

Draft of BOE Minutes 2/27/17
Monday, February 27, 2017 7:00 PM
MBA BOE Room, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. BOE Minutes 2/27/2017

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2017

(AMENDED 3/27/17)

Members Present: B. Devlin, D. Palmer (arrived at 7:32 p.m.), R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger, J. Anderson, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), K. McLellan, B. Capuano

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, Dr. D. Messina, Dr. I. Zytka

Staff Present: M. Curran

Citizens Present: T. Mazzoli, Dr. P. Salva, C.G. Bud Knorr, K. Devlin

Students Present: M. Buttafuoco, J. Benson, D. Capuano, M. Yurgaitis, M. Wyllie

Others: M. Krementowski (J.I.)

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

February 13, 2017 – It was **MOVED** (B. Capuano), **SECONDED** (S. Bollinger) to approve the February 13, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

- J. Benson, M. Buttafuoco, D. Capuano, M. Yurgaitis, and M. Wyllie (SHS students) addressed the Board concerning the traditional colors of the caps and gowns (red for males, white for females) for graduation. It has been suggested that all students wear a single color. A letter was read aloud and then given to the Board. Dr. Suffredini stated that he would speak with the administrators and suggested the students speak with them as well. He encouraged the students to follow up with him.
- C.G. Bud Knorr (Selectman), T. Mazzoli (BOF), K. Devlin (Selectman), and Dr. P. Salva (SEF) addressed the Board regarding their disappointment and disapproval of the “Leadership Profile.” They do not agree with the report and believe it “flawed.”

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

All Board members received correspondence.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED** (S. Bollinger), **SECONDED** (M. Marquardt) to approve the 2/27/17 bills in the amount of \$88,926.88 as presented. **PASSED 8-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. District Grant Update

Dr. Suffredini updated the Board with a list of Federal and State grants. Board members had received packets to review. Any further questions may be directed to Dr. Suffredini or Mr. Boutwell, Director of Business Services.

8.2. Field Trip – SHS Art – New York City

It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (K. McLellan) to approve the SHS Honors and AP Art students' field trip to New York City to visit the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 5-6, 2017. If time and weather permit, students will also visit the Guggenheim Museum and walk the Highline. Ten students will be attending. All attendees will have access to each other's cell phones and will use the buddy system at all times. While in museums, students will check in every two hours. The group will be staying at Pod 51 Hotel as they have previously done the past two years. Students are designing water bottles as a fundraiser to offset the cost of the trip. **PASSED 8-0.**

8.3. First Warning – Policy 5141.213 Students – Administering Medications, Narcan Revision

8.4. 2016-2017 – Choice Students

It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (K. McLellan) to maintain the current allotment of 25 Choice Program seats for the 2017-2018 school year. If 25 Choice Program students attend and have siblings, then siblings may also attend. There are presently 15 Choice students enrolled in the district. **PASSED 8-0.**

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

9.1. Second Warning of World Language Requirement Changes

It was **MOVED** (B. Capuano), **SECONDED** (J. Anderson) to approve the recommendation by staff and administration of both Somers High School and Mabelle B. Avery Middle School that the requirement for enrollment in any level two World Language course be changed from a D to a C-. In addition, it is also recommended that the students have a B+ to enroll in any honors level World Language course as well. The rationale is to ensure that students are taking the language requirement seriously and are committed in excelling and committing to the rigors of an honors level course. **PASSED 8-0.**

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Dr. Suffredini was pleased to announce that Mr. P. Goduti, SHS Social Studies Teacher, has been accepted into a Ph.D. program and wishes him well.

- **Dr. Suffredini addressed the Board regarding the “Leadership Profile” that was developed by Dr. M. Broderick, a CABA Senior Search Consultant. Dr. Suffredini was disappointed when he read it because he believed it is inconsistent with what he has observed in his ten years working in the district. Another document that was generated by CABA regarding Somers Public Schools is starkly incongruent with the “Leadership Profile.” He emphasized that he was not responding from an emotional point of view but has a tremendous amount of pride and respect for the community and stated that as the Executive Officer of the Somers Public Schools, the way in which the schools are perceived in the community is critical.**

Dr. Suffredini noted that just at a glance the “Leadership Profile” was not edited properly noting that not only did it come across as a boilerplate set-up or template, the pie charts had overlapping numbers which were difficult to read as well as inaccurate numbers of participants in the columns. He stated that in order to utilize surveys effectively, the data must be reliable and valid. If one cannot substantiate the reliability and validity of the data, then it can be misrepresented and, therefore, useless. He also stated that since the report came out, staff members have felt discouraged and/or offended by the report claiming it did not paint an accurate picture. Dr. Suffredini continued to cite examples from the conflicting strengths and challenges of the “Leadership Profile.” Dr. Suffredini stated that highly qualified people have been hired and that staff have reported to him how much they value working in Somers, the abundance of resources that are available to them, and the opportunities they have including applying for individual grants through the Somers Education Foundation. Dr. Suffredini also included that education reform is and will always be in motion. He reiterated that all programs are done for student growth and development. As far as the report claiming that academic and testing pressures have made it hard to maintain focus, Dr. Suffredini emphasized that part of education is testing in order to measure growth and progress of children. Dr. Suffredini cited that programs have been brought in and utilized by staff that have been funded by the district (i.e., alternative and FAB) and that for a small school there are an abundance of resources for students (i.e., counselors in every building, school psychologists, social workers, 2.5 counselors at SHS, and a career counselor at SHS). He noted that there have not been any political issues that have impacted school operations. On the contrary, he reported that the BOE, Board of Selectmen, and BOF have all worked well together during his ten years as superintendent and that students have had their needs met. Dr. Suffredini stated that Somers Public Schools have made incredible advances in technology and are careful to monitor the impact on students.

Members of the Board of Education were also displeased with the “Leadership Profile” stating it seemed to be more of a summary of the survey/focus groups rather than a profile delineating attributes of a new superintendent for Somers Public Schools. BOE members will meet with Dr. M. Broderick on 2/28/17 to discuss the “Leadership Profile” and may take action at the next BOE meeting on 3/13/17.

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 – A. Kirkpatrick reported that the next meeting is to be determined.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – D. Palmer reported that negotiations for the nurses and custodians are coming up.

11.5. Planning – D. Palmer reported that the next meeting will be held on 3/13/17 at 6 p.m. prior to the Public Hearing. He needs to look at a report and discuss it with Mr. B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services.

11.6. Other Committees – None.

12.0 OTHER

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (M. Marquardt), SECONDED (K. McLellan) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:21 p.m. PASSED 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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