

**DRAFT BOARD MINUTES 9-28-14**  
**Monday, September 28, 2015 7:00 PM**  
DRAFT BOARD MINUTES 9-28-14, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. DRAFT BOARD MINUTES 9-28-14

## SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard  
Somers, CT 06071  
[www.somers.k12.ct.us](http://www.somers.k12.ct.us)

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

**Members Present:** B. Devlin, D. Palmer, R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger (via Skype), K. McLellan, M. Rockett

**Members Absent:** M. Marquardt, A. Kirkpatrick, J. Formeister

**Administrators Present:** Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, Dr. D. Messina, Dr. I. Zytka, R. Wilson, C. Krevolin

**Staff Present:**

**Citizens Present:** B. Capuano, B. Schmidt, J. Robidoux, D. Robidoux, L. Forest, M. Peacock, H. Green, D. Shewokis, K. Glade, J. Morton, M. Splain, D. Lopes, L.L. LaCasse

**Students Present:** S. Robidoux, L. Morton, J. Robidoux

**Others:** R. Caso, B. Case, M. Fargas, Lt. J. Claudio, Atty. W. Connon

#### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 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 14, 2015 – It was **MOVED** (K. McLellan), **SECONDED** (M. Rockett) to approve the September 14, 2015 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 6-0.**

It was **MOVED** (D. Palmer), **SECONDED** (K. McLellan) to suspend and move Agenda Item 9.1 – Transportation Update up in the agenda. **PASSED 6-0.**

##### 9.1. Transportation Update

Board Attorney W. Connon addressed the issue regarding the designated scenic road, County Road, and the incident that occurred last winter when the bus went off the road. Atty. Connon attended a meeting last Tuesday, September 22, 2015 with L. Pellegrini, Dr. Suffredini, and representatives from the bus company. After discussing options, the fact that the bus incident occurred could not be denied and could possibly recur. A final recommendation would be for the homeowners to connect with the Planning Commission and the Town of Somers to place a barrier guardrail in sections of the road in question. T. Rolland is going to determine how many feet of guardrail would be needed. The budget has already been determined; therefore, it may be up to the Board to recommend to the town government to see if they could find extra monies in the town budget. Currently, the Board is waiting to hear from T. Rolland regarding the footage estimate.

It was **MOVED** (D. Palmer), **SECONDED** (B. Devlin) to suspend and move Agenda Item 8.1 – District Pension Plan up in the agenda. **PASSED 6-0.**

### 8.1. District Pension Plan

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (B. Devlin)** to accept the recommendation of the investment committee surrounding the investment strategy. Mr. R. Caso, Mr. B. Case, and Mr. M. Fargas updated the Board on the District's pension plan and the amendments made. They will continue to present updates to the Board twice a year. Chairman Devlin and D. Palmer signed the investment policy statement. **PASSED 6-0.**

## 4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

- **D. Shewokis addressed the Board with several inquiries:**
  - Is there a resolution regarding the volunteer coach for Cross Country?
  - Could the school elaborate on the high turnover rate of staff, and could the school be more competitive with the surrounding towns?
  - Does the school perform exit interviews with parents whose children transfer to CREC or Magnet schools?
  - Would there be a forum for questions and answers from the Board of Education candidates prior to election day?
- **J. Robidoux of 159 County Road addressed the Board regarding the bus stop on County Road and commended the Board on trying to resolve the issue. He also stated his concern for the lack of sidewalk and students walking to the bus stop as well as the lack of a backer (a person who would step off of the bus to make sure the area is clear behind the bus) when the bus has to perform a K-turn on the road.**
- **L. Morton addressed the Board explaining the burden of carrying her sports gear and backpack down County Road to the one bus stop. She also explained the danger of walking due to the lack of sidewalk. She invited Board members to walk with her to experience her daily ritual.**
- **M. Splain of 14 Colton Road addressed the Board with concerns regarding rumors at SHS of cars being broken into as well as drugs at SHS.**

## 5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received correspondence from a citizen.

## 6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

## 7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

### 7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to approve the 9/28/15 bills in the amount of \$154,769.85 as presented. **PASSED 6-0.**

### 7.2. Somers Elementary School Partial Roof Replacement, OSF State Project No. 129-0036

It was **MOVED (K. McLellan), SECONDED (M. Rockett)** to approve the third payment application submitted by Hartford Restoration Services, Inc. for the Somers Elementary School Partial Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$62,189.85. The application has been reviewed and certified for payment by our project architect, Silver/Petrucelli & Associates, Inc. **PASSED 6-0.**

### 7.3. Somers High School Partial Roof Replacement, OSF State Project No. 129-0037

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (R. Lees)** to approve the third payment Application submitted by Hartford Restoration Services, Inc. for the Somers High School Partial Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$159,357.63. The

application has been reviewed and certified for payment by our project architect, Silver/Petrucelli & Associates, Inc. PASSED 6-0.

## **8.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.2. 2015-16 Final Budget Approval**

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (K. McLellan)** to approve the 2015-16 budget as presented by Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services. **PASSED 6-0.**

### **8.3. SRO Presentation**

Lt. J. Claudio gave a presentation regarding the school resource officer (SRO). The rationale behind a SRO began five years ago when assessing the needs of the community. He approached Dr. Suffredini as well as the First Selectman for support. He was able to assign Trooper Hevey, one of his own officers, rather than hiring a new officer. He explained the goals of the SRO are to deter crime, investigate, and enforce the law. The SRO is present not only to enforce the law but to also develop a positive rapport with students, staff, and families. Dr. Suffredini commended Lt. Claudio for his hard work and dedication in supporting the school system.

### **8.4. Appointment of Director of Curriculum**

It was **MOVED (D. Palmer), SECONDED (B. Devlin)** to approve the appointment of Dr. Irene Zytka as the Director of Curriculum as submitted by Dr. Suffredini. Dr. Zytka introduced herself to the Board and shared her experiences which helped to prepare her for this position. **PASSED 6-0.**

## **9.0 OLD BUSINESS**

## **10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **10.1. Final Budget Approval**

As presented under Agenda Item 8.2.

## **11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

**11.1. Budget – No report.**

**11.2. Curriculum – No report.**

**11.3. Policy – No report.**

**11.4. Salary & Negotiations – No report.**

**11.5. Planning – Mr. B. Boutwell reported that a meeting will be needed in about a month.**

**11.6. Other Committees – None.**

## **12.0 OTHER**

Dr. Suffredini and D. Palmer reported an excellent day on campus on 9/28/15 regarding one of the four finalists for Teacher of the Year, Mr. Dan Clement. The State had its

**committee come to the school and meet with Board members, parents, and administrators. Dr. Suffredini wishes Mr. Clement well with this process.**

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED (M. Rockett), SECONDED (D. Palmer) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:06 p.m. PASSED 6-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

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