

DRAFT BOARD MINUTES

Monday, November 24, 2014 7:00 PM

DRAFT Board Minutes - November 24, 2014, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

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SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard
Somers, CT 06071
www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Members Present: B. Devlin, R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger, J. Formeister, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt, K. McLellan (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), M. Rockett

Members Absent: D. Palmer

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

Staff Present: D. Delany, K. Regan

Citizens Present: B. Capuano

Students Present:

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 Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Board of Education meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2014 – It was **MOVED** (R. Lees), **SECONDED** (M. Rockett) to approve the November 10, 2014 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 6-0, ABSTAINED 1** (A. Kirkpatrick).

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

A citizen discussed her concern with the Board regarding a suggestion of eradicating the SHS bleachers altogether and stressed the importance of keeping bleachers for public use.

4.1. Guidance Annual Report

Karen Regan, SHS Counselor, and Dan Carroll, SHS Assistant Principal, gave an Annual report regarding the Guidance Program at Somers High School. The SHS Comprehensive School Counseling Program is made up of four components:

- **School Counseling Curriculum:** Staff are in the final stages of curriculum revisions. On 12/5/14, all freshmen will take the Learning Styles Inventory.
- **Individual Student Planning:** 36% of seniors have sent out transcript packets along with their applications. Freshmen conferences will be held before the holiday break. Mrs. Duffy, Career Specialist, has been holding individual meetings with students seeking support with career exploration.
- **Responsive Services:** Through the use of Inform and the Intervention program, counselors are identifying students with academic concerns, supporting students, and monitoring their progress. Individual conferences are ongoing.
- **Collaboration within the School and Community:** Counselors are members of the Safe School Climate Committee and are currently planning Diversity Week. The SHS Counseling Resources and Hotlines brochure was updated. Financial Aid Night will be held on 12/9/14 at 6:30 p.m. The Career Specialist involves parents, Somers alumni, the local business community,

and area hospitals and health care clinics in order to support the job shadow, internship, and other career programs.

4.2. Alternative Education Program Update

Donna Delaney, SHS Special Education Teacher, and Dan Carroll, SHS Assistant Principal, gave an annual report regarding the Alternative Education Program at Somers High School. The half-day program is in its sixth year with a current enrollment of six students. Students can earn credit in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and electives necessary for graduation. Two credits may also be earned for Cooperative Work Experience per state guidelines. The program uses an online learning site, Odysseyware, as a means for students to earn credits for electives.

4.3. Curriculum Presentation

Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum, updated the Board on the Literacy/English Language Arts curricula. She reported that the CCS (Connecticut Core Standards) in English-Language Arts and Literacy Across the Content Areas will be the standards tested this spring. The Smarter Balanced Assessment system is replacing the CMTs and CAPT and will be utilized to test grades 3-8 and 11. The Smarter Balanced Assessment system consists of three parts: a Digital Library which are archived subject instructions for grades K-12 as well as professional resources; Interim Assessments consisting of Comprehensive Interims which are full-length assessments in Math or ELA as well as Block Interims that test specific domains and/or clusters of Standards as identified by the teacher; and, Summative Assessments. These assessments are delivered electronically, computer adaptive, take about 3.5 hours of testing per subject area per child, mostly machine scored, and aligned to 4 English Language Arts Claims (reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research) and 3 Mathematics Claims (concepts and procedures, problem solving, and communicating reasoning). Teachers continue to work on units of instruction aligned to CCS and are able to revise their work to better match the way in which Smarter Balanced addresses topics and/or skills. At the beginning of this school year, teachers were given a Digital Library account which they will be able to utilize to look for materials and/or units that they can incorporate into their work. Teachers will be trained in January on utilizing Interim Assessments. Students will have a chance to take the practice tests again as they get closer to the official testing in May. By June, the revised ELA curriculum will be available on the District's website.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Bills

It was **MOVED** (M. Rockett), **SECONDED** (R. Lees) to approve the 11/24/14 bills in the amount of \$193,975.26 as presented. **PASSED 8-0.**

7.2. Maternity Leave Request for Sara DeMonti

It was **MOVED** (M. Rockett), **SECONDED** (R. Lees) to approve maternity leave for Sara DeMonti to begin on or about April 21, 2015. **PASSED 8-0.** Mrs. DeMonti will return to work after her maternity leave concludes to finish out the 2014-2015 school year.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

9.1. Educational Specifications for Roof Project

The Board of Education previously approved educational specifications for the roof projects; however, the previous motion did not explicitly state the elementary and high school buildings. The previous motion was amended as follows:

- It was **MOVED (M. Rockett), SECONDED (A. Kirkpatrick)** to approve the Educational Specifications for the roof project at Somers Elementary School. **PASSED 8-0.**
- It was **MOVED (A. Kirkpatrick), SECONDED (J. Formeister)** to approve the Educational Specifications for the roof project at Somers High School. **PASSED 8-0.**

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Suffredini reported the following:

- Dr. Suffredini met with B. Barnett and J. MacFeat regarding the bleachers at the track at SHS. Weather permitting, 11 sets of bleachers will be repaired as soon as possible and will eventually be replaced with funds that become available.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1. Budget – Dr. Suffredini reported that the budget is coming along well.

11.2. Curriculum – No report.

11.3. Policy – A. Kirkpatrick reported that the next meeting will be held on 12/8/14 at 6 p.m. Dr. Suffredini will submit to the committee the newly drafted public participation policy.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – Dr. Suffredini reported that a contract with SESA was settled Thursday, 11/20/14. Details of the contract will be brought to the Board to review for ratification. The administrators are in the early stages of their contract.

11.5. Planning – Dr. Suffredini reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee will meet on 12/3/14 to review the Security Grant and to plan to meet with the BOF to obtain funding to support the grant. The committee will also spend time discussing other long-range plan items.

11.6. Other Committees – No report.

12.0 OTHER

- Dr. Suffredini reported that the SHS boys' soccer team are Division S Co-Champions.
- S. Bollinger shared information to the Board regarding an article in the paper regarding a school security grant.
- J. Formeister expressed her concern regarding students' perception of school curricula.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (M. Marquardt), SECONDED (M. Rockett) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 7:44 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.