

BOE Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2017 7:00 PM

Mabelle Avery Middle School District Offices Board Room, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. DRAFT Minutes of Board Meeting of 4/24/2017 3
To approve minutes of the 4/24/2017 Board of Education Meeting.
4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Approval of Bills
 1. Warrant of May 8, 2017
The Board of Education to approve the warrant of bills of May 8, 2017.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 1. First Warning of DSB Code 5145.4- Americans with Disabilities Act 7
First Warning of DSB 5145.4- Americans with Disabilities Act. The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for policy revisions and is presenting the revised policy for first warning to the Board of Education. Second warning /adoption will be included on the 5/22/17 agenda.
 2. Resignation - Nathan Rasmussen - Somers High School - Physics Teacher 8
Mr. Rasmussen has put in this resignation date of 6/14/2017
 3. Tracy Coro - SES - extend leave 9
Mrs. Coro delivered her baby 2 weeks early and wishes to extend her leave from June 4 - June 14th (8 days) unpaid.
9. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Second Warning - New Textbook Proposal for Somers High School – Grade 11 English April 6, 2017 - The Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher
Second Warning - New Textbook Proposal for Somers High School – Grade 11 English The Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher is for 11th grade English class. This book conveys themes of acceptance, resilience, and perseverance.
 2. Second Warning of Curricula: New Textbook for Somers Elementary School – Science 10
To adopt a new textbook for Somers Elementary School in Science The above curricula was discussed by the Curriculum Committee at their 4/6/17 meeting and was presented to the Board on 4/24/17. This textbook is for grades 1-5 and aligns with new state standards.
 3. 2017 BOE Meeting Date Calendar 11
review meeting dates
10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 1. Curriculum Presentation - Technology Education
Dr. Zytka will give Board of Education a report on SPS Technology Education.
 2. Curriculum Presentation - Library/Media
Dr. Zytka will give a presentation on SPS Library/Media.
 3. Curriculum Presentation of Differentiating/Instructional Strategies
Dr. Zytka will give the Board a presentation on SPS Differentiating/Instructional Strategies.
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Budget
 2. Curriculum

3. Policy
4. Salary & Negotiations
5. Planning
6. Other Committees
12. OTHER
13. ADJOURNMENT

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – APRIL 24, 2017

Members Present: B. Devlin, R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger (left at 7:15 p.m.), J. Anderson, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt, B. Capuano
Members Absent: D. Palmer, K. McLellan
Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, Dr. D. Messina, Dr. I. Zytka,
Staff Present:
Citizens Present:
Students Present:
Others: B. Czapla

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

3.1. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2017

March 27, 2017 – It was **MOVED** (S. Bollinger), **SECONDED** (B. Capuano) to approve the March 27, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Warrant of Bills 4/10/17

It was **MOVED** (R. Lees), **SECONDED** (A. Kirkpatrick) to approve the 4/10/17 bills in the amount of \$494,464.78 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

7.1.1. Warrant of Bills 4/24/17

It was **MOVED** (R. Lees), **SECONDED** (A. Kirkpatrick) to approve the 4/24/17 bills in the amount of \$110,862.00 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Approval of Job Sharing Agreements

It was **MOVED** (B. Capuano), **SECONDED** (J. Anderson) to approve the

request from N. Dzicek and M. Shannon to job-share a Grade 4 position for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Suffredini will speak with the administrators regarding their perspective and feedback on job-share positions. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.2. First Warning of Curricula: New Textbook Proposal for Somers High School – Grade 11 English

April 6, 2017 Curriculum Committee is presenting this proposal for the first warning to the Board. The Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher is for 11th grade English class. This book conveys themes of acceptance, resilience, and perseverance. Any questions may be directed to the Curriculum Committee. Second warning/adoption will be added to the May 8, 2017 BOE agenda.

8.3. First Warning of Curricula: New Textbook for Somers Elementary School – Science

The above curricula was discussed by the Curriculum Committee at their 4/6/17 meeting and is being presented to the Board for the first warning. This textbook is for grades 1-5 and aligns with new state standards. Any questions may be directed to the Curriculum Committee. Second warning/adoption will be added to the May 8, 2017 BOE agenda.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

9.1. Second Warning – Curriculum Committee—Two Books for Somers High School: One for Grade 9 Honors English and One for Grade 11 & 12 Fantasy Elective Course

It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (B. Capuano) to approve a new textbook, *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, for the 9th grade Honors English class which will provide early exposure of Shakespeare’s work with comedies as well as balance to the curriculum. This book will replace *Julius Caesar*; however, the students will still have exposure to *Julius Caesar* through excerpts. **PASSED 7-0.**

It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (B. Capuano) to approve a new textbook, *Eyes of the Dragon* by Stephen King, for the new Fantasy Elective course which has been added for 11th and 12th grade students. This book offers a modern take on the classic hero’s journey that is used in Fantasy curriculum. **PASSED 7-0.**

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1. Curriculum Presentation of Tech Ed and Library Media

Dr. Suffredini, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Dr. I. Zytka, Director of Curriculum, who updated the Board on the Tech Ed and Library Media curriculum. Dr. Zytka distributed copies of the new science textbooks for Board members to scan. Teachers had been encouraged to peruse a number of textbooks while training for the Next Generation Science Standards. The textbooks will incorporate kits. She reported that a presentation by the vendor was performed last week, and online resources will be available for students.

Library media specialists are updating the summer reading books. The list will be online on the school webpage. Media specialists act as a resource to students and staff. There is vertical alignment throughout the three schools. At SES, the media specialist has a role in technology but is more focused on developing the students' interest in books, reading assistance, and helping students find books on topics they are interested in. At MBA, the media specialist oversees state testing sites, assists students and staff on computers, and works with teachers in providing professional development in technology. At SHS, the media specialist helps to prepare students for college and beyond by assisting in research and developing technical writing skills (i.e., annotated bibliographies). Media specialists run group instructions for grade levels that are tied in closely with media and technology.

Dr. Zytka reported that a new curriculum management system, Atlas, will be utilized. Under Atlas, any curriculum development or teaching may be uploaded which will enable staff to visualize documents, assessments, scope and sequence, etc. at any given time. Parents may be able to view selected elements as well.

Dr. Zytka reported that professional development days will have more of a workshop model next year. Teachers will be able to choose AM or PM sessions, and there will be technological opportunities involved as well. Workshops will be expanded and offered more frequently. The Tech Ed program at SHS is moving along well. The curriculum documents have been submitted for review.

10.2. Transportation Update

Mr. B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services, updated the Board on transportation. There has been very little change to update the Board from the previous fall update. There haven't been any issues regarding bus stops, from the schools, or from the parents. The Somers Public Schools will continue using First Student. Mr. Boutwell stated he would like to discuss SES dismissal time with the Board in the near future. Any transportation questions may be directed to Mr. Boutwell.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1. Budget – Chairman Devlin reported that the public hearing was held last week with very few people in attendance. Chairman Devlin commended Dr. Suffredini on his budget presentation.

11.2. Curriculum – No report.

11.3. Policy – A. Kirkpatrick reported that the committee met prior to the 4/24/17 BOE meeting and will meet again on 5/8/17 at 6:15 p.m.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – Dr. Suffredini reported that he has been corresponding with Attorney Cannon in terms of setting up negotiations with

the nurses' union. The union will be notifying Dr. Suffredini and Attorney Cannon with a date for the meeting.

11.5. Planning – No report.

11.6. Other Committees – None.

12.0 OTHER

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (M. Marquardt), SECONDED (B. Capuano) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 7:36 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.

Students

Nondiscrimination

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to comply with the letter and spirit of federal and state statutes regarding people with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations in order to implement appropriate ADA provisions for students, employees and others who may be affected by this Act.

(cf. 4118.12/4218.12 - Disabilities)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[19-581](#) through 585 AIDS testing and medical information.

[10-209](#) Records not to be public.

[46a-60](#) Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20 U.S.C. 706(7)(b).

American Disability Act of 1989. (42 U.S.C. Ch 126 §12112), as amended by ADA Amendments Act of 2008

Chalk v. The United States District Court of Central California.

Amendments of Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and Title III, Regulation to Implement ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 155 (28 CFR Parts 35 & 36)

Adopted: September 8, 2008

Nathan Rasmussen
34 Wynwood Dr.
Enfield, CT 06082
nathan.rasmussen@somers.k12.ct.us

April 18, 2017

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

Please accept this letter as my official resignation from my position as physics/science teacher with the Somers High School. My final day of employment will be June 12, 2017 (I think that's our last day). After much contemplation, I have made the decision to focus my attention on other career opportunities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and am honored to have had the chance to touch the lives of the students at Somers. It has been as much a pleasure to learn from them as it has been to teach them. Thank you so very much for the opportunity. I appreciate all the help this school system has done to help me get established at the school.

I will work hard in my final days of employment to complete all of the required paperwork and duties assigned to me. I am happy to assist in making the transition as seamless as I can. Please let me know if you need any additional information and do not hesitate to reach out with questions by phone at (707) 832-8149 or email at nathan.rasmussen@somers.k12.ct.us.

Sincerely,

Nathan Rasmussen

April 28, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am requesting to extend my maternity leave from June 4-June 14. I understand that I will not be paid for the 8 days. Since I gave birth 2 weeks earlier than expected due date, I want to spend that time recovering and with my two kids. Thank you!

Tracy Coro

Proposal for the acquisition of Inspire Science by McGraw Hill for SES Grades 1-5

With the state's implementation of the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), there is a need to teach and learn science in a new way. After months of reviewing various materials and consultation with our CREC consultant, it was decided that Gr.1-5 requests to adopt the McGraw-Hill series of science textbooks. (Kindergarten is requesting to hold off until the CREC units and lessons are available in July to determine the direction of textbook or trade book acquisition.)

The cost of Gr.1-5 science book will depend on remaining textbook budget as to whether we fund a 3 or 6-year subscription. The subscription will include any replacement workbooks and online resources.

Below is a description of the features of this series for science:

Correlate multiple standards in interdisciplinary lessons (NGSS, CCSS Math and ELA)

Writing in Science

Integration of Science and Literacy

Critical Thinking

Integration of Math Skills

Key Concept Checks

5E Lesson Model – Modular Design

Provides engaging high level interactive content

Virtual Labs

Page Keeley Formative Assessments Probes

Learn about the philosophy behind the use of science probes as a formative assessment strategy

Learn new strategies for using the probes with your students:

The Sticky Bar Graph Strategy

The Partner Speak Strategy

The Response Card Strategy

Diane Zikes Foldables

Career Kids (Avatars will show what careers are available in science all the way through each module)

Science Read Alouds for K-2

New Hardback Science Handbook or Reference Books for Grades 3-5

Greater access to rich informational text content for students

Be a Scientist' Student Journal for K-5

Now in Full Color

Easy to follow 5E and Key Step Labeling

Clear references to digital resources

The hands-on activities are now built in

More STEM Career Kid Tips

Annotated versions online

For Differentiation:

Leveled Readers

Reading Checks

ELL Support

Foldables

Spanish Resources Coming Soon

Somers Board of Education
One Vision Boulevard
Somers, Connecticut 06071
www.somers.k12.ct.us

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 9, 2017
Monday, January 23, 2017

Monday, February 13, 2017
Monday, February 27, 2017

Monday, March 13, 2017 (cancelled)
Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, April 24, 2017

Monday, May 8, 2017
Monday, May 22, 2017

Monday, June 12, 2017
Monday, June 26, 2017

Monday, July 10, 2017

Monday, August 28, 2017

Monday, September 11, 2017
Monday, September 25, 2017

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Monday, October 23, 2017

Monday, November 13, 2017
Monday, November 27, 2017

Monday, December 4, 2017
Monday, December 18, 2017

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School District Offices Board Room unless specified otherwise on the meeting agenda.

BOE Approved 10/11/16