish written notice of the action.

It was further moved to authorize and instruct the Superintendent to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected teachers and to respond for the Board to any appropriate requests that may be forthcoming from each teacher or his/her representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law. PASSED 7-0

Notifications of nonrenewal are required to be distributed by April 1st.

8.2 Request for Child-Rearing Leave (S.Lyver)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the maternity and child-rearing leave requested by S.Lyver beginning the start of the 2011-2012 school year through the start of the fourth quarter in April of 2012. PASSED 7-0

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Regionalization

The Long-Range Plan Committee will start gathering and reviewing information regarding regionalization. Chairman Palmer suggested that the Board discuss this topic again in May and again at the Board's annual retreat. Dr. Suffredini is requesting information from the State Department of Education and CREC regarding the process.

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1 SHS Scheduling/Class Size

Somers High School Principal, Gary Cotzin presented the Board with the most current report on course scheduling and class sizes for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Cotzin explained the scheduling process. Mr. Cotzin stated that the schedule would continue to be fine tuned to meet the needs of the students. The schedule and class sizes will be impacted if there are staffing cuts.

10.2 Dr. Suffredini reported that Director of Business Services, B.Boutwell, would be speaking to the Board of Finance this evening about supplemental funding from the town for snow removal.

10.3 Dr. Suffredini reported he received documentation from Ovation in regards to the cost savings we received from our health care provider, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This information was sent to the Board of Finance.

10.4 Dr. Suffredini reported that Central Office has received sixteen Freedom of Information requests from Mr. George Schober. In addition, Mr. Schober has filed three formal complaints to the FOI Commission and one Intent to Sue against the Somers Public Schools. In addition, several special education hearings and two transportation hearings have been held. Responding to these requests and complaints has cost the district approximately \$40,000-\$45,000.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1 Budget

11.1.1 Dr. Suffredini reported that he has met with the Administrative Council to discuss areas where cuts could be made, if needed.

S.Bollinger raised the question about exploring alternative funding sources. Several options were discussed.

It was the consensus of the Board to add a “Frequently Asked Questions” link to the district’s web page as a way to inform the public about the budget process; the purpose of various town meetings and hearings; and to respond to questions regarding action taken by the Board of Education. Board members will forward their “Questions and Answers” to Dr. Suffredini’s Administrative Assistant, Susan Selley.

Upon his return from the Board of Finance meeting, T.Potrikus reported that the Board of Finance cut the Board of Education’s proposed 2011-2012 level-funded budget by \$75,000.

11.2 Curriculum – No report

12.3 Policy – The Policy Committee will meet on March 31st at 6:00 p.m.

12.4 Salary & Negotiations

Notice has been received from the State Department of Labor regarding scheduling negotiations with the nurse’s union and the custodial union.

12.5 Planning Committee

12.6 Other Committees

12.6.1 Technology Ad Hoc Committee

Director of Technology, Jim Morrow will coordinate staff tech committee. This committee will work along with the BOE Technology Committee.

13.0 OTHER

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (A.Kirkpatrick) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:40 p.m. PASSED 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

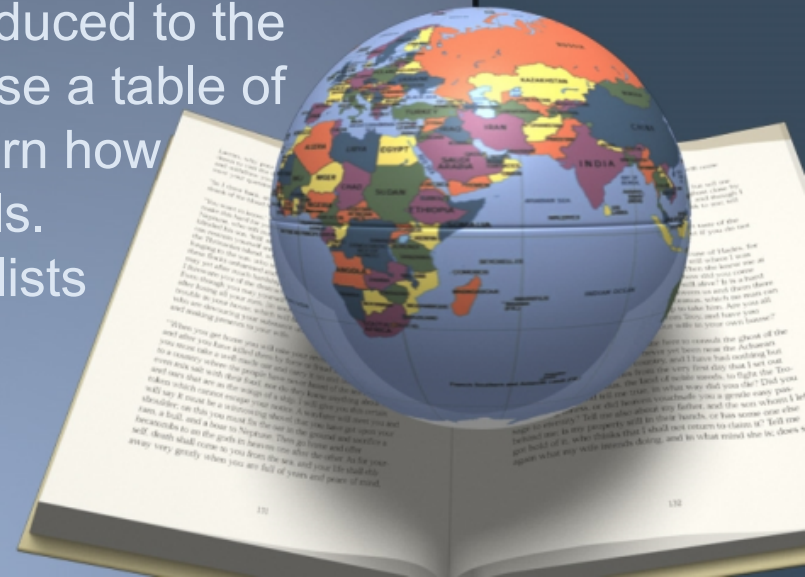
Library and Media Skills

Information Literacy and Technology



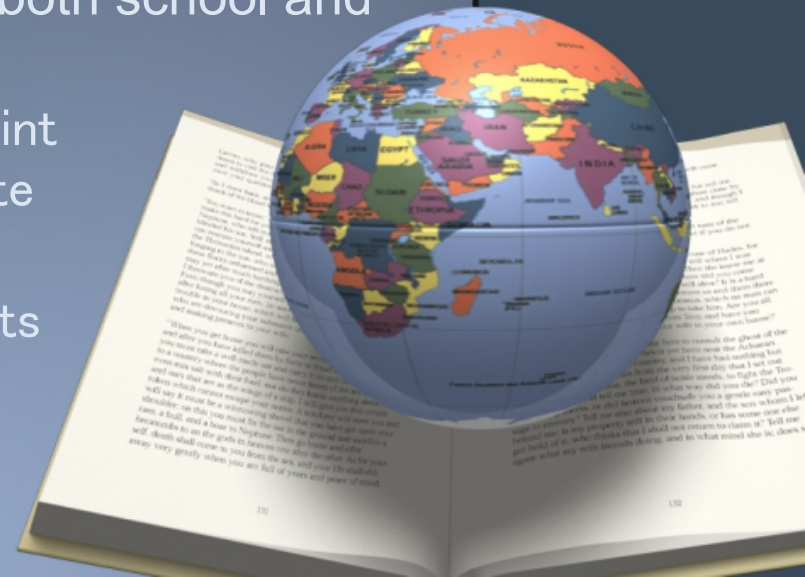
Library and Media Skills at SES

- Students in K-2 visit the Media Center on a regular basis to select “just right” reading books, which supplement those available in the classroom.
- In grade 3, students begin a formal Library-Media program. They learn how to use the on-line catalog to search for books and locate them in the Media Center.
- In grades 4 and 5, students are introduced to the Dewey Decimal system, learn how use a table of contents, glossary and index and learn how to use print based reference materials.
- The elementary library media specialists also provide instruction in computer skills.



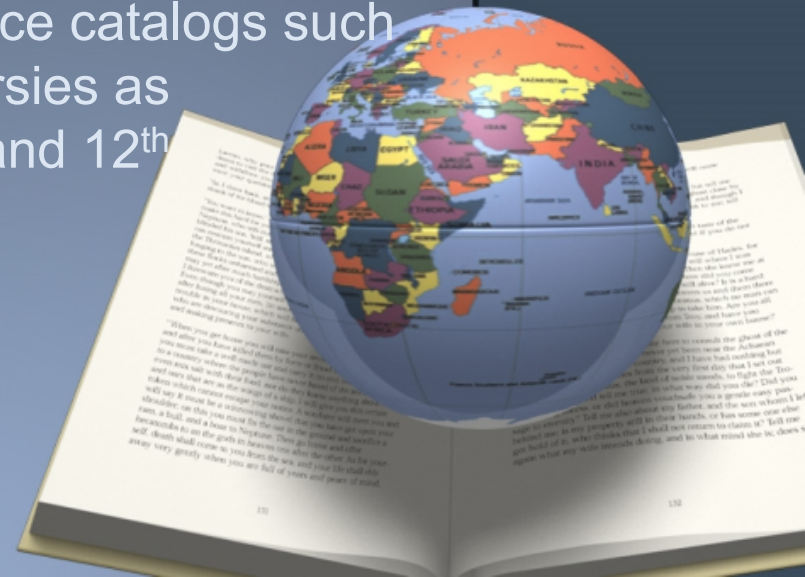
Library and Media Skills at MBA

- Students at the middle school learn a variety of Library Media skills, including:
 - Basic citations,
 - Determining the reliability of websites,
 - Accessing on-line databases,
 - Finding primary source materials, and
 - Using public access catalogs for both school and community libraries.
- They work with programs like PowerPoint as well as podcasting software to create projects and share work.
- The Library Media Specialist also assists students and teachers with the on-line aspects of the CBAS and the CMT administration.



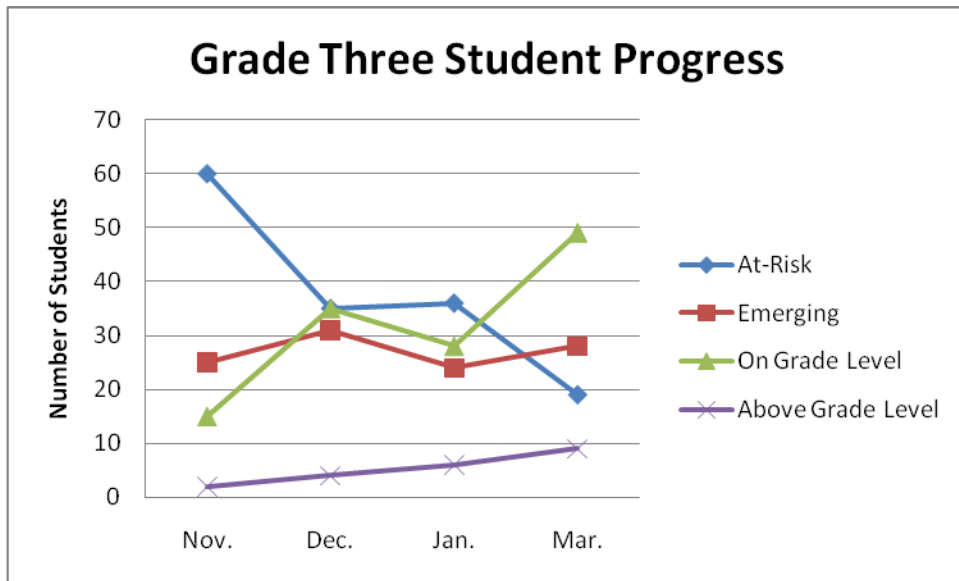
Library and Media Skills at SHS

- The Library Media Specialist at the High School works extensively with the English, Social Studies and World Language departments to teach research and citation skills.
- Students learn about appropriate use and academic integrity through lessons on MLA, turnitin.com, and easybib.com.
- Students learn to use on-line reference catalogs such as ICONN and Issues and Controversies as well as basic database skills in 11th and 12th grade.
- All library media skills are taught as integrated units with a content area teacher.

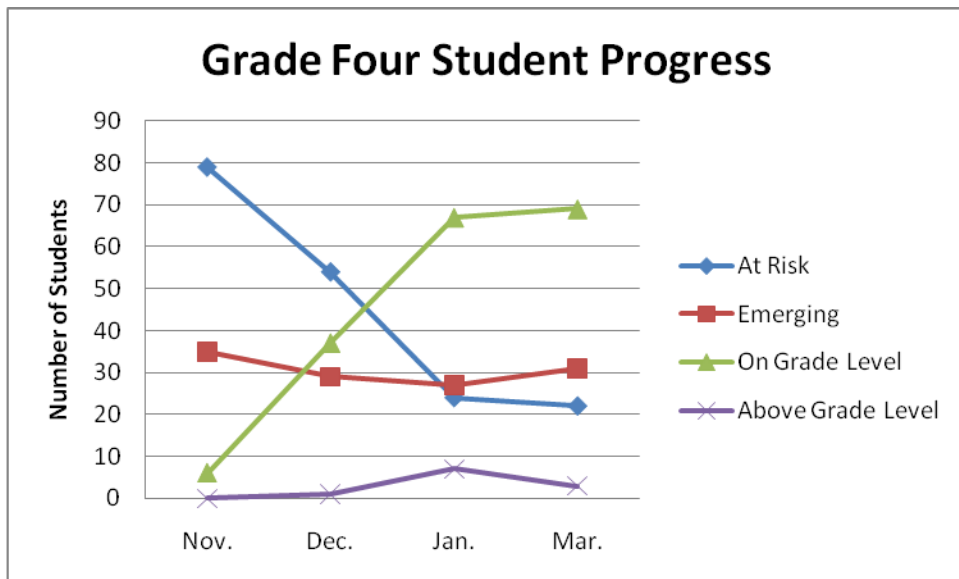


Somers Elementary School Action Plan Update 2011-2012

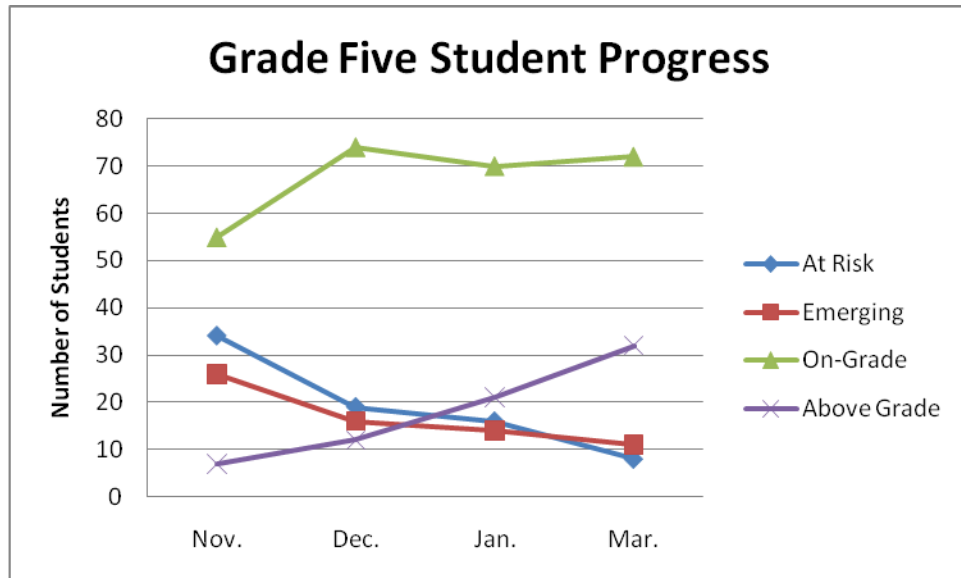
Student Progress to Date:



Average Improvement: 9 points since November



Average Improvement: 9 points since November



Average Improvement: 11.6 points since November

Other Achievements:

- Students in first and second grade have not only improved in reading, but they are also showing improvements in writing, spelling and phonics.
- Fifth Grade students have, on average, increased two reading levels since the beginning of the school year.

Professional Development Progress:

Readers Workshop

Completed Sessions:

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

January 31, 2011: Technical Support Grades 3-5

February 8, 2011: Technical Support Grade K-2

March 30, 2011: Technical Support Grades 3-5

April 6, 2011: Technical Support Grades 1-3

Upcoming Sessions:

April 29, 2011: Technical Support Grades 1-3

May 6, 2011: Technical Support Grades 1-3

Assessment

- Teachers in grades 3-5 have received professional development in the use of AIMSweb as needed throughout the year.
- Teachers in grades K-2 received professional development in DIBELS in October and had a short follow-up session in January.
- All of the paraprofessionals and the tutors at the elementary school were trained to administer the DIBELS in December.

Time Usage:

- All grade levels have a 90 minute uninterrupted Language Arts block and a 60 minute uninterrupted Math block.
- The length of sustained, independent reading is increasing across the grade levels. For example, first graders are up 30 minutes of independent reading.

Parent Involvement:

- Parents were surveyed during November conferences to determine areas of need.
- During March conferences, teachers in grades 3-5 introduced parents to the progress monitoring graphs generated by the AIMSweb program and provided parents with strategies to help them increase their child's fluency.
- Teachers in the primary grades are sending home sight word lists for parents as well as flyers about reading strategies.
- Our Raising Readers program concluded at the end of March and was extremely successful. Participating parents were eager to see it run in the future.
- There will be a parent night at the elementary school in early May, where parents will have a chance to talk to teachers at each grade level about strategies and book choices for children in that grade.

Data Teams:

- Grade level data teams are meeting regularly to discuss student progress and intervention.
- They have implemented a variety of strategies to help struggling students:
 - Paraprofessionals have starting reviewing sight words with students who have difficulty completing the task at home.
 - Tutors are being scheduled differently to help classroom teachers work more with small groups.
 - CMT word walls to help students learn question stem words.
 - Carbo Reading has been introduce as a fluency intervention program.

Instructional Rounds:

The Instructional Rounds team visited the elementary school in October and February. The team saw tremendous growth in the teacher's implementation of the Reader's Workshop model over the four month time period. During the February visit, they focused on evidence of the CMT reading comprehension strands in instruction and were able to provide feedback on the instructional frequency of each strand.

Technology Education

The background is a complex digital composition. A large, semi-transparent orange and yellow circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant. Below it, a vertical column of small, semi-transparent squares in shades of orange and yellow runs down the right side. The lower right corner features a blurred, high-angle view of a computer monitor and keyboard, suggesting a technological or educational environment. The overall color palette is dominated by warm tones of orange, yellow, and red.

Technology Education at MBA

- **Students in sixth grade build bridges, mousetrap cars and balsa wood gliders to learn about engineering and transportation.**
- **7th graders learn about basic drafting, mass production and simple machines. They use Legos to build their machines and to learn about pneumatics.**



Technology Education at MBA

- **Students in eighth grade continue their exploration of drafting by designing and producing a simple woodworking project.**
- **They also complete a research project on the five areas of technology and present their findings to the class.**
- **All technology classes emphasize the application of both science and math.**



Technology Education at MBA

- **MBA also has a technology club that meets after school.**
- **This year, the club is building a giant chess set for the Chess Club to use in the courtyard this spring.**



CURRENT TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROJECTS

Mr. Roy Slater

Mr. Mike Niziolek

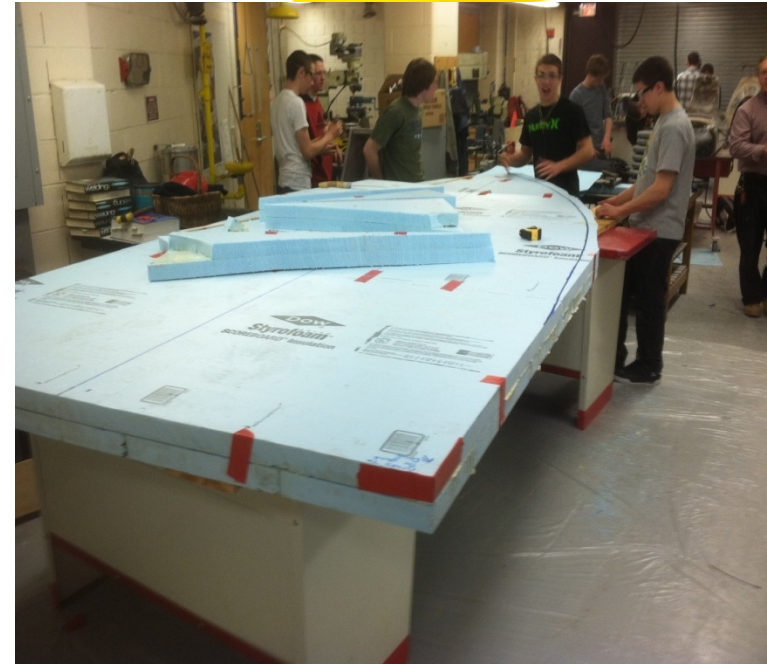
Mr. Nick Kosloski



Hovercraft

This year, our department goal is to build a hovercraft as a cross curricular activity within all of our T.I.D.E. disciplines. Each teacher in the department has introduced correlating concepts to their classes, who are then assigned a specific part of the task.

The end result will be a fully functioning two person hovercraft which will race other high schools on the Connecticut River in downtown Hartford on June 11th.



Thrust duct mold



Graphic Design 3

This year, one of our new classes, Graphic Design 3, is exploring multi-media design utilizing Adobe Flash CS5 and Dreamweaver. Students are generating interactive documents that combine images, audio, video, and animation.

For the first time, students are studying interface design and object oriented programming, both of which are the backbone of today's dynamic web sites and games.



Digital Film and Photography

This year, we are offering a second new class: Digital Film and Photography.

This course utilizes 8 Digital S.L.R. cameras that students can sign out to take photos outside of school.



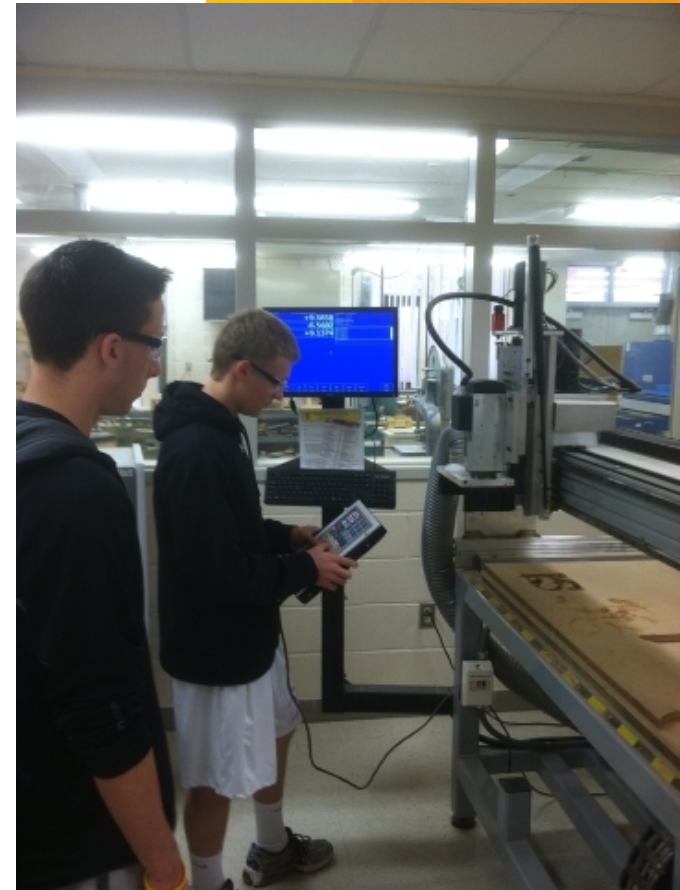
Photography (cont.)

Through various grant processes, the T.I.D.E. Department has purchased a full lighting studio, with which photography students can explore the world of lighting.



Solid Modeling


Students are actively utilizing our new C.N.C. machines to take the theoretical world of CADD to the practical world of creating physical parts. This is the first semester this class is running at full capacity.



Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 11371

Check Batch: 3997
 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
<p>Approved by:  Date: 4/27/11</p> <p>_____ William B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services</p>						
3997	2717	04/11/2011	V58674	Administrator, Unemployment Compensation	0.00	317.00
	2718	04/11/2011	V52306	Ameripride	0.00	436.45
	2719	04/11/2011	V60041	Anthem BCBS	0.00	195,852.68
	2720	04/11/2011	V60040	Anthem Life Insurance Company	0.00	2,181.25
	2721	04/11/2011	V51604	Awards & More	0.00	53.20
	2722	04/11/2011	E00450	Bergamini, Lisa	0.00	29.07
	2723	04/11/2011	V54306	Blue Raven Technology, Inc.	0.00	768.30
	2724	04/11/2011	V54342	Cassens PhD, Geraldine	0.00	2,800.00
	2725	04/11/2011	V51942	CBS	0.00	4,766.16
	2726	04/11/2011	V00159	Connecticut Light & Power	0.00	7,591.26
	2727	04/11/2011	V02198	The Connecticut Water Company	0.00	3,321.42
	2728	04/11/2011	V00185	Conyers Hardware	0.00	187.44
	2729	04/11/2011	V00204	CREC	0.00	975.00
	2730	04/11/2011	V60089	Dime Oil Company	0.00	109.97
	2731	04/11/2011	E00096	Duffy, Margaret	0.00	27.50
	2732	04/11/2011	V54168	First Student, Inc	0.00	442.70
	2733	04/11/2011	E00257	Ford, Linda	0.00	88.00
	2734	04/11/2011	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	83.25
	2735	04/11/2011	V53228	Herff Jones Inc.	0.00	9.32
	2736	04/11/2011	V60090	High Grade Gas Service, Inc	0.00	1,594.77

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 11371

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	2737	04/11/2011	V21177	Home Depot CRC	0.00	250.18
	2738	04/11/2011	V60467	M-F Athletic	0.00	101.95
	2739	04/11/2011	V02898	MagnaKleen Services	0.00	488.25
	2740	04/11/2011	V60251	Marker Board People, The	0.00	207.90
	2741	04/11/2011	V54115	Naviance	0.00	2,101.67
	2742	04/11/2011	V60468	New England Assistive Technology	0.00	1,500.00
	2743	04/11/2011	V60104	Nixon Company Inc., The	0.00	191.00
	2744	04/11/2011	V53987	Office Equipment Finance Services	0.00	1,662.67
	2745	04/11/2011	V00206	NCS Pearson, Inc.	0.00	390.17
	2746	04/11/2011	V52074	Really Good Stuff, Inc.	0.00	80.88
	2747	04/11/2011	V01292	School Specialty, Inc.	0.00	52.32
	2748	04/11/2011	V00886	Somers Lunch Program	0.00	52.50
	2749	04/11/2011	V00548	Somers Sanitation Service, Inc.	0.00	1,249.70
	2750	04/11/2011	V01591	Town of Somers	0.00	18,170.44
	2751	04/11/2011	V53945	Transcanda Power Marketing LTD	0.00	37,916.58
	2752	04/11/2011	V01638	Tree House, The	0.00	360.00
	2753	04/11/2011	V00051	Postmaster	0.00	88.00
	2754	04/11/2011	V54059	Verizon Wireless	0.00	369.86
	2755	04/11/2011	V52399	W.R. Robinson Lumber	0.00	546.45
	2756	04/11/2011	V51409	Wendell G. Haire Piano Services	0.00	100.00
	2757	04/11/2011	V02738	William V. MacGill & Co.	0.00	508.94
Totals:					0.00	\$288,024.20

41 Checks Listed.

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 11369
Batch: 3914
Transaction: N/A
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
3914	\$288,024.20	Posted	lbergamini	04/05/2011	lbergamini	04/07/2011

General Ledger Distribution Summary

Period, Fiscal Year Account Number	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits
April, 2011					
Generated Distributions					
10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			301,584.20	0.00
10-000-0-0-00-000-720-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	301,584.20
	Total Generated Distributions			\$301,584.20	\$301,584.20
User-Entered Distributions					
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	288,024.20
10-100-2-2-18-242-611-01-5-00187	K-5 - MATH SUPPLIES			288.78	0.00
10-100-2-2-18-243-611-01-5-00238	K-5 - MATH WORKBOOKS		Yes	390.17	0.00
10-100-2-3-12-242-611-01-5-00182	MA - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			733.89	0.00
10-100-2-4-02-242-611-01-5-00165	HS - ART SUPPLIES			52.32	0.00
10-100-2-4-12-242-611-01-5-00183	HS - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			250.18	0.00
10-100-2-4-99-242-611-01-5-00809	HS - RENAISSANCE PROGRAM			42.00	0.00
10-100-2-5-14-241-611-01-5-00873	SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES			360.00	0.00
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01117	SP ED-INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS		Yes	4,300.00	0.00
10-212-2-4-46-242-611-02-5-00286	HS - GUIDANCE NAVIANCE			2,101.67	0.00
10-213-3-4-48-421-323-02-5-01146	SW HEALTH SUPPLIES			508.94	0.00
10-221-1-4-50-251-580-05-5-00267	HS - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE			27.50	0.00
10-231-1-5-74-134-690-10-5-00047	B.O.E. - SUPPLIES			10.50	0.00
10-232-1-5-72-251-580-05-5-00271	CO - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE			29.07	0.00
10-232-5-5-66-830-430-04-5-00454	CO - COPIER MAINTENANCE			217.57	0.00
10-232-6-5-66-830-440-04-5-00525	CO - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	415.66	0.00
10-240-1-4-40-132-530-04-5-00038	HS - POSTAGE		Yes	176.00	0.00
10-240-6-2-66-830-440-04-5-00523	K-5 - COPIER RENTAL			415.67	0.00
10-240-6-2-66-830-440-04-5-01011	K-5 - COPIER MAINTENANCE		Yes	1,537.57	0.00
10-240-6-3-66-830-440-03-5-00527	MA - COPIER RENTAL			415.67	0.00
10-240-6-3-66-830-440-04-5-01013	MA - COPIER MAINTENANCE			1,072.57	0.00
10-240-6-4-66-830-440-04-5-00763	HS - COPIER RENTAL			415.67	0.00
10-240-6-4-66-830-440-04-5-01015	HS - COPIER MAINTENANCE			1,938.45	0.00
10-240-7-4-54-880-690-07-5-00274	HS - GRADUATION			9.32	0.00
10-260-5-2-64-642-530-04-5-00363	K-5 - TELEPHONE		Yes	34.01	0.00
10-260-5-3-64-642-530-04-5-00365	MA - TELEPHONE		Yes	18.09	0.00

PERSONNEL - CERTIFIED AND NONCERTIFIED:

Recruitment and Selection

It is the policy of the Board of Education to recruit, select and employ the best qualified personnel on the basis of their merit and effectiveness without discrimination as to their national origin, ancestry, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, physical disability or other applicable unlawful discriminatory standard.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and of persons designated by the Superintendent to determine the personnel needs of the school district and to locate suitable candidates to recommend for employee to the Board of Education. ~~An estimate of the cost of the recruitment and program will be made annually by the Superintendent and presented to the Board of Education for inclusion in the budget.~~

No inquiry in regard to an employee's race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation or national origin shall be made of a person proposed for or seeking employment.

It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Schools to see that persons nominated for employment shall meet all qualifications established by law and by the Board of Education for the type of position for which nomination is made.

Hiring of Retired Teachers

A **retired** teacher receiving benefits from the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) may be reemployed by the Board for up to one full school year in a position (1) designated by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area, or (2) at a school located in a priority school district for the school year in which the teacher is being employed. Such employment may be for up to one full school year. Such *reemployment* may be extended for an additional school year, provided the Board (a) submits a written request for approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (b) certifies that no qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such teacher and (c) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

The salary of such teacher shall be fixed at an amount at least equal to that paid other teachers in the District with similar training and experience for the same type of service. ~~Upon Board approval of such employment,~~ the retired teacher shall be eligible for the same health insurance benefits provided to active teachers employed by the District. No retirement benefits shall be paid during this period of reemployment.

A retired teacher rehired to fill a position that is not designated as a shortage area by the Commissioner and is receiving a salary that does not exceed 45% of the maximum pay for the position and working for any length of time would still be eligible to receive his/her TRS retirement benefits.

(cf. 0410 Affirmative Action)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-151 Employment of teachers. Notice and hearing on termination of contract
10-153 Discrimination on account of marital status
10-220 Duties of Boards of Education
31-126 Unfair Employment Practices
46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited
Title IV Equal Employment Opportunities
20 U.S.C. Section 1119 No Child Left Behind Act
34 C.F.R. 200.55 Federal Regulations
Circular Letter C-6, Series 2004-2005, Determining “Highly Qualified” Teachers
Circular Letter C-9, Series 2004-2005 “No Child Left Behind” and Districts’ High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) Plans
Circular Letter C-7, Series 2007-2008, “Discontinued Use of Districts’ High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation and Five Areas of Exception
Circular Letter C-13, Series 2007-2008, “Continuation of HOUSSE Plans for Highly Qualifying Veteran Teachers
10-183v Reemployment of teachers, as amended by P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.

Adopted: March 23, 1981
Revised: June 14, 1999
Revised: April 27, 2009
July 9, 2009

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – April 11, 2011

Members Present: D.Palmer, J.Formeister, R.Lees, S. Bollinger (arrived at 7:49 p.m.), B.Devlin, J.Taylor (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), T.Potrikus
Members Absent: A.Kirkpatrick, M.Marquardt
Administrators Present: M.Suffredini, P.Collin, K.Pezza
Staff Present:
Citizens Present: M.Splain, D.Stone, G. Schober
Students Present: K.Morin
Others: M.Bard (*Patch.com*)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 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 – March 28, 2011

March 28, 2011 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (J.Formeister) to approve the March 28, 2011 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 5-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Citizens:

Mr. George Schober addressed the Board regarding the March 28, 2011 Board of Education minutes referencing Item 10.4 that stated Mr. Schober filed sixteen Freedom of Information requests, three formal complaints to the FOI Commission and one Intent to Sue against the Somers Public Schools.

Mr. Schober stated that the minutes inferred that he, Mr. George Schober, had filed these requests and complaints on his own behalf which resulted in costing the school district over \$40,000 when, in fact, as a practicing attorney he was acting on behalf of his clients. Mr. Schober stated that the minutes were inflammatory and incorrect and demanded a retraction from the Board of Education.

Mr. Schober submitted a complaint to the Chairman of the Board of Education regarding the contents of the March 28, 2011 Board of Education minutes which addressed the number of Freedom of Information requests and complaints and the cost to the school district to respond to these actions. He demanded a retraction on the record stating that: “Attorney George Schober did this on behalf of his clients and not Mr. George Schober.”

Staff:

4.1 Curriculum Presentations (Library/Media/Tech Ed/SES Reader’s Workshop)

Director of Curriculum, Kathleen Pezza, gave the following presentations and updates:

- Technology Education

Mrs. Pezza presented an overview of Technology Education in the middle and high schools. In the middle school, students in grade six start learning basic engineering and transportation by building bridges, mousetrap cars and balsa wood gliders. Seventh grade students begin to learn about basic drafting, mass production and simple machines. The students use Legos to build machines and learn about pneumatics. Students in grade eight continue their exploration of drafting by designing and building a simple woodworking project. All technology classes emphasize the application of both science and math.

The middle school has an after school technology club that is building a giant chess set for the Chess Club to use in the school courtyard in the spring.

At the high school level, the students are involved with building a hovercraft as a cross curricular activity within all the T.I.D.E. disciplines. The two-person hovercraft will be entered into a race with other high schools on the Connecticut River in Hartford on June 11th.

Two new classes, Graphic Design 3 and Digital Film and Photography, were offered at the high school this year. These classes introduced students to higher end applications. The CADD program is running at full capacity. The students are actively utilizing the new C.N.C. machines to take the theoretical world of CADD to the practical world of creating physical parts.

Mabelle B. Avery Middle School and Somers High School share a Technology Education teacher which helps the middle school students transition into the high school Tech Ed programs.

- Mrs. Pezza presented an overview of the K-12 Library and Media Curriculum. Students in grades K-2 visit the Media Center on a regular basis and select “just right” reading books that supplement the books available in their classroom. In grade three, students begin a formal Library Media program. They learn how to use the on-line catalog to search for books and locate them in the Media Center. Students in grades four and five are introduced to the Dewey Decimal system, learn how to use a table of contents, glossary and how to use print based reference material. The elementary Library Media Specialist also provides instruction in computer skills.

Students in the middle school learn a variety of Library Media skills, including basic citations, determining the reliability of websites, accessing on-line databases, finding primary source materials and using public access catalogs for both school and community libraries. Students work with programs like PowerPoint and podcasting software to create projects and share work. The Library Media Specialist assists students and teachers with the on-line aspects of the CBAS and the CMT administration.

The Library Media Specialist at the high school works extensively with the English, Social Studies and World Language departments to teach research and citation skills. Students learn about appropriate use and academic integrity through lessons on MLA, turnitin.com and easybib.com. Students learn how to do college level research. All library media skills are taught as integrated units with a content area teacher.

- Readers Workshop Update

Mrs. Pezza updated the Board on the latest Readers Workshop assessment results at the elementary school. The teachers are using MAZE as their assessment tool to test for

fluency and comprehension. Students are tested every two weeks. Intervention is provided for students who are at risk to help them reach grade level.

Students in grades three and four who were tested in March showed an average improvement of nine points since November. Grade five students showed an average improvement of 11.6 points for the same time period. Fifth grade students have, on average, increased two reading levels since the beginning of the school year.

Students in first and second grade have not only improved in reading, but have also shown improvements in writing, spelling and phonics.

Students will be assessed at the end of the year using CBAS and the results will be compared with the MAZE assessment results. Mrs. Pezza will provide the Board with a Readers Workshop year-end report.

Mrs. Pezza reported that first graders can now read for one half hour on their own and can write independently for forty-five minutes.

Several parent workshops have been held throughout the year to teach parents how they can help their child with reading.

The 2011 Summer Reading list for grades K-5 will indicate the reading level for each book.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Palmer reported receipt of an email from First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, regarding the upcoming lacrosse tournament.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 4/11/11 – (\$288,024.20)

It was MOVED (J.Taylor) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to approve the 4/11/11 Bills in the amount of \$288,024.20 as presented. PASSED 6-0

7.2 Resignation (T.Miller)

It was MOVED (J.Taylor) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to accept the resignation submitted by Thoma Miller effective at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. PASSED 6-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 First Warning of DBS Code: 4111/4211 – Recruitment and Selection

The Policy Committee reviewed this policy and incorporated language changes as recommended by C.A.B.E. Second Warning/Adoption of this policy will be on the April 25th BOE Meeting agenda. Questions should be directed to A.Kirkpatrick or Dr. Suffredini.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS - None

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1 Dr. Suffredini reported that he has met with the Administrative Council to review this year's budget and plan for the end of the year wrap-up. The Administrative Council also reviewed the 2011-2012 budget and looked at areas where cuts could be made if it becomes necessary to take this action.

Dr. Suffredini reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the town regarding the Board's request for reimbursement for snow removal costs.

Dr. Suffredini reported that "Frequently Asked Questions" would be added to the district's web page in the near future.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1 Budget

Dr. Suffredini stated that if CIP is not able to fund technology in the amount that the Board requested, cuts will be made from the 2011-2012 budget to provide funding for technology. Dr. Suffredini stated that he is committed to keeping technology current and up-to-date in the district and, if necessary, the funding will come directly from the Board of Education's budget.

The Board of Education has been directed by the Board of Finance to cut the Board's proposed 2011-2012 budget by \$75,000.

The Board once again discussed other revenue sources and will continue to review feasible options.

Dr. Suffredini reported that he has met with Todd Roland to work out how the sports playing fields will be maintained for both school and community use and what the cost factor is to take care of the playing fields. Dr. Suffredini suggested that the BOE appoint someone to attend Recreation Commission meetings to represent the Board of Education.

11.2 Curriculum – No report

12.3 Policy – The Policy Committee will meet on April 28th at 6:00 p.m.

12.4 Salary & Negotiations

An opening negotiations meeting has been scheduled for April 25th with the custodial union.

12.5 Planning Committee

12.6 Other Committees

12.6.1 Technology Ad Hoc Committee

Dr. Suffredini will contact the Director of Technology, Jim Morrow, regarding the status of the staff technology committee.

13.0 OTHER

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:05 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.