

DRAFT of Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, October 2, 2017 6:00 PM
Somers High School Auditorium, 5 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Draft of 10/2/17 Special Meeting of Board of Education

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING – OCTOBER 2, 2017

Members Present: B. Devlin, D. Palmer, R. Lees, Jr., J. Anderson, S. Moynihan Bollinger, A. Kirkpatrick, K. McLellan, B. Capuano

Members Absent: M. Marquardt

Administrators Present: B. Czapla, B. Boutwell, Dr. D. Messina, Dr. I. Zytka, R. Wilson, D. Carroll, R. Kapner, J. Oliver, D. Senecal, G. Cotzin, C. Krevolin

Staff Present: C. Gustafson, K. Jones

Citizens Present: B. Knorr, K. Devlin, R. Carey

Students Present:

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Somers High School auditorium.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

- R. Carey of 8 Kibbe Grove Rd. spoke before the BOE and relayed his concern of government interfering with education.
- C. Gustafson (SHS World Language Teacher, Co-Chair NEASC) spoke before the BOE advocating for all employee positions and citing accolades from NEASC. She stated that the SPS progress has taken years to achieve with a well-articulated K-12 program as the result. She stated that teachers welcome the opportunity to work together to solve this problem.
- K. Jones (President of SEA) spoke before the BOE advocating for the teachers and wants to make sure all avenues are examined.

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. 2017 Potential Budget Reductions

Superintendent Czapla discussed the potential budget reductions in the 2018 budget based on the State's budget crisis. He began by stating that this is not a problem that the town of Somers or BOE created but is due to a lack of approved budget in Hartford.

Timeline: Superintendent Czapla discussed the July-October timeline and reported that starting in July, SPS implemented a spending/hiring freeze. As there was no adopted State budget, the Governor's Executive Order went into effect 10/1/17 calling for significant reduction in municipal aid to Somers.

Budget Breakdown: Superintendent Czapla described an overview of the budget breakdown citing examples of discretionary vs. non-discretionary expenses. Expense cuts would begin with discretionary funding (maintenance, instructional resources, capital outlay, etc.).

Potential Budget Cuts: Items include pension, general maintenance, instructional supplies and resources, curriculum and professional development, capital outlay, and health insurance. Items need to be prioritized so as not to affect the students.

Salary Savings: A hiring freeze as well as negotiated concessions with bargaining units and early retirements have reduced costs; however, due to the magnitude of municipal aid staff layoffs are imminent.

Next Steps: Intent-to-layoff notices will be issued this week. Superintendent Czapla does not wish to wait until 11/1/17 so as to be respectful to the employees. Due to layoffs, some staff will have to be transferred. September and October bills and obligations will be monitored. The State budget process will be continuously monitored as well as constant contact with State Legislators. There will also be constant communication with the town.

Superintendent Czapla hopes to have a revised plan pending an adopted State budget for the BOE meeting on 10/23/17. He reiterated that this presentation is a worst-case scenario if the Governor governs by Executive Order.

D. Palmer thanked Superintendent Czapla for being proactive and transparent through this process.

A. Kirkpatrick mentioned the Superintendent's Blog on the school website where people in the community may email him. The blog site is also a means for the superintendent to update the community.

S. Bollinger asked the superintendent to elaborate on the 11/1/17 deadline date. Superintendent Czapla explained that he wanted the month of October to work on savings and hope for a potential budget to work with from the State. **S. Bollinger** thanked the superintendent for informing the community as well as thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED (K. McLellan)**, **SECONDED (J. Anderson)** to adjourn the BOE meeting at 6:37 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.