

Draft Minutes from 4/23/18 BOE Meeting

Monday, April 23, 2018 7:00 PM

Draft Minutes from 4/23/18 BOE Meeting, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Draft Minutes from 4/23/18 BOE Meeting

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

April 23, 2018

7:00 PM

Board of Education Room

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members: Jan Martin, Sarah Bollinger, Barbara Capuano, Bruce Devlin, Rick Lees, Jeremy Anderson, Kate McLellan, Anne Kirkpatrick

Absent Board Members: David Palmer

Other Staff: Bill Boutwell, Irene Zytka, Rob Wilson, Liz McCloskey, Cheryl Fry, Erin Scholes, Marika Kraus, Emily Galloway, Jim MacFeat, Jennifer Oliver, Mark Maciolek, Jessica Wolf

Students: Belle Camerota, Mya MacNaught, Faith Sarisley, Sam Barile, Fiona Cheyney,

Others: Ryan O'Toole, Michelle MacNaught, Megan Krementowski, Doris Castro, AnnMarie Campanelli, Tony Campanelli, Theresa Camerota, Ben Camerota, Elaine Hall, Steven Wolf

1. 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 Board of Education Meeting Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

The Somers High School students will update the Board of Education on events at the high school.

Discussion: F. Sarisley, SHS Student Representative, updated the Board on events at the high school. The senior class Variety Show occurred on Friday, 4/20/18, and had a great turnout. Juniors have SAT's on 4/24/18 while freshmen and sophomores have PSAT's. Juniors will be taking the NGSS test focusing on Science. The GSA will be holding a fundraiser at Sonny's on Thursday, 4/26/18, where a percentage of the profits will go towards the sophomore class.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1. Board Recognition of Mr. Robert Hall a longtime volunteer.

Rationale: Mr. Robert Hall has been volunteering at Somers Public Schools since 2004. From Sound and Lighting in all our events, to Music Boosters, he is always heavily involved in plays, music events and school events.

Discussion: The Board of Education recognized Mr. R. Hall, a Somers Public Schools Volunteer since 2004, for his countless hours of dedication and participation involving Somers Music Patrons; his heavy involvement with sound and lighting in plays, music events, and school events; and, fostering students' interest in show design. Mr. hall thanked the BOE for their support and

contributions to the students and community.

4.2. Somers Elementary School's Technology Presentation

Rationale: Mrs. Emily Galloway (Grade 1) and Mrs. Liz McCloskey (Grade 3) will give a technology presentation to the Board.

Discussion: Mrs. J. Oliver, SES Principal, introduced Ms. L. McCloskey, 3rd Grade Teacher, and Ms. E. Galloway, 1st Grade Teacher, to the BOE. Ms. McCloskey and B. Camerota, 3rd Grade student, discussed the ways in which they utilize technology in the classroom through the Raz-Kids, IXL, and Epic applications. Raz-Kids is a daily staple in Readers Workshop. The teacher may assign "just right" books individually or in guided reading groups. Students read their book, take a quiz, and feedback is sent to the teacher. Supplemental materials are also available. B. Camerota explained her "reading room" where her favorite books are poetry and non-fiction. Her assignments are given by her teacher, and the stars that she earns from reading books and taking quizzes help her build an online robot. IXL is an application used for math, language arts, science, and social studies. IXL skills align with the Common Core Standards and enable students to practice their skills independently. Feedback for teachers include trouble areas, progress, and improvement per student or as a class as a whole. Epic is a popular reading application among students based on students' reading interests versus academic readiness. Teachers are able to produce book collections and may "drop" these collections to the whole class, a small group, or an individual. Students and teachers have mailboxes in Epic which makes for a fun virtual interaction. Students mark their reviews on books for the teacher to view. Teachers may also interact and share their collections with other teachers. Ms. Galloway and M. MacNaught, 1st Grade student, discussed a piloted program, Seesaw, that is utilized in the classroom. This application provides an alternative way of assessing students' progress. This application enables students to create a portfolio via photos, video, drawings, and labels. M. MacNaught showed the BOE her video on "Word Collector Girl" where she spoke in the video providing a list of adjectives to describe her picture. Ms. Galloway showed a picture of an egg that is hatching in First Grade and how students label the parts of the egg through Seesaw. Students may use this application in math as well. Currently, this application is used only between students and teachers; however, the goal is to loop the parents in for next year so that they may also follow their child's progress.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1. Draft of March 26, 2018

Rationale: The Board of Education will review and approve the Draft Minutes of March 26, 2018.

Motion Passed: Draft Minutes of March 26, 2018 passed with a motion by Barbara Capuano and a second by Jan Martin. (8-0)

5.2. Draft of Minutes of Special Board Meeting on April 2, 2018

Rationale: The Board of Education will review and approve the Draft Minutes of

the Special Board Meeting on April 2, 2018.

Motion Passed: Draft Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on 4/2/18 passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. (8-0)

6. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1. Warrant of April 9, 2018

Rationale: Warrant of Bills for April 9, 2018

Motion Passed: Warrant of Bills for 4/9/18 in the amount of \$334,482.72 passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.2. Warrant of April 23, 2018

Rationale: The Warrant of April 23, 2018 for the Board's approval.

Motion Passed: Warrant of Bills for 4/23/18 in the amount of \$152,545.56 passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.3. Childrearing Leave for SHS Counselor, Kelly Giannuzzi

Rationale: Mrs. Giannuzzi, Somers High School Counselor, is requesting a childrearing leave for the 2018-2019 school year returning for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion Passed: Childrearing leave for K. Giannuzzi, SHS Counselor, for the 2018-2019 school year and to return for the 2019-2020 school year passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.4. Maternity and Childrearing Leave for SHS English Teacher, Heather Jordan Connors

Rationale: Somers High School's English teacher, Mrs. Heather Jordan Connors is requesting a maternity and childrearing leave for the 1st semester of the 2018-2019 school year. She is expecting her child about August 25, 2018.

Motion Passed: Maternity and childrearing leave for H. Jordan Connors, SHS English Teacher, for the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.5. Retirement of Somers Elementary Principal, Jennifer Oliver

Rationale: Mrs. Jennifer Oliver has put in her retirement for June 30, 2018 after teaching and being an administrator for the last 32 years.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla extended his gratitude to Mrs. J. Oliver and acknowledged her lengthy and successful career.

Motion Passed: Retirement of Mrs. J. Oliver, SES Principal, effective June 30, 2018 after teaching and being an administrator for the last 32 years passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.6. Retirement of Somers Elementary Grade 5 teacher, Ms. Carolyn Stetson

Rationale: Ms. Carolyn Stetson, Grade 5 Teacher in Somers Elementary School has put in her retirement after teaching in Somers for 37 years.

Motion Passed: Retirement of Ms. C. Stetson, SES Grade 5 Teacher, after teaching in Somers for 37 years passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.7. Resignation of Michelle Levesque, Paraeducator Job Coach at Somers High School.

Rationale: Mrs. Michelle Levesque, a Paraeducator Job Coach at Somers High School, is resigning on April 6, 2018.

Motion Passed: Resignation of M. Levesque, SHS Paraeducator Job Coach, effective 4/6/18 passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

9.8. Resignation of Takaya Owens, Social Worker at Mabelle B. Avery Middle School

Rationale: Ms. Takaya Owens, Social Worker at Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, has handed in her resignation as of June 22, 2018.

Motion Passed: Resignation of T. Owens, MBA Social Worker, effective 6/22/18 passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. Board of Education Approval of 2018-2019 Open Choice Seats

Rationale: Board of Education Approval of 2018-2019 Choice students - Annually we are required to review our availability of seats to expand the Choice Program.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the 2018-2019 Open Choice Seats to include two additional seats for Kindergarten and 1st Grade passed with a motion by Barbara Capuano and a second by Kate McLellan. (8-0)

10.2. Appointment of New Somers Elementary School Principal

Rationale: Superintendent will talk about the appointment of the new Somers Elementary Principal.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla discussed Mrs. D. Senecal's qualities and characteristics and recommended that the BOE appoint Mrs. D. Senecal as the new SES Principal starting the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion Passed: Motion to appoint Mrs. D. Senecal as the new SES Principal passed with a motion by Kate McLellan and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

11. OLD BUSINESS

11.1. Second Warning of Curriculum Proposal for Somers High School Honors Chorus

Rationale: The Curriculum Committee has presented the above curricula to the Board for first warning and now is presenting second warning for adoption.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Curriculum Proposal for a Somers High School Honors Chorus passed with a motion by Kate McLellan and a second by Barbara Capuano. (8-0)

11.2. Second Warning of Curriculum Proposal for Somers High School Honors

Band

Rationale: The Curriculum Committee has presented the above curricula to the Board for first warning and now is presenting the second warning for adoption.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Curriculum Proposal for a Somers High School Honors Band passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Kate McLellan. (8-0)

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

12.1. School Wellness Committee Report

Rationale: Mrs. Cheryl Fry, MBA Nurse and Head Nurse will give the board a report from the School Wellness Committee.

Discussion: Mrs. C. Fry, Head Nurse and MBA Nurse, updated the BOE on a report from the School Wellness Committee. There have been approximately 18,000 student visits thus far for illness/injury this 2017-2018 school year. Approximately 300 students are dismissed each month for health reasons. Strep, upper respiratory infections, conjunctivitis, and flu accounted for the majority of absences. Most staff seen for health reasons were from SES. The flu epidemic was a challenge this year with 101 confirmed cases. Schools were cleaned and disinfected during the epidemic. Tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes were supplied to all classrooms. The nurses continue to write Individual Emergency Medical Plans and Medical Plans for students with existing medical issues. All AEDs were on a recall list this year. The manufacturer was contacted, and the machines are fine to use as long as the automatic daily self-test is done. The SES vision screening machine will be replaced after it broke down. SES nurses will be providing material for proper handwashing technique. New to the district this year was the addition of Narcan. Training has been done. The medication is to be administered nasally. There has not been a need to administer it this year. A self-defense class is tentatively scheduled in May for girls in the middle school and high school. Goals for the 2018-2019 school year include: embarking on a breakfast program; training staff on First Aid, AED, Heimlich, EpiPen, Bloodborne Pathogens, Diabetes Education via computer; implementing Girls on the Run, a program that instills confidence and provides support and camaraderie among girls culminating in a 5K race together; and, decorating two Buddy Benches at SES which is to promote kindness and friendship and to help those not feel excluded.

12.2. Somers Education Foundation Update (SEF)

Rationale: Superintendent will update the board on the grants the Somers Education Foundation has issued this spring.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla provided a list of SEF Spring 2018 ED Grants for the BOE. He stated that Somers is extremely fortunate to have such a generous foundation and is very appreciative of SEF as well as teachers who put in the research to assimilate material(s) and implement them in classrooms.

12.3. Superintendent Update

Rationale: Superintendent will update the Board on current issues.

Discussion: Nothing to report at this time.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1. BUDGET

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reported that the Town Meeting will be held on 5/1/18 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, and the Referendum is scheduled for 5/8/18.

13.2. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

13.3. POLICY

Discussion: A. Kirkpatrick reported that BOE members received a packet. The next meeting will be held on 5/29/18 at 6 p.m.

13.4. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reported that next SESA negotiations will be held on 5/2/18. General wage increases for non-certified staff will be discussed in the near future.

13.5. PLANNING

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla reported that the next meeting is scheduled on 5/14/18 at 6 p.m. The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Project will be presented to the Board in the future.

13.6. OTHER COMMITTEES

Discussion: None.

14. OTHER

Discussion: A. Kirkpatrick recommended discussing the possibility of having a BOE member act as a representative for CREC to attend monthly CREC meetings. This is to be discussed at the next BOE meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Adjournment at 8:12 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. (8-0)

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, Board of Education Recording Secretary