

**Draft BOE Meeting 4/24/2017**  
**Monday, April 24, 2017 7:00 PM**  
Draft BOE Meeting 4/24/2017, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Draft BOE Meeting 4/24/2017

**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 – 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.**