

DRAFT Board Minutes 10-14-14
Tuesday, October 14, 2014 7:00 PM
DRAFT Board Minutes 10-14-14, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. DRAFT Board Minutes 10-14-14

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – October 14, 2014

Members Present: B. Devlin, D. Palmer, R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger, J. Formeister, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt (arrived at 7:59 p.m.), K. McLellan (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Members Absent: M. Rockett

Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, K. Pezza, Dr. D. Messina

Staff Present: G. Cotzin, S. Yarrows, D. Carroll

Citizens Present: M. Christian

Students Present: T. Christian

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Board of Education meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 22, 2014 – It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (S. Bollinger) to approve the September 22, 2014 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 6-0.**

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1. Science CMT and CAPT, SAT Results

Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum, presented the Science CMT and CAPT testing results for grades 5, 8, and 10. Results were comparable to last year. Fifth grade was noted to be a little below in proficiency. In the eighth grade, there was no significant proficiency difference between Somers and DRG. Gary Cotzin, SHS Principal, reported that SAT results were similar to the previous year. Somers ranked higher than the Connecticut and National average in critical reading, mathematics, and writing. He also reported that PSATs are being held on 10/15/14 for the 10th graders as well as voluntarily for 11th graders.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Devlin received information from the Somers Music Patrons and circulated the information among the Board members.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED (S. Bollinger), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to approve the 10/14/14 bills in the amount of \$381,515.29 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

7.2. Maternity Leave – Caitlin Siewertsen

It was **MOVED (S. Bollinger), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to approve maternity leave for Caitlin Siewertsen beginning on or around December 15, 2014 through the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. **PASSED 7-0.**

7.3. Resignation – Shireen Rhoades

It was **MOVED (S. Bollinger), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Shireen Rhoades, SES Grade 2 Teacher, effective October 23, 2014 after being employed by the district for nine years. **PASSED 7-0.**

7.4. Letter of Retirement – Dr. Richard Wilson

It was **MOVED (S. Bollinger), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Dr. Richard Wilson, Somers High School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2014-2015 academic school year. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. First Warning of DBS Code 2120: Organization Table

The 2014-2015 organization table is being presented to the Board as per DBS Code 2120. The 2013-2014 table is also included for comparison purposes. Second warning will be included on the 10/27/14 agenda.

8.2. Long-Range Plan Requests

Dr. Suffredini and Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, met with administrators and compiled an updated, flexible draft regarding the long-range plan for 2016-2020. The subcommittee will be meeting soon to review the draft and will subsequently seek approval by the Board and deliver the proposed plan to the BOF.

8.3. 2015 BOE Meeting Schedule

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (A. Kirkpatrick)** to approve the 2015 BOE Meeting Schedule as per DBS Code: 9321.1. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.4. Transition Program Update

Dr. Denise Messina, Director of Pupil Services, and Sheri Yarrows, Transition Coordinator at Somers High School, updated the Board on the Transition Program for SHS students. S. Yarrows provided the Board with a brochure. The vision of the Transition Program is “to provide young adults, ages 18-21, vocationally-oriented educational experiences which will enable them to be productive members of their community...” The program began five years ago. Students attend school for the first two periods to help identify and research their interests and match them to various career options. Students are then transported to work via bus to their place of employment within the community and return to school around 1:30 p.m. for the remainder of the school day. Students are held accountable and keep journals and track their

hours in order to develop a resume. The Transition Program enables students to practice interviewing; aids in increasing students' speed and production as well as quality of work; and, allows students to relate to others. Ms. Yarrows reported that she interviews students regularly regarding their likes and dislikes in order to place them in appropriate employment. The community has been very generous in accepting and potentially employing students. Job coaches are utilized as well. These individuals work with helping students develop independence on the job site and assist in making a connection between the employers and students. Somers also collaborates with other towns in the area. At graduation, a Certificate of Completion is awarded to students preparing to participate in the Transition Program. Once the Transition Program is completed, a diploma is given. As an example in the Somers Public Schools, the Unified Sports Program at SHS was designed for students with disabilities to be paired with peer role models and compete in basketball games. The Diversity Club promotes diversity awareness, ethnicity, social acceptance, and integration.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 5141.21 – Administering Medication**
It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (A. Kirkpatrick)** to approve adoption of DBS Code 5141.21 – Administering Medication as presented.
PASSED 7-0.

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 10.1. High School Exit Survey Results**
Mr. G. Cotzin and Mr. D. Carroll provided the 2014 Senior Exit Survey Report to the Board. The results were consistent with past reports. There were some improved numbers in the areas of students respecting each other, discrimination, drugs and alcohol, and food service. Mr. Cotzin reported that the survey will continue to be examined and revised.
- 10.2. October 1, 2014 Enrollment Report**
Dr. Suffredini reported that there is a downward trend in enrollment, especially in SES and SHS. B. Boutwell reported that there are probably 25-30 students district-wide attending CREC or Magnet schools. Dr. Suffredini reported that he would be able to provide the Board with the number of students per grade level attending a Magnet school.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1. Budget – Dr. Suffredini is preparing the 2015-2016 budget at this time. The current budget is holding well.**
- 11.2. Curriculum – No report.**
- 11.3. Policy – A. Kirkpatrick reported that the committee is waiting for the next packet.**

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – D. Palmer reported that the next meetings for the SESA and SAA are on October 16, 2014 and October 22, 2014.

11.5. Planning – D. Palmer referred to agenda item 8.2. No further report.

11.6. Other Committees – None.

12.0 OTHER

D. Palmer reported that a public hearing was held and information was distributed.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (A. Kirkpatrick) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:02 p.m. PASSED 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Shannin Burns, Recording Secretary**

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