

**Special meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 20, 2011 8:30 AM**  
MBA Board Room, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Executive Session – Discussion with Attorney McKeon on litigation re: recent counterclaim against the Board of Education, et al.
2. Mary Broderick Video
3. Long-Range Planning
4. BOE Bylaws
5. Review District Website
6. Debrief End-of-Year Ceremonies Somers Public Schools
7. Wrap Up

## **SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

One Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

[www.somers.k12.ct.us](http://www.somers.k12.ct.us)

### **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING – July 20, 2011**

**Members Present:** A.Kirkpatrick, S. Bollinger (arrived at 8:50), B.Devlin (departed 10:05), D. Palmer, J.Formeister, T. Potrikus  
**Members Absent:** M. Marquardt, R. Lees, J. Taylor  
**Administrators Present:** M.Suffredini, B. Boutwell (Executive Session)  
**Staff Present:**  
**Citizens Present:**  
**Students Present:**  
**Others:** Atty. Michael McKeon (Executive Session)

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School BOE Board Room.

#### **2.0 DEBRIEF END-OF-YEAR CEREMONIES**

The board discussed the end-of-year ceremonies. The Policy Committee will review ADA policies and consider adding a statement to accommodate those covered under ADA. End-of-year seating arrangements will be available for board members, distinguished guests as listed in the graduation program, and at the discretion of the high school administration.

#### **3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion with Attorney McKeon on litigation re: recent counterclaim against the Board of Education, et al.**

It was MOVED (T. Potrikus) SECONDED (B. Devlin) to go into executive session at 9:00 a.m. to discuss litigation re recent counterclaim against Board of Education et al. PASSED 6-0. B.Boutwell and Attorney Michael McKeon were invited into executive session.

Open session resumed at 10:05 a.m. B. Devlin departed to accommodate his prior scheduled commitments.

#### **4.0 LONG-RANGE PLANNING**

The board reviewed the district's Long-Range Plan. The Planning Committee will begin meetings in late August to update the LRP through 2017 with an objective of having an updated LRP completed by November. The LRP shall define educational objectives outside of budget constraints. S. Bollinger will contact the First Selectman's office regarding a town wide building efficiency study and will report to the Planning Committee for its August meeting.

A discussion ensued that caused the board to consider how to deliver services considering the potential loss of state funding. The superintendent asked that the board identify priorities for instruction so that he and the leadership team have clear direction for planning purposes.

The board requested that the superintendent arrange a workshop in August for the board and the Administrative Council to informally discuss the delivery of curriculum in the next few years.

The board will evaluate and entertain alternative funding sources for educational programs and projects.

#### **5.0 BOE BYLAWS**

The board discussed BOE Bylaws for Standing Committees (Board Reg. 9132) which was last updated in 2005. The Policy Committee will review Bylaws and present recommendations through the board meeting schedule. Each subcommittee will review their respective Bylaws and regulations to verify they are in compliance.

#### **6.0 REVIEW DISTRICT WEBSITE**

The board discussed the district website. Recommendations are: separate out Board of Education from Central Office; spell out Board of Education instead of BOE; on each school page have the handbook as a link; add content to preschool page; establish Q&A/FAQ for the Board of Education page (Q&A will be added under Other at board meetings).

#### **7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED (D. Palmer) SECONDED (J.Formeister) to adjourn the special meeting of the Somers Board of Education at 12:30 p.m. PASSED 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

David Palmer, Chairman

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