

Draft Minutes of Board of Education Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2018 7:00 PM

Draft Minutes of Board of Education Meeting, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Draft Minutes of Board of Education Meeting 5/14/18

Somers Board of Education Meeting

May 14, 2018

7:00 PM

Board of Education Room

Attendance Taken at 6:57 PM:

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin (Chair), Jan Martin, Sarah Bollinger, David Palmer, Rick Lees, Jeremy Anderson, Kate McLellan, Anne Kirkpatrick

Updated Attendance: Kate McLellan was updated to present at: 7:03 PM

Absent Board Members: Barbara Capuano

Other Staff: Bill Boutwell, Irene Zytka, Denise Messina, Dan Clement, Dina Senecal, Sheri Yarrows

Others: Danila Babushkin, Faith Sarisley, Rene Karvandi (students)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education Meeting Room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. STUDENT/PARENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

3.1. Dina Senecal

Chairman Devlin recognized and officially presented Mrs. Dina Senecal as Principal of Somers Elementary School effective August 13, 2018. Mrs. Senecal started at Somers Elementary School 16 years ago and is currently the Assistant Principal at SES. Chairman Devlin described her as an enthusiastic, full-of-energy, passionate professional who is a wonderful advocate for students. The BOE congratulated her and wished her continued success.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Draft Board of Education Minutes of April 23, 2018

Rationale:

The Board is to review and approve/change the draft Board of Education Minutes of April 23, 2018.

Motion Passed: Draft Minutes of April 23, 2018 passed with a motion by Jeremy Anderson and a second by Jan Martin. Passed (8 -0)

5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1. Warrant of Bills on May 14, 2018

The Board will review the Warrant of Bills of May 14, 2018.

Motion Passed: Warrant of Bills for May 14, 2018 in the amount of \$606,330.41 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

8.2. Retirement of Fran White, Paraeducator at SES, effective June 30, 2018

Fran White, Paraeducator at Somers Elementary School, is retiring effective June 30, 2018. Fran started at Somers Elementary School in August 2005.

Motion Passed: Retirement of Fran White, Paraeducator at Somers Elementary School, effective June 30, 2018 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

8.3. Resignation of Kelly Flanagan, SES Nurse, effective May 15, 2018

Kelly Flanagan, SES Nurse, handed in her resignation notice with May 15, 2018 being her last day.

Motion Passed: Resignation of K. Flanagan, SES Nurse, effective May 15, 2018 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

8.4. Resignation of Evan Woicik, SHS Paraeducator Job Coach, effective May 11, 2018

Evan Woicik, Paraeducator Job Coach at Somers High School with the transition students, handed in his resignation with his last day being May 11, 2018.

Motion Passed: Resignation of E. Woicik, SHS Paraeducator Job Coach, effective May 11, 2018 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

8.5. Resignation of Joyce Vaudreuil, MBA Special Education teacher, effective June 30, 2018

Mrs. Joyce Vaudreuil, Special Education Teacher at MBA, has put in her letter of resignation for June 30, 2018.

Motion Passed: Resignation of Joyce Vaudreuil, MBA Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2018 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. OLD BUSINESS

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1. Somers High School Independent Leadership Presentation

Dan Clement, teacher at Somers High School, will present to the Board a report on the Independent Leadership.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Mr. Dan Clement, Somers High School Teacher, to the BOE to discuss the Somers High School Independent Leadership course. Mr. Clement explained that the course started three years ago when a student approached him stating he had already taken all of the Business courses that were offered and was interested in learning more about leadership and entrepreneurship. It is a half-year, independent study program. Three students are selected per year. The course is divided into three concepts: theory, practice, and application. Mr. Clement introduced three students to further discuss the concepts: R. Karrandi, D. Babushkin, and F. Sarisley. The students read "A Leader's Legacy" over the summer and summarized four parts pertaining to leadership theory. They had online discussions, watched videos, and read articles. The students learned different leadership styles. At the end of the semester, they wrote a paper on a person they felt was an "Effective Leader." They practiced working on two case studies and developing skills. The students worked collaboratively to try to solve a problem with the knowledge they obtained. Each student also had to choose an extracurricular activity in order to apply what they had learned and write Reflection papers. The students discussed what they mostly took away from the course. Due to the online format, Mr. Clement stated he has to be extremely specific and detailed with any feedback given to the students. This course will be an Honors course next year.

11.2. Special Education - Somers High School Program Evaluation and Specialized Programming

Dr. Denise Messina will present the Board the following - Special Education Specialized Programming.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla introduced Dr. D. Messina, Director of Pupil Services, to discuss Special Education Specialized Programming. Dr. Messina discussed the SPS Delivery Models: SES Smart Start, SES Early Start, SES FAB, MBA Pathways, SHS PRIDE, SHS ASPIRE, and SHS Transitions. These models provide a continuum of service delivery with specially designed instruction to a student with a disability. Dr. Messina explained the entrance and exit criteria of students at SES FAB and MBA Pathways as well as unique program features. Dr. Messina introduced Mrs. S. Yarrows, Special Education Transition Program Teacher, to the BOE. It was explained that the transition planning and services are a results-oriented process, focused on improving facilitation of the child from school to post secondary life. The Transition Program is in its 8th year. The student receives appropriate educational services through the end of the school year in which they turn 21 or until graduation with a regular high school diploma. Independent living, post-secondary education, and employment planning are the focus. Mrs. Yarrows listed the number of businesses that participate with this

program. She also displayed pictures of students enrolled in this program at their job sites. Students work at Big Y, YMCA, Somers Fire Department, and auto detailing just to name a few. Students must remain at the job site for a minimum of eight weeks. They participate in a Fitness Program on Fridays. Students are able to take part in the Unified Sports Program at school where they partner and participate with students without disabilities. Mrs. Yarrows continues to look for other options to further develop the program. Dr. Messina commended Mrs. Yarrows for her tremendous work with the program.

11.3. Communication Plan for Somers Public Schools

Superintendent will present to the Board the Somers Public Schools Communication Plan.

Discussion: Superintendent Czapla presented the Communication Plan for Somers Public Schools to the Board of Education. The plan consists of four principles: all communications are to support the school system's goals; to increase two-way communications to constituents; to make sure the story is told accurately; and, to be transparent in order to develop trust. Goals, objectives, and strategies will focus on: community; student/parents; developing relationships with the media; enhancing staff communications; and, developing crisis communication plans in order to inform parents, students, and the community. Superintendent Czapla stated that there are things that still need to be done; however, a road map has been established. He does not want to over-communicate and, therefore, has designated specific distribution times for flyers, brochures, newsletters and emails.

11.4. Superintendent Update

Superintendent will update the Board.

Discussion: No update.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1. BUDGET

Discussion: No report.

12.2. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

12.3. POLICY

Discussion: A. Kirkpatrick reported that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5/29/18 at 6 p.m.

12.4. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: D. Palmer reported that SESA negotiations continue and will meet on 5/21/18.

12.5. PLANNING

Discussion: Chairman Devlin reported that the Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss Secure Energy Solutions of East Longmeadow regarding a lighting retrofit project in all three schools. The project will result in reduced energy consumption and cost savings in the future. The BOE will vote at a future meeting.

12.6. OTHER COMMITTEES

Discussion: None.

13. OTHER

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion Passed: Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. and invite Superintendent Czapla and Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, to discuss the Security Updates of Somers Public Schools passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. Passed (8-0)

14.1. Security Updates

The Board will invite the Superintendent, Brian Czapla into Executive Session to discuss the Security Updates of Somers Public Schools.

The Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Adjournment at 8:47 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. Passed (8-0)

Rick Lees, Board of Education Secretary Date

Shannin Burns, Board of Education Recording Secretary