

BOE Meeting Template
Monday, January 9, 2012 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 3
4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
 - 1. Curriculum Presentations - Math & World Language 7
Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum will do PowerPoint presentations on the Math and World Language curricula. She will be available to answer any questions board members may have.
5. CORRESPONDENCE
 - 1. Devlin thank you note. 25
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 1. Approval of Bills 26
 - 2. Retirement Notifications - A. Holmes, C. Loughlin, M. Winseck 33
Retirement notifications have been received from Al Holmes (MBA Tech Ed teacher) who has been employed by the district since 1978, Claire Loughlin (SES Kindergarten teacher) who has been employed by the district since 1992, and Maureen Winseck (SES School Psychologist) who has been employed by the district since 1988.
 - 3. Resignation - C. Juncadella 36
Claire Juncadella, SHS Spanish Teacher (.4 Position) has submitted her resignation effective 12/29/11. The position has been advertised.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. District Pension Plan
Mr. Brendon Hutchins, Sr. Vice President of St. Germain Investment Management, and Mr. Roy Caso, Investment Advisor Mass Mutual, will give an update on the District's pension plan.
 - 2. Approval of 2012-2013 School Calendar 37
The 2012-2013 school calendar has been discussed with the Administrative Council and shared with the SEA President.
 - 3. First Warning of DBS Code: 4117.4 - Non-Renewal 39
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.
 - 4. First Warning of DBS Code: 5111 - Admission/Placement 41
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.
 - 5. First Warning of DBS Code 5112.3 - Dropouts 43
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.
 - 6. First Warning of DBS Code: 5113.2 - Attendance 45
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.
 - 7. First Warning of DBS Code 6141.5 - Advanced College Placement/Courses 47
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is

presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.

8. First Warning of DBS Code: 6146 - Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency 48

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the 1/23/12 agenda.

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Burden of Proof Discussion 50

Ms. Brandy Bunnell, Director of Pupil Services, will explain current developments in CT special education law that may require future Board action.

2. 2012-2013 Budget Presentation

The 2012-2013 Budget will be presented for discussion.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget
2. Curriculum
3. Policy
4. Salary & Negotiations
5. Planning
6. Other Committees

12. OTHER

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Evaluation

14. ADJOURNMENT

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – December 12, 2011

Members Present: D.Palmer, R.Lees (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), M.Cicciarella, A.Kirkpatrick, S.Bollinger, M.Maniscalco

Members Absent: J.Formeister, B.Devlin

Administrators Present: M.Suffredini, B.Bunnell, K.Pezza, B.Boutwell

Staff Present:

Citizens Present: B.Pellissier

Students Present: S.McCollum

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School BOE meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 28, 2011 – It was MOVED (M.Maniscalco) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve the November 28, 2011 Board of Education meeting minutes. PASSED 5-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Chairman Palmer welcomed Somers High School student S.McCollum to the meeting, noting the holiday season and the light agenda.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Palmer received correspondence from Bill Kirkpatrick, chairman of the Town Pension Committee regarding serving on the advisory committee for the SESA pension. Somers Town Attorney will review this placement and the Pension Committee will discuss further at their next regular meeting, taking place at the end of January.
- Dr. Suffredini received correspondence from the Lacrosse Association regarding field maintenance. Dialogue has been taking place relative to grooming and maintenance to the athletic fields at Somers Education Complex. Members of the Lacrosse Association plan to meet with the Board of Selectman at some point in the future regarding this matter.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

It was MOVED (M.Cicciarella) SECONDED (A.Kirkpatrick) to add item 6.1, Appointment of the New Board of Education member to fill current vacancy, to the agenda. PASSED 6-0

6.1 Appointment of the New BOE Member to fill vacancy

A special meeting took place before the BOE meeting on December 12, 2011 to discuss the new appointment of BOE member to fill the current vacancy. Mr. Brad Pellissier, an active Somers resident and parent, attended the special meeting regarding filling the vacant BOE seat.

It was MOVED (A.Kirkpatrick) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve the appointment of Brad Pellissier to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Education as presented. PASSED 6-0

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 12/12/2011 (\$327,732.11)

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve the 12/12/11 Bills in the amount of \$327,732.11 as presented. PASSED 6-0

7.2 Retirement Notification (D. Shaw)

Debra Shaw, Somers Elementary Preschool teacher, submitted her intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. The district has employed D.Shaw since March of 1981. M.Cicciarella noted how big of a loss this was to Somers as children learned so much having her as their preschool teacher. The BOE also noted this loss and wished D.Shaw luck in future endeavors.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to regrettfully accept Somers Elementary School Preschool teacher D.Shaw's intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. PASSED 6-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Approval of Electives/Curriculum Changes

Director of Curriculum, K.Pezza, presented to the Board a follow-up presentation on the electives/curriculum changes. Changes for regular levels for World Language were presented and include grades for continuation and prerequisites.

K.Pezza also introduced to the Board a work education seminar option with a prerequisite being a recommendation of a teacher. The course is designed to provide Special Education students with an understanding of the world of employment and assist them in their transition from High School to post-school employment, education, community participation and independent living. This course is a full year work education seminar.

The last elective/curriculum change presented to the Board was the UConn Early College Experience Program. This dual enrollment program runs in conjunction with the Advanced Placement (AP) program. The ECE program allows motivated Somers High School students to take UConn courses for both high school and college credit. Students benefit by taking college courses in a warm setting that is both familiar and conducive to learning. Students will be taking introductory level college courses and receive credit after successfully taking the ECE exam. Students must receive a grade of C or above in any UConn ECE course to receive course credit, and currently Somers is applying for U.S. History, English, and Calculus courses with an additional intent to apply for Biology and Chemistry in the future.

It was MOVED (A.Kirkpatrick) SECONDED (M.Cicciarella) to approve the electives/curriculum changes as presented. PASSED 6-0

8.2 2012-2013 Proposed Budget Draft

The Superintendent and Director of Business, B.Boutwell, gave an overview of the 2012 – 2013 proposed budget draft to the Board. Dr. Suffredini explained that the 2012-2013 Budget is still in the preliminary stages. The budget draft reflects a 3.35% increase over last year's budget. A notable concern was the scheduled 2015 electronic SDE testing and the format of this testing reflective to budget for technology.

Dr. Suffredini stated that he is working to maintain all services and programs for students

and is working closely with town boards and will share information as it becomes available. Dr. Suffredini recommended that the Board review the 2012-2013 preliminary Budget for future discussions.

- 8.3 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 3524.2 – Green Cleaning Program**
The Policy Committee presented this new policy, which has been recommended by CABE. This policy was revised following the November 28, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

It was MOVED (M.Maniscalco) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve and adopt DBS Code 3524.2 – Green Cleaning Program as presented. PASSED 6-0

- 8.4 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code: 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process**
This policy was revised and adopted in July 2010 as recommended by CABE. The legislature added two changes to the current policy. The Policy Committee reviewed the changes as recommended by CABE and presented it to the Board.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve and adopt DBS Code 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process as presented. PASSED 6-0

- 8.5 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 5131.911 & Admin. Reg. – Bullying**
The Policy Committee has reviewed the changes recommended by CABE and presented both the policy and the administrative regulations to the Board.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve and adopt DBS Code 5131.911 & Admin. Reg. – Bullying as presented. PASSED 6-0

- 8.6 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 5131.913 – Cyberbullying**
The Policy Committee presented this new policy, which has been recommended by CABE.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve and adopt DBS Code 5131.913 – Cyberbullying as presented. PASSED 6-0

Any questions regarding the above policies should be directed to the BOE Policy Committee.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

As discussed at the last Board of Education meeting, the Board has agreed to send one member to the NSBA (National School Board Association) convention, taking place April 21- April 23, 2012 in Boston, MA. It was agreed that BOE member A.Kirkpatrick would attend the convention.

11.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Suffredini noted that Salary/Negotiations had a meeting last week regarding SESA. SESA had an opening session to associate ground rules, however, no dates have been set for the next meetings, taking place in late January or early February. The Superintendent noted that once the Salary/Negotiations Chairman B.Devlin returns from a scheduled surgery, communication with SESA would take place to schedule the next meeting.

12.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

12.1 Budget – See 8.2. Regarding preliminary budget draft

12.2 Curriculum – No Update

12.3 Policy – Five policies have been reviewed and will be on the January 9, 2012 Board of Education meeting agenda.

12.4 Salary & Negotiations – See 11.1

12.5 Planning Committee – No Update

12.6 Other Committees
Technology Ad Hoc Committee – No Report

13.0 OTHER

Chairman Palmer addressed the Board regarding Committee Assignment designation as members received the new committee assignments. Chairman Palmer asked the BOE to review these assignments and if any issues arise to notify him, as it will be sorted out before the next BOE meeting taking place 1/09/12.

Executive Session will also be added to 1/09/12 BOE meeting agenda to do the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (M.Maniscalco) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:29 p.m. PASSED 6-0

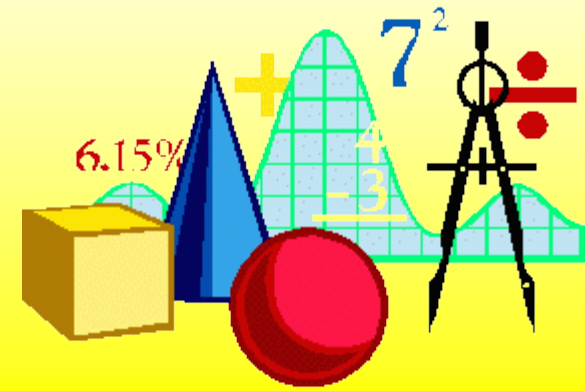
Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Leah Cook, Recording Secretary

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

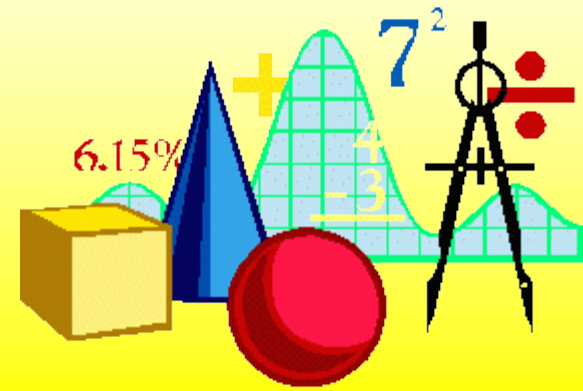
Mathematics

$\sqrt{-1}$ ♥
MATH



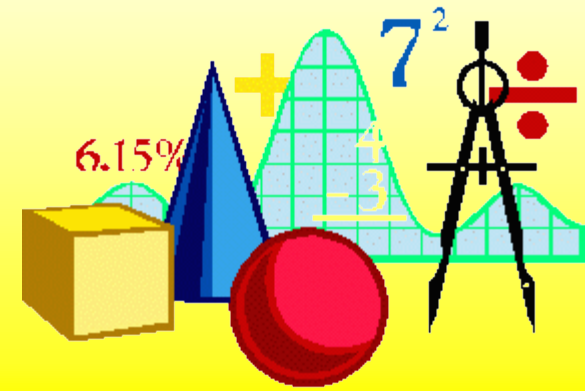
Program Overview

- District math teachers are currently rewriting the K-12 curriculum to ensure that it matches the new Common Core State Standards in Mathematics.
- This year, IXL is being piloted in grades K-5 to determine if it is a viable alternative to pencil and paper homework.



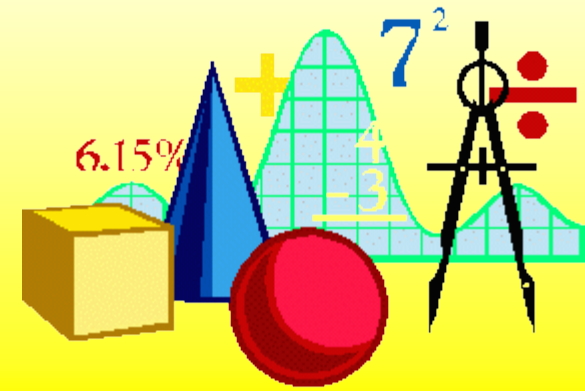
Mathematics at SES

- This year is the third year of using the Addison-Wesley Scott Foresman (AWSF) series in grades K-2 and the fourth year for grades 3-5.
- Teachers at SES are using the Math Computation and Math Application tests in AIMSweb as benchmarks and progress monitoring tools for the first time this year.



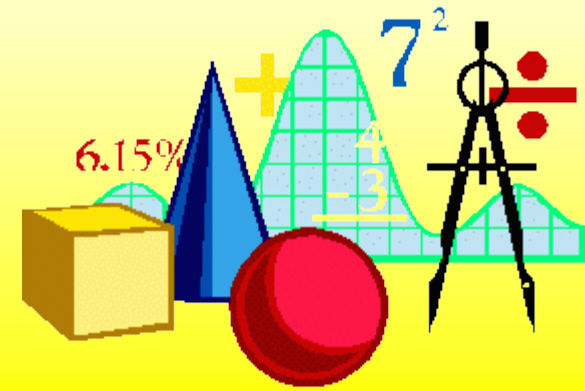
Mathematics at SES

- IXL usage information as of January 3, 2012:
 - 2,486 hours of practice completed
 - 327,807 problems attempted
 - 666 skills practiced
 - 5,731 medals earned (medals are earned by demonstrating mastery of a skill)
 - 92% of students using



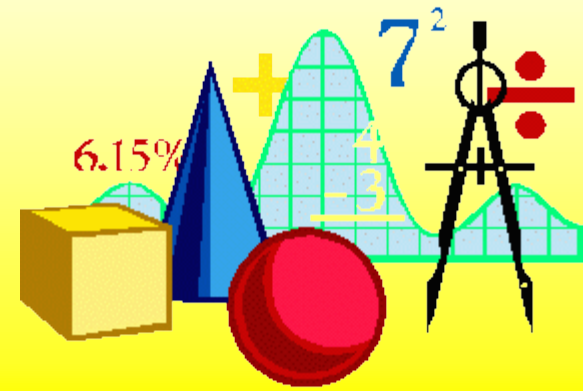
Mathematics at MBA

- At the sixth grade level, all students take a course in general math.
- In seventh grade, some students study Pre-Algebra, while others continue with the more generalized math course.
- When students reach 8th grade, they either take Pre-Algebra or a high school level Algebra 1 class.



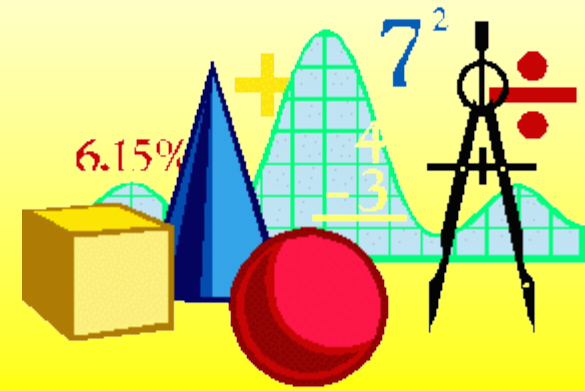
Mathematics at MBA

- Math teachers at MBA have been investigating the Singapore Math program to determine if it will enhance the problem solving skills of students in grade 6-8.
- Interactive whiteboard technology has been installed in one of the Math classrooms at MBA to increase the use of technology in mathematics instruction.



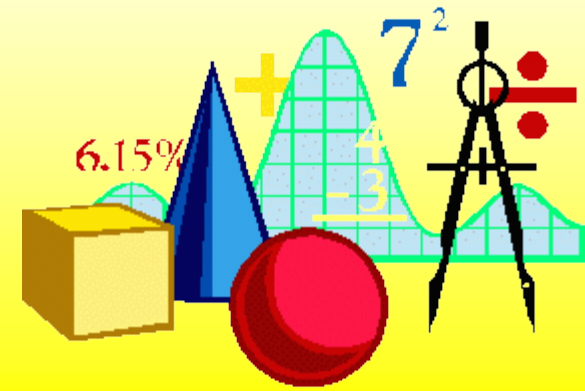
Mathematics at MBA

- Students at MBA have the opportunity to participate in afterschool activities related to Math.
 - Math Olympiad
 - Chess Club
- Other activities, like the SAVE Club require students to apply their math skills in their community service efforts



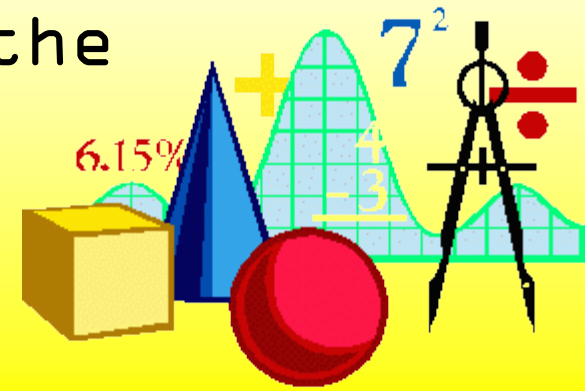
Mathematics at SHS

- Students at the SHS have the opportunity to study Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Probability and Statistics and Consumer Math.
- Courses are offered at both the college preparatory and honors level.
- Currently, there are also two AP math classes: AB Calculus and Probability and Statistics



Mathematics at SHS

- In addition to the academic course of study, SHS also has clubs for math oriented students
 - FBLA
 - JETS
 - Math Team
- Technology integration at SHS has increased in the last two years with the introduction of the Elmo.





World Language



World Language Overview



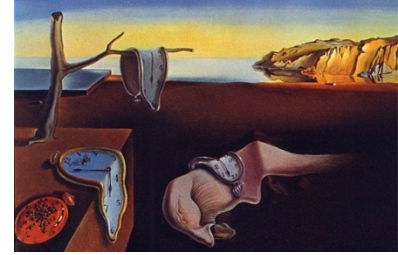
- Students in all three schools have the opportunity to learn about world languages and cultures.
- As a result of their k-12 experience, students are exposed to introductory instruction in both French and Spanish.
- The current World Language curriculum was completed in 2009; and now, the teachers are determining the priority standards as well as writing the corresponding units.

World Language at SES



- Students start their study of Spanish in grades 1 and 2 with 30 minutes of instruction every six days.
- In grades 3-5, students receive 60 minutes of Spanish instruction every six days.
- At the elementary level, students learn basic greetings and vocabulary related to colors, numbers, family, pets, clothing, weather and age appropriate Spanish and Hispanic culture.

World Language at SES



- In grade 2, students participate in the “Journey North” project through Annenburg media, in which they make and send paper Butterflies to Mexico. In the spring, they receive back butterflies from other parts of the country and the World.
- In Grade 3, students use the internet to collect climate and weather data in South America and compare it to climate and weather data in Somers.
- In Grades 4 and 5 students write letters to pen pals in Spain.

World Language at MBA



- In 6th Grade, students are introduced to French for the first time.
- They learn basic French vocabulary with an emphasis on speaking and listening skills.
- Interdisciplinary connections with Social Studies are common as students study the geography of the French speaking world.

World Language at MBA



- Students in 7th grade take one semester of French and one semester of Spanish.
- At this grade level, students build off of the basic vocabulary they've acquired in either elementary school or sixth grade and prepare for high school level language instruction.
- Teachers use technology including SMART Boards and internet sites like Google Earth and Quia.

World Language at MBA



- In 8th grade students select the language that they would like to study at a high school level.
- Strong language students complete a full year, high school level course and are eligible to take Spanish or French 2 as freshmen.
- Students who need to move slower take French or Spanish 1A, which is equivalent to half a year of high school level study. As freshman, they complete that first year of study in French or Spanish 1B and then move onto French or Spanish 2B as sophomores.

World Language SHS



- The French and Spanish programs at the high school have five levels of study.
- As they progress through the high school World Language program, they move from acquiring a basic understanding of the language to a study of literature and the development of speaking proficiency.
- Student who complete French 5 or Spanish 5 have the option of taking the AP French or AP Spanish exam, even though French 5 and Spanish 5 are not explicitly AP courses.

World Language SHS



- World Language teachers at the High school use tools like Skype to provide students with an opportunity to talk to teenagers in French and Spanish speaking countries.
- On-line work submission through Voice Thread is used in conjunction with Google Earth, programmer.com and 360 cities.net to supplement what students are learning in each class.
- For the last few years, students in French 4 and 5 have had the opportunity to travel to Quebec and use their French skills in a French speaking environment.

Dear Maynard & Fellow BCL
members:

Thank you very much
for sending me the
beautiful postcard of Jenny.
and I loved it. I look
forward to seeing you
soon.

Best regards

Edna

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 15380

Check Batch: 5571
 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
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Approved by: _____ Date: _____

William B. Boutwell

William B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services

5571	3871	01/09/2012	V52670	Amazon	0.00	485.00
	3872	01/09/2012	V60041	Anthem BCBS	0.00	197,045.52
	3873	01/09/2012	V60040	Anthem Life Insurance Company	0.00	2,156.17
	3874	01/09/2012	V00555	AT&T	0.00	1,045.98
	3875	01/09/2012	V51604	Awards & More	0.00	66.50
	3876	01/09/2012	E00450	Bergamini, Lisa	0.00	33.30
	3877	01/09/2012	V54306	Blue Raven Technology, Inc.	0.00	242.20
	3878	01/09/2012	V60362	Booksource Inc., The	0.00	533.22
	3879	01/09/2012	E00025	Boutwell, Bill	0.00	55.50
	3880	01/09/2012	E00035	Bryzgel, Penny	0.00	17.76
	3881	01/09/2012	V00121	CABE	0.00	85.00
	3882	01/09/2012	V60533	Cable Matters Inc	0.00	150.55
	3883	01/09/2012	V60085	Camphill Special School, Inc.	0.00	9,895.86
	3884	01/09/2012	V51942	CBS	0.00	5,954.31
	3885	01/09/2012	V53390	CIRMA	0.00	37,414.00
	3886	01/09/2012	V00159	Connecticut Light & Power	0.00	13,726.97
	3887	01/09/2012	V53169	Competitive Edge Ski & Bike	0.00	773.00
	3888	01/09/2012	V02198	The Connecticut Water Company	0.00	4,074.29
	3889	01/09/2012	V00185	Conyers Hardware	0.00	193.38
	3890	01/09/2012	V60205	CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc.	0.00	30.00

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 15380

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	3891	01/09/2012	V00204	CREC	0.00	12,128.58
	3893	01/09/2012	V60550	Devereux Glenholme	0.00	8,732.50
	3894	01/09/2012	E00091	Dewey, Linda	0.00	163.19
	3895	01/09/2012	V60089	Dime Oil Company	0.00	210.65
	3896	01/09/2012	V00243	Discount Magazine Subscription Service,	0.00	141.78
	3897	01/09/2012	E00096	Duffy, Margaret	0.00	36.63
	3898	01/09/2012	V53276	Education Connection	0.00	200.00
	3899	01/09/2012	V60604	Fahey & Landolina, Attorneys LLC	0.00	593.75
	3900	01/09/2012	V54168	First Student, Inc	0.00	3,646.50
	3901	01/09/2012	V02186	Flinn Scientific, Inc.	0.00	60.62
	3902	01/09/2012	V00314	Follett Library Resources	0.00	521.99
	3903	01/09/2012	V60622	Game Informer Magazine	0.00	19.98
	3904	01/09/2012	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	144.30
	3905	01/09/2012	V51232	Hartford Hospital	0.00	4,400.00
	3906	01/09/2012	V53228	Herff Jones Inc.	0.00	869.39
	3907	01/09/2012	V60090	High Grade Gas Service, Inc	0.00	1,552.19
	3908	01/09/2012	V21177	Home Depot CRC	0.00	604.09
	3909	01/09/2012	V54063	HSABank	0.00	2.50
	3910	01/09/2012	V51979	Integrated Systems Services, LLC	0.00	390.27
	3911	01/09/2012	V52848	Intensive Education Academy, Inc.	0.00	7,055.40
	3912	01/09/2012	V00999	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	0.00	75.98
	3913	01/09/2012	E00158	Johnson, Eunice	0.00	55.50
	3914	01/09/2012	V00438	Journal Publishing Co.	0.00	326.36
	3915	01/09/2012	V02625	K & S Distributors	0.00	788.90
	3916	01/09/2012	V00665	Kelly-Fradet Lumber	0.00	285.10
	3917	01/09/2012	V53944	Kirkpatrick, Anne	0.00	895.00
	3918	01/09/2012	V00451	Kittredge Equipment Company, Inc.	0.00	485.00
	3919	01/09/2012	E00187	Legg, Karen	0.00	75.00
	3920	01/09/2012	V02898	MagnaKleen Services	0.00	325.50
	3921	01/09/2012	E00234	Morrow, Jim	0.00	150.84
	3922	01/09/2012	V21005	MSC Industrial Supply Co.	0.00	251.84
	3923	01/09/2012	V60515	Musician's Friend, Inc	0.00	299.97
	3924	01/09/2012	V54115	Naviance, Inc	0.00	2,118.33
	3925	01/09/2012	E00239	Niziolek, Mike	0.00	21.73
	3926	01/09/2012	V60619	Paperdirect	0.00	84.44
	3927	01/09/2012	V60186	PC Mall Gov	0.00	214.75
	3928	01/09/2012	V00206	NCS Pearson, Inc.	0.00	1,035.51

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 15380

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	3929	01/09/2012	V60568	Pediatric Services of America Inc	0.00	1,968.75
	3930	01/09/2012	V52133	Porter's Camera Store	0.00	88.99
	3931	01/09/2012	E00267	Porter, Marjorie	0.00	61.36
	3932	01/09/2012	V53356	ProCom Telecommunications Corp	0.00	4,039.00
	3933	01/09/2012	V53811	RJ Mase, LLC	0.00	64.00
	3934	01/09/2012	E00288	Roberts, Steven	0.00	24.98
	3935	01/09/2012	V00615	Scholastic Book Clubs	0.00	1,084.03
	3936	01/09/2012	V60259	School Nurse Supply Inc.	0.00	140.00
	3937	01/09/2012	V01292	School Specialty, Inc.	0.00	388.06
	3938	01/09/2012	V51324	Sherwin-Williams Co., The	0.00	556.61
	3939	01/09/2012	V02404	Somers Ace Hardware	0.00	390.58
	3940	01/09/2012	V00886	Somers Lunch Program	0.00	118.20
	3941	01/09/2012	V60436	Somers Music Patrons	0.00	150.00
	3942	01/09/2012	V60616	Somers Public Schools	0.00	390.00
	3943	01/09/2012	V00548	Somers Sanitation Service, Inc.	0.00	1,189.70
	3944	01/09/2012	V01591	Town of Somers	0.00	10,292.91
	3945	01/09/2012	V60618	Sport Supply Group, Inc	0.00	51.43
	3946	01/09/2012	E00322	Suffredini, Dr. Maynard	0.00	74.37
	3947	01/09/2012	V00547	Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC	0.00	5,438.00
	3948	01/09/2012	V60394	SWAN Associates Inc	0.00	1,389.00
	3949	01/09/2012	M02015	T. J. Conway Company	0.00	3,205.90
	3950	01/09/2012	V53945	Transcanda Power Marketing LTD	0.00	16,510.29
	3951	01/09/2012	V54356	Tyler Technologies, Inc.	0.00	252.99
	3952	01/09/2012	V53987	U.S. Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc	0.00	1,662.67
	3953	01/09/2012	V00766	Valley Communications Systems, Inc.	0.00	965.00
	3954	01/09/2012	V54059	Verizon Wireless	0.00	482.82
	3955	01/09/2012	V53413	W. B. Mason	0.00	40.95
	3956	01/09/2012	V51145	Whip's Sporting Goods, Inc.	0.00	22.00
	3957	01/09/2012	V02738	William V. MacGill & Co.	0.00	78.45
	3958	01/09/2012	E00351	Winseck, Maureen	0.00	44.46
Totals:					0.00	\$374,108.07

87 Checks Listed.

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 15379
Batch: 5562
Transaction: N/A
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
5562	\$374,108.07	Posted	Ibergamini	01/03/2012	Ibergamini	01/05/2012

General Ledger Distribution Summary						
Period, Fiscal Year	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits	
Account Number						
January, 2012						
Generated Distributions						
10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			365,783.20	0.00	
10-000-0-0-00-000-720-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	365,783.20	
	Total Generated Distributions			\$365,783.20	\$365,783.20	
User-Entered Distributions						
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			9.36	0.00	
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	374,117.43	
10-100-2-2-16-242-611-01-5-00722	K-5 - LANGUAGE ARTS SUPPLIES			147.28	0.00	
10-100-2-2-26-220-641-01-5-00105	K-5 - LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOK			843.22	0.00	
10-100-2-3-12-242-611-01-5-00182	MA - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			237.54	0.00	
10-100-2-3-20-242-611-01-5-00172	MA - MUSIC SUPPLIES			75.98	0.00	
10-100-2-3-28-242-611-01-5-00204	MA - SCIENCE SUPPLIES			61.36	0.00	
10-100-2-3-28-242-611-01-5-01150	SW - SCIENCE SUPPLIES			181.75	0.00	
10-100-2-4-02-242-611-01-5-00165	HS - ART SUPPLIES			354.15	0.00	
10-100-2-4-02-242-611-01-5-00165	HS - ART SUPPLIES			0.00	9.36	
10-100-2-4-08-243-611-01-5-01581	HS - WORLD LANGUAGE			86.64	0.00	
10-100-2-4-12-242-611-01-5-00183	HS - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			336.99	0.00	
10-100-2-4-14-241-611-01-5-00159	HS - GENERAL SUPPLIES			94.70	0.00	
10-100-2-4-28-242-611-01-5-00206	HS - SCIENCE SUPPLIES			60.62	0.00	
10-100-2-4-40-220-641-01-5-01068	HS - REPLACEMENT TEXTS			11.71	0.00	
10-100-2-4-46-242-611-01-5-00229	HS - SCHOOL TO CAREER SUPPLIES			84.44	0.00	
10-100-2-4-99-242-611-01-5-00809	HS - RENAISSANCE PROGRAM			28.00	0.00	
10-100-2-5-14-241-611-01-5-00873	SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES			150.55	0.00	
10-100-2-5-18-242-611-03-5-00852	SW - MATH SUPPLIES			400.00	0.00	
10-100-2-5-81-242-611-01-5-00860	SW - INTERVENTION SUPPLIES			45.00	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-241-611-01-5-00160	SP ED - GENERAL SUPPLIES			119.40	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-243-611-01-5-01002	SP ED - TESTING			1,035.51	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01142	SPED - CONSULTANT FEES		Yes	1,245.88	0.00	
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01674	SP ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES			1,968.75	0.00	
10-210-2-9-32-242-611-02-5-00225	SW - SOCIAL WORK SUPPLIES			163.19	0.00	
10-212-2-4-46-242-611-02-5-00286	HS - GUIDANCE NAVIANCE			2,118.33	0.00	

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 15379

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On	
5562	\$374,108.07	Posted	lbergamini	01/03/2012	lbergamini	01/05/2012	
					Total User-Entered Distributions	<u>\$374,126.79</u>	<u>\$374,126.79</u>
					Total for January, 2012	<u>\$739,909.99</u>	<u>\$739,909.99</u>
					Grand Total for Batch # 5562	<u>\$739,909.99</u>	<u>\$739,909.99</u>

394 Transactions Listed.

12/16/11

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

This letter is to inform you of my intent to retire at the end of the second trimester in March of 2012. After reviewing the contract I realized I needed to let you know before December 31st

I feel that 34 years of service at the middle school will be the perfect time to go. I enjoy working with the students, staff, administration, and parents, and want to leave the Technology Department on a "high note". I was lucky enough to be the first teacher in good old Room 134! I was fresh out of college and was given the task to plan the new facility and curriculum. Years later I was on the team which planned the transition from a junior high concept to the present middle school format. I was Team Leader for years and always worked to keep a strong arts program in each student's day. In the late 1990's I was (finally) given a classroom in what now is the nurse's office. This allowed me to move away from the former Industrial Arts methods and move into the Technology program we now have. In the early 2000's, after years of planning, I was allowed to redesign the space and connect the present classroom to the adjoining lab. I was selected by my colleagues to be Somers Teacher of the Year, and continue to be actively involved with team activities, school goals, and moving our school forward in many positive ways. My after school "Techie" club continues to be one of the most popular activities, and my rapport with the students is bar none.

The years have been filled with many positive interactions with people. Some of the most "fun" times have been meeting former students who are now parents of our present kids. The "full cycle" conversations I have had with many of them make me reflect on the past quite often. It has been a great 34 years!

With all these good things still happening I wonder if I am making the right decision, but deep down I know it is time for me to move on.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

c/c: Susan Muirhead
Rob Kapner

Dr. Maynard Suffredini
Superintendent
Somers Public Schools
Vision Blvd.
Somers, CT 06071

December 18, 2011

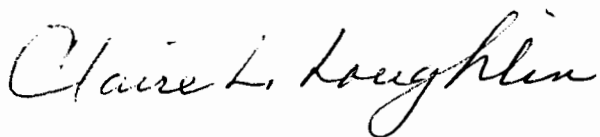
Dear Dr. Suffredini,

This letter is to inform you that I am planning to retire from my position at Somers Elementary in June 2012.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Somers Board of Education for twenty wonderful years. Few people can say that they truly loved what they did for a living, but I leave this position with both angst and happiness. Leaving my dear friends and a school that I love will be very hard for me. My students have given me so much more than I have ever given them. I feel so lucky to have worked for the finest administrators throughout my career. Ralph and Jennifer are at the top of this list. They are the truly deserving of my respect and praise.

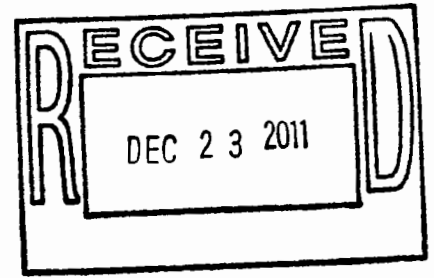
Thank you again for all your support over the years. I will truly miss my friends in Somers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire L. Loughlin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of a horizontal line.

Claire L Loughlin

December 23, 2011



Dr. Suffredini,

Please accept this letter as my formal notice of retirement at the end of this school year 2011-2012. It has been an honor and privilege to work with the children, families and staff of Somers Public Schools for 24 years. The decision to leave my current position is truly bittersweet as the Somers community is another family for me.

Thank you for all your guidance and wisdom over these last few years as we have worked together. I have truly appreciated the confidence and trust you have bestowed on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen O'Reilly Winseck, Ed.D.".

Maureen O'Reilly Winseck, Ed.D
School Psychologist
Somers Elementary School

Dr. Suffredini, Superintendent
Somers School District

December 14, 2011

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

I regret to inform you that I must resign from my position as Part-Time Spanish Teacher at Somers High School. I am submitting my two weeks notice today, December 14. My final day of availability will be December 29th, 2011.

I have had a great experience working in Somers, and will miss the supportive colleagues and great sense of community. I have been offered a full time position with benefits in another Connecticut district, and must leave Somers in order to begin the new position in January. If a full time Spanish position were to open in Somers in the future, I would be honored to return to the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clara Juncadella". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Clara Juncadella

2012-2013 SOMERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JULY '12							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

4 Independence Day

JANUARY '13 (21)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

1 Holiday Recess
21 M.L. King Jr. Day

AUGUST '12 (2)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

27 Staff Orientation Day
28 Teacher Work Day
29 Teacher Work Day
30 **SCHOOLS OPEN**

FEBRUARY '13 (15)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28			

18 President's Day
19-22 February Recess

SEPTEMBER '12 (19)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

3 Labor Day

MARCH '13 (19)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

20 K-5 Early Release
21 K-5 Early Release
22 K-5 Early Release
28 Teacher Work Day
29 Good Friday

OCTOBER '12 (21)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

4 9-12 Early Release
8 Columbus Day
9 Teacher Work Day

APRIL '13 (17)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

15-19 April Recess

NOVEMBER '12 (19)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

7 6-8 Early Release
8 6-8 Early Release
12 Veterans Day
14 K-5 Early Release
15 K-5 Early Release
16 K-5 Early Release
21 Early Release
22-23 Thanksgiving Recess

MAY '13 (22)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

27 Memorial Day

DECEMBER '12 (14)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

7 Teacher Work Day
24-31 Holiday Recess

JUNE '13 (11)							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

17 **SCHOOLS CLOSING—
Early Release**
18 Teacher Work Day

2012-2013 SOMERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PERSONNEL - CERTIFICATED:

Non-Renewal

Prior to obtaining tenure, a certified employee's contract may be non-renewed provided that the employee is notified in writing prior to ~~April 1st~~ May 1st by the Superintendent. A teacher so notified may request a written statement of the reasons for non-renewal of the contract, and the district will furnish such a statement within seven (7) days of the receipt of the request. The teacher may also file with the Board of Education within twenty (20) days of receipt of the notice of non-renewal for a hearing before the Board or, if indicated in such request designated by the Board, before an impartial hearing panel or, if the parties agree, before a single impartial hearing officer. The hearing shall commence within fifteen days after receipt of such request unless an extension, not to exceed fifteen days, is mutually agreed upon.

A teacher who has not attained tenure shall not be entitled to a hearing concerning non-renewal if the reason for such non-renewal is either elimination of position or loss of position to another teacher. The Board shall rescind a non-renewal decision only if the Board finds such decision to be arbitrary and capricious.

Suspension

Suspension/Dismissal:

A certificated employee may be suspended without prejudice by the Board of Education for an alleged or actual violation of any of the reasons for termination in Connecticut General Statutes 10-151(b) when insufficient cause for dismissal is considered to exist. The employee may be suspended pending Board or legal action for dismissal of the employee on charges of violation of one or more of said causes for termination. The Superintendent may suspend an employee pending Board action when, in the opinion of the Superintendent continuation of the employee in the position presents a clear danger to the students, staff, property or reputation of the district, or the employee.

Dismissal of any certificated employee will be according to Connecticut General Statutes.

DEFINITIONS:

Suspension - means temporary removal of an employee from a position with loss of pay, as a disciplinary measure, or removal from a position preliminary to decision of the Board on charges leading to dismissal or demotion.

Demotion - means reduction of an employee from a given class or group of similar position combined under a common title to a class or group having a lower salary rate.

Dismissal - means separation, discharge or permanent removal of an employee from service in the district for cause in accordance with the policies and regulations of the district.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-151(c) Employment of teachers. [As amended by P.A. 11-36, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes.](#)
PA 95-58 An Act Concerning Teacher Evaluations, Tenure and Dismissal
PA 97-247 An Act Concerning Revisions to the Education Statutes
Shanbrom v. Orange Board of Education, 2 Conn. L. Rpts. 396, 398 (1990)

Adopted: July 6, 1981
July 9, 2009

STUDENTS:

Admission/Placement:

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age 5 on or before January 1st of any school year. Exceptions from routine admission may be approved by the superintendent of schools on the basis of supporting evidence from physical and psychological examinations.

Children who transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the district will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the principal will review the data with parents and determine the child's final placement.

The District will immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified School District No. 1 or Unified School District No. 2. A student transferring from the Unified School Districts who had previously attended school in the local District shall be enrolled in the school such student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

When a student is enrolling in a new school district or new state charter school, written notification of such enrollment shall be provided to the previous school district or charter school not later than two business days after the student enrolls.

Cross Reference: DBS 5141.3 Health Examination and Inoculation Policy

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-15 Towns to maintain schools
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five year olds, as amended by PA 97-247
10-76a-10-76g re special education
10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages 5-16, inclusive), as amended by PA 98-243, and PA 00-157
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Amended by PA 96-26, An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Placement of Older Students Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.
Readmission, as amended.
10-220h Transfer of student records, as amended
10-233a – 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
10-233c Suspension of pupils
10-233d Expulsion of pupils
10-233k Notification of school officials of potentially dangerous students (as amended by PA 01-176)
10-261 Definitions
P.A. 11-115 An Act Concerning Juvenile Reentry and Education

State Board of Education Regulations
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)
10-76d-7 Admission of student requiring special education
(referral)
10-204a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et
seq.

Adopted: November 13, 1979
Revised: August 24, 1998
July 9, 2009

Students

Dropouts

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. ~~The parent or person having control of a child sixteen or seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. For the school year commencing July 1, 2011 and each school year thereafter,~~ The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

The administration, guidance staff and faculty of the school system shall extend every possible effort to the end that each student may meet with success in his/her school program, have a favorable school experience and earn a diploma. Every attempt will be made to identify the potential dropout and to provide the appropriate resources in order to assist such students.

Any student who seeks to drop out of school shall be referred immediately to a guidance counselor or school administrator. The student, if under eighteen years of age, must present to the guidance counselor or administrator the required written parental consent of his/her withdrawal. If the student is at or above the age of majority no such parental consent shall be sought. A student under age eighteen shall not be allowed to withdraw who has not presented such parental consent.

The interval between the student's announcement of his/her desire to leave and the possible presentation of the written consent will be used to attempt to dissuade the student from leaving and to resolve his/her problems so that he/she might continue in school and finish satisfactorily.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have terminated enrollment in the district's schools with parental permission as described previously and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to a district school not later than ten days after such termination. In such case the child will be provided school accommodations not later than three days after the requested readmission.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. 5113 - Admission/Excuses/Dismissal)

(cf. 5113.2 - Truancy)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of parents as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157 and PA 09-6
(September Special Session)
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general.

Adopted: July 12, 2010

STUDENTS

Elementary and Secondary – Attendance:

Attendance and Excuses – Truancy:

Regular student attendance in school is essential to the educational process. Responsibility for assuring that students attend rests by statute with the student's parent or other person having control of the child. To assist parents and others in meeting this responsibility, the Somers Board of Education, through its superintendent, will adopt and maintain procedures to:

1. Notify parents or others who have control of school age children annually of their obligation to assure that such children attend school or show that they are elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction.
2. Obtain a telephone number or other means of contact during the school day from each parent or other person having control of an enrolled child.
3. Establish a system for monitoring individual unexcused student absences and for making a reasonable effort to notify parents or other person by telephone when an enrolled student fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day, if school personnel have not otherwise received indication that the parent or other person is aware of the absence.
4. Identify a student as a "truant" when he or she has four unexcused absences in any one month or ten unexcused absences from school in any school year.
5. Hold a meeting with the parent or other person having control of a child who is a "truant" and appropriate school personnel within ten school days of designation as a "truant" to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.
6. Require that the **superintendent** building administrator file a written complaint with the Superior Court in accordance with state regulations alleging that the acts or omissions (i.e. failure to attend school) of any child designated as a "truant" are such that his or her family is a family with service needs, if the parent or other person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child's truancy problem.
7. Require that the superintendent file, as may be required, with the State Department of Education a report indicating the number of "truants" enrolled in grades K-8 on a school-by-school basis.

8. Provide coordination of services and refer “truants” to community agencies which provide family services.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents. (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)

10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157) [and P.A. 11-136](#)

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised, 1995, PA 95-304)

10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.

10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules. *Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).

Cross Reference: DBS CODE: 5113

Adopted: July 1, 1991

Revised: June 8, 2009

Instruction

Advanced College Placement/Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced College Placement

The Board of Education encourages students to advance academically at a pace appropriate for them. Therefore, it shall permit advanced placement in college, either on a full or part-time basis, for high school juniors or seniors who are exceptionally able and motivated academically.

The administration shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve, criteria and regulations pertaining to students who may be accorded advanced placement privileges.

When such individual programs meet with the approval of the school administration, and have been formally approved by the Board, the student may be released from high school attendance on a full or part-time basis, and shall be awarded a high school diploma after evidence is received that s/he has met, through college work, all necessary academic requirements for graduation.

Advanced Placement Courses

~~Effective July 1, 2011,~~ The Board of Education shall provide an advanced placement course program. An “*advanced placement course program*” is defined as a program that provides courses at the high school level for which an advanced placement examination is available through the College Board or a program approved by the State Board of education that provides college or university level instruction as part of a course for which credit is earned at the high school level.

(cf. 6146 – Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 10-111 An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.
10-221r Advanced placement course program. Guidelines

Adopted: December 6, 2010

INSTRUCTION:

Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency:

The Administration shall submit to the Board of Education through the Superintendent their detailed requirements and standards of proficiency. The faculty will apply both objective and subjective measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant graduation. Such requirements and standards shall be approved by the Board of Education.

Graduation requirements shall be established by the Board of Education. Any change of the requirements shall be submitted to the Board of Education by the Superintendent or his designee for approval.

Graduation may involve awarding to students a Somers High School Diploma or a Certificate of Completion of a Program of Special Studies. The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any World War II veteran or veteran of the Korean hostilities requesting such diploma who left high school for military service as defined in the statutes.

Graduation shall not be held until 180 days (minimum 900 hours) of actual school work are completed. (CGS 10-16).

Cross Reference: Policy # 5127

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results.

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut and P.A. 11-17, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas to Korean Veterans.

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA
01-166)

Adopted: September 28, 1981
Revised: June 26, 1989
May 28, 2002
March 5, 2007
July 9, 2009

BURDEN OF PROOF

Burden of proof: in any legal remedy available to parents of children with disabilities under the IDEA, the plaintiff or complainant must provide reasonable proof of his or her allegations to allow a complaint investigator, hearing officer, or judge to decide if an allegation is likely to be true. Connecticut is one of five states that requires that the burden of proof always rest with the District, regardless of who brought forth the complaint.

There has been an effort to persuade the State Board of Education to change Special Education regulations to require that the "burden of proof" be on the party bringing the action and not always on the Board of Education. At its meeting of November 2nd, the SBE acted to delay action on the special education regulations until March, 2012, at which time the Commissioner should have completed his review of special education requirements, including "burden of proof".

In the mean time, the State Board of Education has asked Districts to gather data on the amount of funds they spend to avoid Due Process Hearings, including attorney fees, services, and out-placement tuition. In March, District Boards of Education will be asked to vote on this issue. This information will be forwarded to the State BOE and the Commissioner for a decision.

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – January 9, 2012

Members Present:	D.Palmer, R.Lees, M.Cicciarella, J.Formeister, B.Devlin, B.Pellissier (arrived at 7:01 p.m.), A.Kirkpatrick (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), S.Bollinger (arrived at 7:09 p.m.)
Members Absent:	M.Maniscalco
Administrators Present:	M.Suffredini, B.Bunnell, K.Pezza, B.Boutwell, R.Riola, J.Oliver, J.Morrow, S.Muirhead, R.Kapner, P.Bryzgel, G.Cotzin
Staff Present:	L.Ford
Citizens Present:	R.Stone, B.Kirkpatrick
Students Present:	N.Coleman, W.Pashewitz, K.Trescott
Others:	R.Caso (MassMutual), B.Hutchins (St. Germain)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School BOE meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 12, 2011 – It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (M.Cicciarella) to approve the December 12, 2011 Board of Education meeting minutes. PASSED 5-0 (B.Pellissier abstains)

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1 Curriculum Presentations – Math and World Language

Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum, presented to the Board a presentation on the Math and World Language curricula within Somers schools.

District math teachers are currently rewriting the K-12 curriculum to ensure that it makes the new Common Core State Standards to match national standards by next year. Somers Elementary School teachers are using the Math Computation and Math Application tests in AIMSweb as benchmarks and progress monitoring tools for the first time this year. IXL, an online math practice program, was piloted this year in SES to determine alternative viability to pencil and paper homework. Teachers are able to get instant results of students work as scores are archived, bringing an interactive approach to math homework at Somers Elementary. IXL is also used to assist special education students at MBA and those receiving math interventions. At MBA, interactive whiteboard technology has been installed to increase the use of technology within math instruction. At Somers High School, students have the opportunity to study algebra, geometry, calculus, trigonometry, probability and statistics and consumer math with courses offered at both the college preparatory and honors level.

Students in all three schools have the opportunity to learn about world languages and cultures. The current World Language curriculum was completed in 2009, and currently, teachers are determining the priority standards as well as writing the corresponding units. Students start their study of Spanish in grades 1 and 2 with grades 3-5 increasing length

of instruction. In 6th grade, students are introduced to French for the first time, learning basic vocabulary with emphasis on speaking and listening skills. In 8th grade, students select the language that they would like to study at Somers High School. At the high school level, French and Spanish programs have five levels of study. As students progress, they move from acquiring a basic understanding of the language to a study of literature and the development of speaking proficiency. Teachers use technology including SMART Boards, Skype, and Internet websites like Google Earth, 360 cities.net, programmer.com, and Quia. For the last few years, students in French 4 and 5 have had the opportunity to travel to Quebec and use their French skills in a French-speaking environment.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Palmer received correspondence from Richard and Debra Stone, kindly asking for advance notices regarding BOE meetings as well as special meetings.
- Chairman Palmer also received a courtesy copy of a letter sent from Mr. Murdock to the Board of Finance about the shape of athletic fields in town and the competitiveness for field time.

5.1 Devlin Thank You Note

The Board formally welcomed B.Devlin back, recuperating from surgery. B.Devlin wrote to Dr. Suffredini and the BOE thanking them for sending flowers during this time.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of Bills 01/09/2012 (\$374,108.07)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve the 01/09/12 Bills in the amount of \$374,108.07 as presented. PASSED 8-0

7.2 Retirement Notifications – A. Holmes, C. Loughlin, M.Winseck

Retirement notifications have been received from Al Homes, MBA Tech Ed teacher, who has been employed by the district since 1978, Claire Loughlin, SES Kindergarten teacher, who has been employed by the district since 1992, and Dr. Maureen Winseck, SES School Psychologist, who has been employed by the district since 1988. The BOE noted these retirements would be big losses to Somers and wished A. Holmes, C. Loughlin, and M. Winseck luck in future endeavors.

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to regretfully accept MBA Tech Ed teacher Al Holmes, SES Kindergarten teacher Claire Loughlin, and SES School Psychologist Dr. Winseck's intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year as presented. PASSED 8-0

7.3 Resignation – C. Juncadella

Claire Juncadella, SHS Spanish Teacher (.4 Position), submitted to the Board her resignation effective December 29, 2011.

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to accept SHS Spanish Teacher Claire Juncadella's intent to resign effective 12/29/2011 as presented. PASSED 8-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 District Pension Plan

Mr. Roy Caso, Investment Advisor at MassMutual, along with Mr. Brendan Hutchins, Senior Vice President of St. Germain Investment Management, presented an overview to the BOE regarding the current status of the District's Pension Plan. Mr. Caso and Mr. Hutchins

reviewed and outlined the current risks regarding the district pension plan being in the current shelved mutual fund with 80% stock to 20% bond ratio. As a result, Mr. Caso and Mr. Hutchins proposed a new plan design to move the district pension plan to an actively managed portfolio, Reliance Trust Company, for the purpose of better performance and attentive care at a cheaper cost to Somers. Mr. Hutchins discussed the pension plan moving to an equity income portfolio, typically set at 60% stock to 40% bond ratio – with the goal of consistent growth with better protection meaning lesser risk. An advisory committee will further review this new plan design offered by St. Germain.

It was MOVED (J.Formeister) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to accept the presented plan design for the District's Pension Plan as submitted by St. Germain. PASSED 6-0 (B.Pellissier and B.Devlin abstain)

8.2 Approval of the 2012-2013 School Calendar

The 2012-2013 school year calendar was presented to the Board after it was discussed with Administrative Council and with the SEA President. This school calendar is a replica of the current school year calendar without the removal of February vacation due to weather conditions.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to approve the 2012-2013 school year calendar as presented. PASSED 8-0

8.3 First Warning of DBS Code: 4117.4 – Non-Renewal

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy for first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

8.4 First Warning of DBS Code: 5111 – Admission/Placement

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy on Admission/Placement for first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

8.5 First Warning of DBS Code 5112.3 – Dropouts

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy on Dropouts for first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

8.6 First Warning of DBS Code: 5113.2 - Attendance

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy for first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

8.7 First Warning of DBS Code 6141.5 – Advanced College

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy on Advanced College first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

8.8 First Warning of DBS Code: 6146 – Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and presented the revised policy for first warning to the Board. Second warning/adoption will be included on the January 23, 2012 BOE agenda.

Any questions regarding the above policies should be directed to the BOE Policy Committee.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1 Burden of Proof Discussion

Brandy Bunnell, Director of Pupil Services, presented to the Board regarding current developments in the state special education Burden of Proof law, which may require future Board action. Connecticut is one of five states that require the burden of proof rest with the School District, regardless of who brought forth the complaint. Efforts to persuade the CT Board of Education have been made to potentially change the regulation to require that the burden of proof rest with the party bringing forth the complaint. Data is currently being collected from CT school districts regarding due process hearings, attorney fees and services, and out-of-district tuition monies and further action will be delayed until March 2012.

10.2 2012-2013 Budget Presentation

Dr. Suffredini presented to the Board the 2012-2013 budget, discussing the summary that gives all major categories for the budget. The Long-Range Plan was worked on as technology items were incorporated. Budget increases total 4.24% including categories such as: salaries 1.3%, capital outlay for technology 1.0%, and insurances 1.5%. Additional funding is still being requested for CIP, as a big component of technology for the 2012-2013 budget deals largely with the forecasted electronic testing. Cooperative sports (swimming, tennis, hockey and football) were also included in this budget. Dr. Suffredini strongly encouraged the Board to keep this in the budget noting that cooperative sports are another avenue to support student involvement and development.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1 Budget – See 10.2

11.2 Curriculum – No Update

11.3 Policy – No Update

11.4 Salary & Negotiations – Salary and Negotiations are currently in the process of setting up another meeting with SESA.

11.5 Planning Committee – No Update

11.6 Other Committees

Technology Ad Hoc Committee – No Report

12.0 OTHER

13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Evaluation

The scheduled executive session was cancelled due to the length and time of the BOE meeting. Executive Session to conduct Dr. Suffredini's Mid-Year Evaluation will be rescheduled and placed on the January 23, 2012 BOE meeting agenda.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (B.Pellissier) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:16 p.m. PASSED 8-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Leah Cook, Recording Secretary

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