

BOE Meeting Template
Monday, March 12, 2012 7:30 PM
Town Hall, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. BOE BUDGET PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE
BOE BUDGET PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF FINANCE - 7:00 P.M.
**(Regular 3/12/12 BOE Meeting to follow in the TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM)**
2. CALL TO ORDER
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2
5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 1. Approval of Bills 5
 - 2. Request for Child-Rearing Leave 9
Melissa Staunton, SES Grade 1 teacher, has requested a child-rearing leave through the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year following her maternity leave which is approximately May 9, 2012.
 - 3. Resignation - J. Carra 10
Jennifer Carra, MBA Spanish Teacher (0.4 Position) has submitted her resignation effective 6/30/2012.
 - 4. Resignation - J. Posten 11
June Posten, MBA Math Teacher, has submitted her resignation effective 6/30/2012.
 - 5. Resignation - L. Cavallo 12
Lora Cavallo, SHS Science and Intervention Teacher, has submitted a letter of resignation effective 6/30/2012.
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Approval of SSS Field Trip 13
Mr. Mooney is requesting board approval of the annual training retreat to Sharon, CT for Students Supporting Students. Details of the trip are included in the packet.
10. OLD BUSINESS
11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
12. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. Budget
 - 2. Curriculum
 - 3. Policy
 - 4. Salary & Negotiations
 - 5. Planning
 - 6. Other Committees
13. OTHER
14. ADJOURNMENT 17

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – February 27, 2012

Members Present: J.Formeister, R.Lees, M.Cicciarella, B.Devlin, B.Pellissier, A.Kirkpatrick, M.Maniscalco

Members Absent: D.Palmer, S.Bollinger

Administrators Present: M.Suffredini, K.Pezza, B.Boutwell, G.Cotzin, P.Bryzgel

Staff Present:

Citizens Present: R.Stone

Students Present: K.Morrell, J.Olynciw, J.Locswell, D.Scibelli, G.Bernier, S.Murphy, T.Donovan

Others:

1.0 BUDGET HEARING

The Board of Education Budget Hearing was held at the Somers Elementary School auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Vice Chairman Formeister in the Somers Elementary School Media Center.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – Salary & Negotiations

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (B.Devlin) for the Board to go into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. for the purpose of Salary & Negotiations and pending claims and litigation involving civil case #HHB-CV-11-601-35725 and other pending claims and litigation as presented. PASSED 7-0

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 13, 2012 – It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to approve the February 13, 2012 Board of Education meeting minutes. PASSED 7-0

6.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Addition of the Ratification of the SESA Contract

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (B.Pellissier) to add the ratification of the SESA Contract to the BOE meeting agenda under item 10.3 as presented. PASSED 7-0

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Approval of Bills 2/27/12 (\$79,544.32)

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (B.Pellissier) to approve the 02/27/12 Bills in the amount of \$79,544.32 as presented. PASSED 7-0

9.2 Resignation (B.Bunnell)

Brandy Bunnell, Director of Pupil Services, submitted her resignation to be effective at the conclusion of this school year.

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (B.Pellissier) to accept the resignation of Brandy Bunnell, Director of Pupil Services, to be effective at the conclusion of the school year as presented. PASSED 7-0

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Vote to Amend 2012-2013 Budget

The Superintendent received new information from Ovation regarding health insurance premiums for next year. Since the 2/13/12 BOE meeting, Anthem has reduced the cost by an additional \$138,231 which will reduce the overall budget increase for 2012-2013 school year to 2.55%. It is the Superintendent's recommendation to amend and revote the 2012-2013 budget to reflect the changes stated.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (B.Devlin) to amend and revote 2012-2013 budget as recommended by the Superintendent. PASSED 7-0

10.2 Open Choice Program

Annually, it is required to review the availability of seats to expand the Open Choice Program. Presently, there are 11 Choice students enrolled in our district, however, we have 24 seats allotted. It is the Superintendent's recommendation to maintain the same allotment for next year.

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to maintain the same number of allotted seats for students in the Open Choice Program as presented. PASSED 7-0

10.3 Ratification of the SESA Contract

The Board reviewed the tentative contract agreement ratified by the SESA.

It was MOVED (M.Cicciarella) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to ratify the SESA Contract as presented. PASSED 7-0

11.0 OLD BUSINESS

12.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

12.1 District Grants Update

Director of Business, B.Boutwell, presented to the Board a district grants update. Most of the grants span two fiscal years 2010-2012 and 2011-2013. The majority of the funds in the 2010-2012 grants were used in fiscal year 2011 while the 2011-2013 grants are being used this year. One major exception is the 2010-2012 Education Jobs Fund grant, which is being used in 2011-2012.

Points of interest include: a reduction of \$26,000 (28%) in Title grants from 2007-2011-2013, ARRA special education grants for 2009-2011 totaling \$354,000 have ended, a third year of receiving a Sheff Settlement Academic Support grant, and the ARRA Stabilization grant of \$844,000 has also ended. The 2011-2012 Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant has increased \$844,000 due to the ARRA Stabilization grant no longer being available.

12.2 Annual Scheduling – Class Size Update

Somers High School Principal and Vice Principal, G.Cotzin and P.Bryzgel, presented to the Board the annual class size update. 8th graders are brought to SHS in January to learn about course offerings in 9th grade in addition to guidance counselors coming to Mabelle B. Avery Middle School to discuss courses. Students spend an entire day going through all eight high school periods to mimic the 9th grade environment and get outlined courses approved.

G.Cotzin noted that the high school has a system of checks and balances to ensure students are enrolled in the right courses for their success. Parents are also required to sign-off on approved courses. The class selections for 2012-2013 show no change from the 2011-2012 school year. G.Cotzin also noted that a lot of tweaking with class size and scheduling will be taking place during the next couple of weeks to try and balance classes and accommodate the BOE requirement for minimum number of seats filled (10).

13.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

13.1 Budget – See 10.1 for Amendment/Revote for 2012-2013 Budget

13.2 Curriculum – No Update

13.3 Policy – The Policy Committee is meeting next Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

13.4 Salary & Negotiations – See 10.3 for Ratification of SESA Contract

13.5 Planning Committee – No Update

13.6 Other Committees

Technology Ad Hoc Committee – The Technology Ad Hoc Committee met on Monday, February 27, 2012 and will meet again on a to be determined date.

14.0 OTHER

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (B.Devlin) SECONDED (B.Pellissier) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:10 p.m. PASSED 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Check Batch: 5945
 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, Director of Business Services

5945	4172	03/12/2012	V52670	Amazon	0.00	74.57
	4173	03/12/2012	V60041	Anthem BCBS	0.00	209,050.70
	4174	03/12/2012	V60040	Anthem Life Insurance Company	0.00	2,153.20
	4175	03/12/2012	V00121	CABE	0.00	10.00
	4176	03/12/2012	V60661	Carbonari M.D., Claudia M.	0.00	2,500.00
	4177	03/12/2012	E00049	Carnevale, Kristina	0.00	48.03
	4178	03/12/2012	E00461	Cavallo, Lora	0.00	5.32
	4179	03/12/2012	V60205	CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc.	0.00	78.00
	4180	03/12/2012	V54321	Custom Printing & Copy, Inc.	0.00	89.07
	4181	03/12/2012	V54198	Dartware, LLC	0.00	204.30
	4182	03/12/2012	V02186	Flinn Scientific, Inc.	0.00	487.47
	4183	03/12/2012	V00314	Follett Library Resources	0.00	196.59
	4184	03/12/2012	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	72.15
	4185	03/12/2012	V51232	Hartford Hospital	0.00	5,500.00
	4186	03/12/2012	V52848	Intensive Education Academy, Inc.	0.00	3,453.60
	4187	03/12/2012	V00999	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	0.00	27.44
	4188	03/12/2012	V00831	Lingui Systems, Inc	0.00	145.85
	4189	03/12/2012	E00207	Machacek, Joan	0.00	76.04
	4190	03/12/2012	V02898	MagnaKleen Services	0.00	488.25
	4191	03/12/2012	E00214	Martin, Jan	0.00	26.64

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 16479

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	4192	03/12/2012	V00827	Moore Medical Corp.	0.00	391.90
	4193	03/12/2012	E00234	Morrow, Jim	0.00	14.99
	4194	03/12/2012	V01911	Natchaug Hospital	0.00	1,974.00
	4195	03/12/2012	v60663	Onion Mountain Technology, Inc.	0.00	1,000.00
	4196	03/12/2012	V60359	Palos Sports	0.00	554.23
	4197	03/12/2012	V02793	Parent Institute, The	0.00	188.10
	4198	03/12/2012	V60568	Pediatric Services of America Inc	0.00	1,428.75
	4199	03/12/2012	V01163	PermaBound Books	0.00	162.24
	4200	03/12/2012	V60330	Rally Education	0.00	313.50
	4201	03/12/2012	V60627	RnB Enterprises, Inc.	0.00	623.00
	4202	03/12/2012	V01292	School Specialty, Inc.	0.00	999.79
	4203	03/12/2012	V60459	Shipman's Fire Equipment Co., Inc	0.00	297.00
	4204	03/12/2012	V00486	Somers High School	0.00	8,965.83
	4205	03/12/2012	V00886	Somers Lunch Program	0.00	10.50
	4206	03/12/2012	V00548	Somers Sanitation Service, Inc.	0.00	1,249.70
	4207	03/12/2012	V01591	Town of Somers	0.00	10,121.43
	4208	03/12/2012	V60645	Sports Unlimited Inc.	0.00	357.70
	4209	03/12/2012	E00319	Stronk, Brianna	0.00	26.64
	4210	03/12/2012	V02782	T.D. Curran, Inc.	0.00	405.00
	4211	03/12/2012	V53945	Transcanda Power Marketing LTD	0.00	19,704.21
	4212	03/12/2012	V53987	U.S. Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc	0.00	1,662.67
	4213	03/12/2012	V21164	Unum Life Insurance Company of America	0.00	3,711.47
	4214	03/12/2012	V00051	Postmaster	0.00	554.48
	4215	03/12/2012	V00051	Postmaster	0.00	34.66
	4216	03/12/2012	V54059	Verizon Wireless	0.00	485.18
	4217	03/12/2012	V60464	VEX Robotics Inc	0.00	161.76
	4218	03/12/2012	E00342	Walker, Alan	0.00	221.46
Totals:					0.00	\$280,307.41

47 Checks Listed.

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 16478
Batch: 5920
Transaction: N/A
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
5920	\$280,307.41	Posted	lbergamini	03/05/2012	lbergamini	03/07/2012

General Ledger Distribution Summary						
Period, Fiscal Year	Account Number	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits
March, 2012						
Generated Distributions						
	10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			272,421.85	0.00
	10-000-0-0-00-000-720-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	272,421.85
Total Generated Distributions					\$272,421.85	\$272,421.85
User-Entered Distributions						
	10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	280,307.41
	10-100-2-3-16-242-611-01-5-00184	MA - LANGUAGE ARTS SUPPLIES			394.58	0.00
	10-100-2-3-16-243-611-01-5-00246	MA - ENGLISH WORKBOOKS			125.00	0.00
	10-100-2-3-20-242-611-01-5-00172	MA - MUSIC SUPPLIES			27.44	0.00
	10-100-2-3-48-242-611-01-5-01218	MA - HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS			297.00	0.00
	10-100-2-4-02-242-611-01-5-00165	HS - ART SUPPLIES		Yes	236.22	0.00
	10-100-2-4-14-241-611-01-5-00159	HS - GENERAL SUPPLIES			763.57	0.00
	10-100-2-4-28-242-611-01-5-00206	HS - SCIENCE SUPPLIES			492.79	0.00
	10-100-2-4-66-730-730-01-5-00616	HS - TECH ED REPLACEMENT			161.76	0.00
	10-100-8-2-66-910-730-01-5-00603	K-5 CAPITAL OUTLAY			623.00	0.00
	10-120-9-3-98-242-611-01-5-00213	MA - ALTERNATIVE ED PROG			48.03	0.00
	10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01117	SP ED-INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS			3,500.00	0.00
	10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01674	SP ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES			1,428.75	0.00
	10-213-3-4-48-421-323-02-5-01146	SW HEALTH SUPPLIES			391.90	0.00
	10-215-9-9-94-242-611-02-5-00219	SPEECH/HEARING SUPPLIES			145.85	0.00
	10-221-1-4-50-251-580-05-5-00267	HS - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE			350.78	0.00
	10-221-2-5-50-214-111-05-5-00659	SW - PROF DEVELOPMENT/CEU			10.00	0.00
	10-222-2-3-52-231-642-03-5-00138	MA - LIBRARY BOOKS			102.85	0.00
	10-222-2-3-52-231-642-03-5-00142	MA - NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES			16.95	0.00
	10-222-2-3-52-231-690-03-5-00153	MA - OTHER LIBRARY SUPPLIES			13.78	0.00
	10-222-2-4-52-231-642-03-5-00139	HS - LIBRARY BOOKS			93.74	0.00
	10-222-2-5-14-233-611-03-5-00150	SW - COMPUTER SOFTWARE			219.29	0.00
	10-231-1-5-74-134-330-10-5-00045	B.O.E. - OTHER PROF. SERVICES		Yes	78.00	0.00
	10-231-1-5-74-134-530-10-5-00048	B.O.E. - PUBLICATION POSTAGE			589.14	0.00
	10-231-1-5-74-134-690-10-5-00047	B.O.E. - SUPPLIES			10.50	0.00
	10-232-6-5-66-830-440-04-5-00525	CO - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	415.67	0.00

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
5920	\$280,307.41	Posted	lbergamini	03/05/2012	lbergamini	03/07/2012
					415.67	0.00
					415.66	0.00
					415.67	0.00
					188.10	0.00
					89.07	0.00
				Yes	76.58	0.00
				Yes	73.08	0.00
					106.83	0.00
				Yes	228.69	0.00
					488.25	0.00
					405.00	0.00
					1,249.70	0.00
					4,147.74	0.00
				Yes	9,296.52	0.00
					6,259.95	0.00
					9,553.64	0.00
				Yes	567.79	0.00
				Yes	72.15	0.00
					11,765.72	0.00
				Yes	2,153.20	0.00
				Yes	3,711.47	0.00
				Yes	55,149.14	0.00
					139,269.20	0.00
				Yes	2,866.64	0.00
					911.93	0.00
					8,965.83	0.00
					10,927.60	0.00
					<u>\$280,307.41</u>	<u>\$280,307.41</u>
					<u>\$552,729.26</u>	<u>\$552,729.26</u>
					<u>\$552,729.26</u>	<u>\$552,729.26</u>

146 Transactions Listed.

February 24, 2012,

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

In December I requested to take six weeks maternity leave from the date of birth (March 28th).

I would like to change my request from taking only 6 weeks to taking off the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year and returning for the 2012-2013 school year.

If you have any further questions, or would like to meet with me, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Melissa Staunton

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

I am writing today, Tuesday, March 6, 2012, to inform you of my resignation from my teaching position as a .4 part-time Spanish teacher at Mabelle B. Avery Middle School with my final day of employment on June 30, 2012, which is the completion of my current contract for the 2011-2012 school year.

As a citizen of Somers since 1998 through present, and mother of two daughters who are high-achieving students presently in Somers Elementary school, I did not have the intention of resigning from this position any time soon, if ever, but one can never predict life's inevitable changes. Despite this resignation, I will continue to pursue my personal involvement in the PTA and as a parent-volunteer in my children's classrooms as thankfully my role as "mom" continues and that is one of life's few constants, for which I am very grateful.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to work as a .4 part-time Spanish teacher at "MBA" for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years. I found this position to be a rewarding experience as evidenced by the many verbal and written "thank-you" notes to me from past and present students and their parents, in addition to the unconditional support of veteran staff members. Because of this positive support among many other factors, I will always reflect on this teaching position as a positive experience.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Carra (.4 Spanish teacher at MBA, classes: Spanish 1 & 1A)

Contact information:

Jennifer Carra

64 Colton Rd.

Somers, CT 06071

(860) 749-0850

March 4, 2012

Dr. Maynard M Suffredini, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
Somers Public Schools
1 Vision Boulevard
Somers, CT 06071

Re: Resignation

Dear Dr. Suffredini:

Although I have enjoyed teaching my students, I have chosen to resign effective the end of this school year. Thank you for the opportunity to further my educational growth while at the Somer's school district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June Posten". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

June Posten

Somers High School
5 Vision Blvd.

March 6, 2012

Dear Dr. Suffredini:

It is with reluctance that I'm submitting this letter. My time with Somers High School has been, on the whole, satisfying and productive. However, because of ongoing and continuous grievances between the staff and administration, it has always been a slightly uncomfortable environment to work in. Recently, the direction of the High School and the uncomfortable working conditions are making it increasingly difficult for me to feel that I am treated fairly and as a team player.

For the record, I have done everything that was required of me and I have always cooperated with my supervisors and my colleagues. I have had good rapport and positive learning experiences with students in special education, alternative education, the intervention program and regular education classes. I have effectively taught science classes for the Alternative Education program for the past three years and I have served on the SRBI committee as well. When I was needed to support a math class I willingly obtained a DSAP to help out in that area. As a member of the SHS science department, I have worked hard developing, teaching and restructuring lessons to increase student learning and achievement. I have worked with my colleagues to rewrite curriculum and common assessments and have contributed in many ways to the department. I have increased the use of technology in my classes as demonstrated by my completion of the TEAM program last year and have continued the practice this year. I have succeeded in accomplishing goals that were set at the beginning of each year and have proven so with data. All of my observations and year-end reviews were positive and reflect the above accomplishments. There is absolutely no documentation that would provide evidence otherwise.

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to work with the excellent, professional teachers at both MBA and Somers High School and the administrators at MBA. Therefore, it is with great regret that I ask you to accept this as my resignation from Somers High School effective the last day of school. I promise that this decision will not affect my personal commitment to the education of my students until then.

Sincerely,


Lora Cavallo

3-7-12

FIELD TRIP REQUEST

School: Somers High School Date: 2/22/12

Requested by: S. Mooney Department: _____

Destination: Silver Lake Conference Center Date of trip: 3/23 - 3/25/12
S Haron Ct.

Departure time: 8:30am 3/23/12 Approximate time of return: 3:00pm 3/25/12

Number of students involved: 24 Number of chaperones: 3

Type of transportation: Bus

Expense to students: total

Expense to school system: substitute for 1 teacher

Written Objectives/Relationship to curriculum:

This is the training retreat for students
supporting students (sss), the high school's peer helping
group.

Comments:

TRIP LOG

Approved by: _____
(Signature of Principal)

(To be completed and verified by trip chaperone
and returned to Accounting Supervisor, Central Office)

Actual departure time: March 23, 2012 - 8:30 am

Actual time of return: March 25, 2012 - 3:00 PM

Total time of trip (hours/minutes): 2 days

Bus number(s): (1) First Student Bus Line (24 Students)
Driver name(s): TBD. (3 Chaperones)

Verified by: Mr. Steve Mooney
(Signature of chaperone)

CENTRAL OFFICE USE ONLY

(For overnight and private vehicle requests only)

Approved _____ Disapproved _____

Superintendent or Designee's Signature Date

- Copy: Accounting Supervisor (Superintendent if overnight/private vehicle request) after Principal's approval.
- Copy: Accounting Supervisor (after completion of trip log)
- Copy: Principal's copy

Packing For The Retreat:

- sleeping bag
- pillow
- towels
- soap, shampoo etc.
- old sweats (for pjs)
- Dress appropriately for the weather - err on side of warmth (warm coat, sweatshirts, raincoat/poncho, hats and gloves, extra socks, sneakers and boots) It may be muddy or snowy and cold. You may get wet or dirty so bring extra clothes and clothes that can be soiled. Keep your feet warm and dry - bring changes of socks, shoes etc.
- snacks and treats for between meals
- any games, music, videos for late evening fun
- ** a positive, enthusiastic attitude and a desire to get know others well and try new things

2012 SSS Members:

Joe Felix
Jake Alvaro
Tyler Russell
Marissa Fragomeni
Gabby Samson
Sabrina Okun
Emily Dawson
Samantha French
Cristian Gomez
Cameron Guerette
Cullen Roberts
Karen Trescott
Julie Folger
Kim Cisco
Jessie Samson
Mike Casciano
Chris Eastwood
Anthony Mottolese
Sammie Pruden
Sarah Squillace
Sam Salvador
Zachary Varnauskas
Connor Marsters
Paul Kennedy

**Somers High School's
Students Supporting
Students Retreat
at
Silver Lake Conference
Center
Sharon, Connecticut**

March 23,24,25 2012

Advisors:

Steve Mooney, Social Worker
Steve Roberts, Guidance Counselor
Sarah Burda, Teacher

**Silver Lake Conference Center
Contact Number:
(860) 364-5526**

Pre work - Set Rules, Goals, Ground Rules

(Tentative Schedule)

Day 1 - Friday, March 23

8:00 Group meets at SHS
8:30-9:30 Bus ride to shop at Big Y
9:30-11:30 Bus ride to Silver Lake Conference Center
11:30-12:00 Unload, Settle In
12:00-12:30 Ice Breaking/Ground Rules
12:30-2:00 Lunch / Relax
First Reflection Book entry
2:00-4:00 Outdoor challenge course
Team and Trust building
4:00-6:00 Supper / Relax / Free Time
6:00-7:30 Workshops/activities
7:30-7:45 Reflection Book entry
7:45-8:30 Activity
8:30 - Free time and bedtime

Note - Workshops may explore the following topics:

Listening Skills
Communicating
Diversity Issues
Healthy Relationships
Death & Grief
Anxiety / Relaxation
Mediating Conflicts
Problem Solving
Substance Abuse Issues
Resources for Help
Values Clarification
Teamwork and Trust Issues

Day 2 - Saturday, March 24

8:00-10:00 Wake up and Breakfast
10:00-1:00 Workshops/Activities
1:00-2:30 Lunch /Break
Reflection Book entry
2:30- 5:30 Workshops/Activities
5:30-7:30 Supper/Break
7:30-8:00 Reflection Book Entry
Group Processing of Day 2
8:00-9:00 Wrap Up Activity
9:00 - Free time and bedtime

Day 3 - Sunday, March 25

8:00-9:00 Wake Up & Continental Breakfast
9:00-11:00 Final Workshop
11-12:00 Pack Up
12:00-2:30 Bus back to High School

The SSS Commitment:

- 1) SSS members are asked to commit themselves to SSS for at least 1 year.
- 2) SSS members are required to attend a yearly training retreat.
- 3) SSS members are required to attend after school meetings throughout the school year.
- 4) SSS members are required to utilize the expertise and support of each other and their SSS advisors.
- 5) Although SSS members are not expected to be perfect people, they are required to be genuinely working to model healthy relationships with peers, family, and teachers and to utilize healthy coping strategies as they deal with the stresses and conflicts of high school life.
- 6) SSS members must maintain confidentiality except in instances of concern that their peer may be at risk of being physically abused or of hurting themselves or others.
- 7) SSS members must be committed to improving the general mental health of the high school community by modeling caring, cooperation, openness, acceptance of others' differences and good communication and conflict resolution skills. (SSS members receive training to strengthen these skills.)
- 8) SSS members must continually remember that it takes a strong swimmer to save a drowning person. Members' first priority should always be to maintain their own health, happiness, and success. Members must learn to be good listeners, supporters, and resources without becoming a part of the problem or being dragged down by another's problems.

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – March 12, 2012

Members Present: D.Palmer, R.Lees, M.Cicciarella, B.Pellissier, A.Kirkpatrick, S.Bollinger, M.Maniscalco

Members Absent: J.Formeister, B.Devlin

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

Staff Present: S.Cormier

Citizens Present:

Students Present:

Others:

1.0 BOE BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Board of Education presented the 2012-2013 Budget to the Board of Finance at 7:00 p.m. at Somers Town Hall.

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Somers Town Hall meeting room.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 27, 2012 – It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the February 27, 2012 Board of Education meeting minutes. PASSED 7-0

5.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5.1 Susan Cormier, SHS Teacher, addressed the Board, thanking them for including Cooperative Sports in the 2012-2013 Budget. Ms. Cormier also spoke regarding her colleague's L.Cavallo's resignation. She noted that the department will be sad to see her leave.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Palmer received forwarded correspondence from M+J Bus Company discussing the possibility of collaboration of transportation contracts for districts. Discussion with CREC regarding the collaboration is ongoing at this time.
- Chairman Palmer received an application from CREC Council looking for a Board of Directors.

7.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Approval of Bills 03/12/12 (\$280,307.41)

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to approve the 03/12/12 Bills in the amount of \$280,307.41 as presented. PASSED 7-0

8.2 Request for Child-Rearing Leave – M. Staunton

Melissa Staunton, SES grade 1 Teacher, has requested a child-rearing leave through the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year following her maternity leave which is approximately May 9, 2012.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to approve M.Staunton's request for child-rearing leave through the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year following her maternity leave which is approximately 5/9/12 as presented. PASSED 7-0

8.3 Resignation – J. Carra

Jennifer Carra, MBA Spanish Teacher (0.4 position), has submitted a letter of resignation effective June 30, 2012.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to accept J. Carra's letter of resignation effective 6/30/12 as presented. PASSED 7-0

8.4 Resignation – J. Posten

June Posten, MBA Math Teacher, has submitted a letter of resignation effective June 30, 2012.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to accept J. Posten's letter of resignation effective 6/30/12 as presented. PASSED 7-0

8.5 Resignation – L. Cavallo

Lora Cavallo, SHS Science and Intervention Teacher, has submitted a letter of resignation effective June 30, 2012.

It was MOVED (B.Pellissier) SECONDED (M.Maniscalco) to accept L. Cavallo's letter of resignation effective 6/30/12 as presented. PASSED 7-0

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Approval of Students Supporting Students Field Trip

Mr. Mooney, School Social Worker, has submitted his field trip request to the Board for the annual training retreat in Sharon, CT for Students Supporting Students (SSS). The trip will be from March 23 – March 25, 2012 at the Silver Lake Conference Center. Twenty-four students will be attending the field trip with three chaperones. The two-day trip serves as a training retreat for SSS, the high school's peer-helping group. Workshops may explore the following topics: listening skills, communication, healthy relationships, death and grief, diversity issues, anxiety and relaxation, mediating conflicts, problem-solving, resources for help, substance abuse issues, values clarification and teamwork and trust issues.

It was MOVED (R.Lees) SECONDED (S.Bollinger) to approve the annual training retreat to Sharon, CT for Students Supporting Students as presented. PASSED 7-0

10.0 OLD BUSINESS

11.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Suffredini updated the Board as he received a packet from CREC regarding emergency protocols within school districts for handling suspicious mail. The emergency protocol and general precautions will be used in conjunction with the current Somers Public Schools protocols regarding suspicious mail and mail handling.

The Superintendent has also received an email from the Governor's office outlining the current reform and important points. Improving student performance and/or full day kindergarten programs for early childhood education are key aspects of his reform efforts.

Dr. Suffredini noted that Bruce Devlin, BOE member, is recovering well from his latest hip surgery.

12.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

12.1 Budget – The BOE presented the 2012-2013 Budget to the BOF prior to the BOE meeting.

12.2 Curriculum – No Update

12.3 Policy – The Policy Committee will meet Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m.

12.4 Salary & Negotiations – Salary & Negotiations is currently looking over candidacy to serve on the Pension Advisory Board, as interviews and recommendations should be in place by the end of April.

12.5 Planning Committee – No Update

12.6 Other Committees
Technology Ad Hoc Committee – No Update

13.0 OTHER

S.Bollinger discussed her interest in having a gifted and talented program in place at Mabelle. B Avery Middle School to bridge the gap between programs in place at Somers Elementary and Somers High School. Dr. Suffredini suggested having a discussion with the Curriculum subcommittee to explore further thought.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (S.Bollinger) SECONDED (R.Lees) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:30 p.m. PASSED 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

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

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