

# Board of Education Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2020 7:00 PM

Somers High School Media Center, [Address], [City], CT [Zip]

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Draft Minutes of October 13, 2020

4. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**

5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Warrant of October 26, 2020
2. Resignation of Speech & Language Teacher
3. Retirement of Director of Cafeteria
4. Retirement of MBA Custodian

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2021-2022 Budget Process and Calendar

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

1. 2020 Veteran's Day Report
2. Diversity & Equity Plan Update
3. Technology 5-Year Plan
4. Superintendent's Update

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. CURRICULUM
2. POLICY
3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION
4. PLANNING

11. **CREC UPDATE**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Somers Board of Education Meeting**  
Somers High School Media Center  
October 13, 2020  
7:00 PM

**Attendance Taken at 7:02 PM:**

Present Board Members: Bruce Devlin, Anne Kirkpatrick, Jan Martin, Jeremy Anderson, David Palmer, Sarah Bollinger, Krista Cherry, Marissa Marks, Kate McLellan

Others: Brian Czapla, Bill Boutwell, Rob Wilson, Cynthia DeRoma, Melissa Mucci, Christian Loftus

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Devlin at 7:03 p.m. in the SHS Media Center.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**3.1. The Board will recognize the 2021 Somers Teacher of the Year and the ParaEducator of the Year.**

**Rationale:** The Board will recognize Mr. Christian Loftus, SES Music Teacher, as the 2021 Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Anna Bell, MBA ParaEducator, as the 2021 Somers ParaEducator of the Year.

**Discussion:** Mrs. Melissa Mucci, SES Principal, introduced Mr. Christian Loftus, SES Music Teacher, to the BOE as Teacher of the Year. She stated that the SES community has been blessed with his talent. The music program has grown since his arrival. She described him as creative, comical, caring, and working hard to reach all students. The staff loves his personality, and parents respect him. He is the Team Leader this year and heads the sign-out ukulele program. He has made a CD entitled "Everybody Has a Birthday" which is a compilation of children's songs. He also has a YouTube program, "Everyone's in a Band." Students are eager for his Zoom class. Mrs. Mucci stated that he has an easygoing manner and a love of music. The BOE congratulated Mr. Loftus and presented him with a gift. Mr. Loftus thanked the BOE and stated that last spring presented him with the unique opportunity to spread his wings in a different way with regards to livestreaming.

Chairman Devlin read a letter regarding Anna Bell, ParaEducator of the Year, from MBA. Mrs. Bell was unable to attend the BOE meeting this evening. He stated that Mrs. Bell stands out because of her commitment to the classroom, extracurricular activities, the community as a whole, and as ParaEducator. She

supports growth and development of her students. She arranges the 7th and 8th grade dances and collects canned goods for Champs Place. She organizes the food drive and creates opportunities for the school community. She has been described as patient, flexible, nurturing, dedicated, selfless, humble, committed, etc. The BOE congratulated Mrs. Bell for her accomplishments.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### 4.1. Pension Plan Update and Approval

**Rationale:** The Forma Group will Zoom into the meeting to give an overview and answer any questions. The Board will then vote on any changes.

**Discussion:** David Palmer introduced Mr. Kevin Nichols from the Centre Harbour Group at Morgan Stanley which is the group retained to manage SPS's pension plan. Mr. Nichols joined the BOE meeting via Zoom. He provided a document listing recommended changes and the reasoning behind the changes to the portfolio.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the recommendations as presented this evening passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### 5.1. Draft Minutes of September 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

**Rationale:** The Board will review and approve the Draft Minutes of the September 28, 2020 meeting.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the Draft Minutes from the September 28, 2020 BOE meeting passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Sarah Bollinger. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

#### 6. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

**Discussion:** Cynthia DeRoma addressed the BOE with concerns regarding Facebook comments involving diversity and inclusion. She read some of the comments to the BOE.

#### 7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

#### 8. CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

##### 8.1. Warrant of October 13, 2020

**Rationale:** The Board is to review and consent to the warrant of October 13, 2020 in the amount of \$278,291.51.

## 8.2. Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2021

**Rationale:** The Board to approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2021.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### 9.1. Approval of Special Board of Education Meeting

**Rationale:** The Board will vote on having a Special Meeting on November 11, 2020.

**Discussion:** The meeting will consist of a FOI update from CABE as well as discussion on Board performances and issues. It will be held at the Congregational Church.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to direct the Superintendent to warn the Special BOE Meeting on 11/11/20 passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Krista Cherry. **9 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### 10.1. Somers Public School Organization Chart for 2020-2021

**Rationale:** The 2020-2021 Somers Public Schools Organization Chart for the Board to view.

**Discussion:** Superintendent Czaplá stated that the SPS Organization Chart is an annual operations chart per BOE policy.

### 10.2. Quarterly Budget Report

**Rationale:** Mr. Boutwell will be there for any questions on the Quarterly Budget Report.

**Discussion:** Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, updated the BOE on the budget. He stated not to put a lot of stock into this projection since it is very early in the school year and subject to fluctuate due to a number of variables. He and the Superintendent will be constantly monitoring and managing the budget. He reviewed the categories of the budget including salaries, insurance and benefits, tuition, transportation, utilities, maintenance, instructional resources, extracurricular, equipment, and administrative overhead. Some of these categories are more set versus others which may fluctuate. Overall, Mr. Boutwell stated that the budget is in a positive position. He reviewed the 2020-21 Covid-19 expenses and/or grant funds available. Superintendent Czaplá stated that SPS did a lot of purchasing of Covid-19 supplies last spring. He stated we will continue to spend, but we are in good shape.

### 10.3. Superintendent Update

**Rationale:** The Superintendent will give an update on Somers Public Schools.

**Discussion:** Superintendent Czaplá updated the BOE on recent events. He made changes in opening SES to full in-person learning before opening MBA and SHS after much discussion with administrative teams. He stated the younger students are suffering more academically. It has been working relatively well at this



# Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 66061

Check Batch: 38429  
 Check Header: (N/A)  
 Check Numbers: (First) - (Last)  
 Check Dates: (Earliest) - (Latest)  
 Cash Account Numbers: (First) - (Last)  
 Bank Account Code: (N/A)  
 Check Authorization Code: AP GB  
 Minimum Check Amount: \$0.00  
 Sorted By:  
 Include Payable Information: No  
 Include Payable Dist Information: No  
 Include Authorization Information: Yes

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
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Approved by:

Date:

  
 William B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services  
 10/22/2020

38429	19098	10/26/2020	V60028	Airex Filter Corporation	0.00	3,668.20
	19099	10/26/2020	V02129	Alarm New England LLC	0.00	65.26
	19100	10/26/2020	V52404	Allstate Fire Equipment	0.00	68.50
	19101	10/26/2020	V60790	Alternative Access Assistive Technology	0.00	3,477.50
	19102	10/26/2020	V52670	SYNCB/AMAZON	0.00	4,565.42
	19104	10/26/2020	V60806	American Floor Mats	0.00	1,162.84
	19105	10/26/2020	V02141	Apple Inc.	0.00	20,685.00
	19106	10/26/2020	V02406	Billings Sports, Inc.	0.00	2,053.93
	19107	10/26/2020	M52866	CAP USA	0.00	256.65
	19108	10/26/2020	V02198	The Connecticut Water Company	0.00	1,647.23
	19109	10/26/2020	V00605	Electrical Wholesalers	0.00	219.26
	19110	10/26/2020	V60185	Ellington Agway Power Equipment	0.00	12.99
	19111	10/26/2020	V61230	ENGIE Resources	0.00	7,622.70
	19112	10/26/2020	V00159	Eversource Energy	0.00	20,475.29
	19113	10/26/2020	V61676	ExplorelLearning	0.00	2,195.00
	19114	10/26/2020	V02186	Film Scientific, Inc.	0.00	873.60
	19115	10/26/2020	V61017	Frontier Communications	0.00	328.95
	19116	10/26/2020	V61257	Garsal Industries	0.00	163.45
	19117	10/26/2020	V54081	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	0.00	166.00
	19118	10/26/2020	V00511	Granger	0.00	383.09

# Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 66061

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
19119		10/26/2020	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	22.20
19120		10/26/2020	V01790	Heinemann	0.00	2,079.00
19121		10/26/2020	V54063	HSABank	0.00	173.25
19122		10/26/2020	V60043	IVEY Industries	0.00	273.63
19123		10/26/2020	V02625	K & S Distributors	0.00	449.00
19124		10/26/2020	V61604	Kelly Refrigeration & Freezer	0.00	550.00
19125		10/26/2020	V00665	Kelly-Fradet Lumber	0.00	28.58
19126		10/26/2020	V60903	Learning A-Z	0.00	1,311.85
19127		10/26/2020	V00039	Leonards Auto Parts Co.	0.00	76.47
19128		10/26/2020	V02898	MagnaKleen Services	0.00	96.67
19129		10/26/2020	V01370	McGraw-Hill School Education Holdings, L	0.00	912.82
19130		10/26/2020	V61662	MPS	0.00	2,891.50
19131		10/26/2020	V60097	Paxton/Patterson LLC	0.00	250.58
19132		10/26/2020	V60864	Pullman & Comley, LLC	0.00	4,315.50
19133		10/26/2020	V53593	ReadyRefresh by Nestle	0.00	10.99
19134		10/26/2020	V61646	Riptide Technologies	0.00	879.00
19135		10/26/2020	E01082	Saxton, Karen	0.00	70.00
19136		10/26/2020	V01292	School Specialty, Inc.	0.00	100.45
19137		10/26/2020	V51324	Sherwin-Williams Co., The	0.00	14.73
19138		10/26/2020	V60911	SHI International Corp	0.00	2,453.00
19139		10/26/2020	V61373	Somers Star Hardware	0.00	469.00
19141		10/26/2020	V61665	Today's Classroom	0.00	865.63
19142		10/26/2020	V60044	Troxell Communication, Inc	0.00	2,135.60
19143		10/26/2020	V60353	ULINE	0.00	98.06
19144		10/26/2020	V21164	Unum Life Insurance Company of America	0.00	3,834.47
19145		10/26/2020	V00548	USA Waste and Recycling	0.00	1,356.79
19146		10/26/2020	V61281	Vernier Software & Technology	0.00	225.00
19147		10/26/2020	V61404	Voice New England	0.00	147.00
19148		10/26/2020	V53413	W. B. Mason Co., Inc.	0.00	74.08
19149		10/26/2020	V61445	Willie Ross School of the Deaf, The	0.00	121.00
19150		10/26/2020	V61666	Yankee Supply Company	0.00	1,019.24
<b>Totals:</b>					0.00	\$97,395.95

51 Checks Listed.

# Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 66060  
Batch: 38404  
Transaction: N/A  
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch # 38404	Control Total \$97,395.95	Status Posted	Created By Ibergamini	Created On 10/19/2020	Last Updated By Ibergamini	Last Updated On 10/22/2020
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## General Ledger Distribution Summary

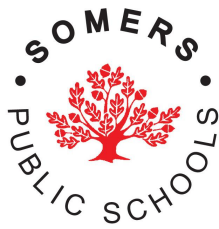
Period, Fiscal Year Account Number	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits
<b>October, 2021</b>					
<b>Generated Distributions</b>					
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			96,272.07	0.00
10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	96,272.07
	Total Generated Distributions			<b>\$96,272.07</b>	<b>\$96,272.07</b>
<b>User-Entered Distributions</b>					
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			9.64	0.00
10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	97,405.59
10-000-1-9-99-999-000-00-5-01695	COVID-19		Yes	7,045.56	0.00
10-100-2-2-00-242-611-01-5-01183	K-5 FIFTH GRADE SUPPLIES			64.26	0.00
10-100-2-2-02-242-611-01-5-00161	K-5 - ART SUPPLIES			865.63	0.00
10-100-2-2-20-242-611-01-5-00169	K-5 - MUSIC SUPPLIES			79.94	0.00
10-100-2-2-27-242-611-01-5-00904	K-5 - REMEDIAL READING SUPPLY			2,079.00	0.00
10-100-2-3-16-220-641-01-5-00895	MA - LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOK			597.00	0.00
10-100-2-4-12-242-611-01-5-00183	HS - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			250.58	0.00
10-100-2-4-14-241-611-01-5-00159	HS - GENERAL SUPPLIES			178.43	0.00
10-100-2-4-18-220-641-01-5-00127	HS - MATH TEXTBOOKS			912.82	0.00
10-100-2-4-28-242-611-01-5-00206	HS - SCIENCE SUPPLIES			873.60	0.00
10-100-2-4-30-220-641-01-5-00125	HS - SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS			5,285.22	0.00
10-100-2-4-38-242-611-01-5-00181	HS - QUANTITY FOODS SUPPLIES			254.50	0.00
10-100-2-5-14-241-611-01-5-00873	SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES			391.47	0.00
10-100-8-5-66-910-730-04-5-00843	SW - CAPITAL OUTLAY TECHNOLOGY			20,685.00	0.00
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01142	SPEED - CONSULTANT FEES			121.00	0.00
10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01674	SP ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES		Yes	3,477.50	0.00
10-213-3-5-50-251-322-02-5-01693	SW - NURSE PROF DEV			70.00	0.00
10-222-2-5-14-233-611-03-5-00150	SW - COMPUTER SOFTWARE		Yes	6,184.85	0.00
10-231-1-5-74-134-330-10-5-00045	BOE - OTHER PROF. SERVICES			4,315.50	0.00
10-232-1-5-72-134-690-04-5-00031	CO - PETTY CASH			10.99	0.00
10-232-1-5-72-258-690-04-5-00042	CO - OFFICE SUPPLIES			180.83	0.00
10-240-1-2-40-258-690-04-5-00301	K-5 - OFFICE SUPPLIES			9.82	0.00
10-260-1-6-40-258-690-04-5-00306	MAINTENANCE - OFFICE SUPPLIES			97.31	0.00
10-260-5-2-62-722-430-08-5-01141	K-5 BUILDING REPAIRS			1,078.47	0.00

# Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 66060

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On	
38404	\$97,395.95	Posted	Ibergarni	10/19/2020	Ibergarni	10/22/2020	
10-260-5-4-12-722-430-01-5-00395		HS - TECHNOLOGY ED MAINTENANCE			273.63	0.00	
10-260-5-4-6-642-530-04-5-00366		HS - TELEPHONE			273.75	0.00	
10-260-5-5-6-642-530-04-5-00367		CO - TELEPHONE			55.20	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-650-613-05-5-00377		SW - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES			96.67	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-01-5-01077		SW - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE			1,059.91	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00430		MA - BUILDING MAINTENANCE			293.00	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00435		SW - THERMOSTAT/CONTROLS			256.65	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00439		HS - BUILDING MAINTENANCE			110.53	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00439		HS - BUILDING MAINTENANCE			0.00	9.64	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00440		SW - EQUIPMENT REPAIR			76.47	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00444		SW - RUBBISH REMOVAL			1,356.79	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00445		SW - TOOL SUPPLY			355.82	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00447		SW - GENERAL REPAIR			632.45	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00467		SW - GENERAL PAINT			14.73	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00801		SW - EXTERMINATING			166.00	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00884		MAINT - BUILDING MAINTENANCE		Yes	1,019.24	0.00	
10-260-5-6-62-722-430-08-5-00885		SW - ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES			210.90	0.00	
10-260-5-6-64-641-620-05-5-00358		K-5 - ELECTRICITY			3,979.80	0.00	
10-260-5-6-64-641-620-05-5-00360		MA - ELECTRICITY			11,750.80	0.00	
10-260-5-6-64-641-620-05-5-00361		HS - ELECTRICITY			12,169.27	0.00	
10-260-5-6-64-641-620-05-5-00362		MAINTENANCE - ELECTRICITY			198.12	0.00	
10-260-5-6-64-722-690-05-5-00373		SW - WATER			1,647.23	0.00	
10-260-6-5-62-722-430-04-5-00452		SW - MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS			215.50	0.00	
10-280-6-5-82-820-200-13-5-00509		L.T.D.			22.20	0.00	
10-280-6-5-82-820-200-13-5-00513		SW - FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCT			3,834.47	0.00	
10-280-6-5-82-820-200-13-5-01228		SW - HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT		Yes	173.25	0.00	
10-320-7-4-42-880-690-06-5-00595		HS - ATHLETIC SUPPLIES			2,053.93	0.00	
Total User-Entered Distributions						\$97,415.23	\$97,415.23
Total for October, 2021						\$193,687.30	\$193,687.30
<b>Grand Total for Batch # 38404</b>						<b>\$193,687.30</b>	<b>\$193,687.30</b>

243 Transactions Listed.



## Board of Education Administrative Report

Title of Report: 2021-22 Budget Approval Process

Board Meeting Date: 10/26/20

Action

Report

Information

Discussion

Submitted by: Brian P. Czapla

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### *Executive Summary*

The Board of Education must approve the budget process and calendar (BOE Policy 3111).

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### *Budget Process and Timeline*

#### **January 11, 2021:**

- The Superintendent submits the proposed budget to the Board of Education for consideration.

#### **January 25, 2021:**

- Follow up discussions, questions, clarifications, and adjustments to the Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

#### **February 8, 2021:**

- The Board of Education approves a budget to be sent to a public hearing. An informational flyer will be developed for use at the public hearing.

#### **March 8, 2021:**

- Public Hearing on Board of Education Approved Budget.
- Following the public hearing, a regularly scheduled meeting will be convened to approve or adjust the budget before sending it to the Board of Finance for study.

#### **March – April 2021** (dates to be determined):

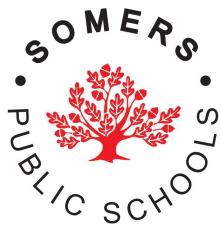
- The Superintendent/Board of Education presents the budget to the Board of Finance.

#### **April 2021** (dates to be determined):

- Board of Finance Public Hearing
- Board of Finance approves a budget sent to Annual Town Meeting

#### **May 2021** (dates to be determined):

- Annual Town Meeting
- Budget Referendum



**Board of Education  
Administrative Report**

Title of Report: Veteran's Day

Board Meeting Date: November 9, 2020

Action

Report

Information

Discussion

Submitted by: Dina M. Senecal

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***Executive Summary***

On Wednesday, November 11, 2020, as in the year's past, the Somers Public School District will honor military veterans. However, this year recognition will look slightly different due to COVID and the physical distance guidelines. You will notice that in all three buildings, part of their recognition includes a digital presentation which allows access for all students; both on and off campus learners.

**Somers Elementary School:**

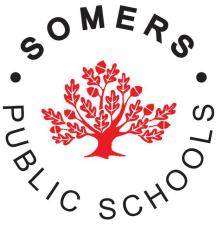
Will have students watch a slideshow set to music honoring veterans. This presentation will also include factual information on the history of Veteran's Day. Additionally, students in each grade level will learn the significance of Veteran's Day through age appropriate lessons and activities.

**Mabelle B. Avery School:**

Worked with the music department to perform and record a musical tribute to veterans. This piece was combined with information on the monuments in Somers that honor veterans as part of their slideshow tribute. Students also have the opportunity to write cards for the veteran's hospital.

**Somers High School:**

Will have a virtual presentation that will feature SHS instrumental and vocal music programs. There will be a slideshow of SHS community veterans and possibly a short film created by alumni about veteran transition. SHS is hoping to include a live Zoom Q&A session with the film creator.



## Board of Education Administrative Report

Title of Report: Diversity & Equity Council Update

Board Meeting Date: October 26, 2020

Action

Report

Information

Discussion

Submitted by: Dina M. Senecal

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### ***Executive Summary***

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#### Somers Diversity & Equity Council

##### Purpose Statement:

Somers Public Schools is committed to cultivating a just and fair learning community characterized by culturally responsive learners who embrace, accept and respect differences and perspectives. We endeavor to create opportunities for engagement, education and discourse related to issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

##### Essential Questions:

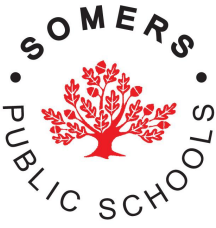
How does awareness, knowledge, and understanding of one's own racial and cultural identity promote effective teaching, leading, learning and acceptance?

How does awareness, knowledge and understanding of the racial, cultural, and sexual/gender identity of students and staff promote effective teaching, leading, learning, and harmonious co-existence?

How can we establish learning environments that are conscious of race, culture, and sexual/gender identity to ensure implementation of culturally responsive practices, policies, and procedures?

##### We are committed to:

- Reviewing and developing curricula to ensure cultural and historical accuracy.
- Encouraging educators to read texts that support racial bias reflection.
- Providing on-going professional development for all staff on implicit bias, anti-bias, and anti-racism
- Providing age-appropriate lessons for students on biases, acceptance, and anti-racism.
- Recruiting and hiring a diverse faculty and staff.
- Supporting Social Emotional Learning that promotes caring, inclusivity, tolerance and empathy.
- Providing opportunities for all to participate in "courageous conversations" relating to social justice.
- Supporting families with resources and materials relating to race and racism.



**Board of Education  
Administrative Report**

**Diversity & Equity Council Members**

SES	Michael McDonnell	Jenny Devlin	Sarah Martin	Mike Clarity	Colleen Meier
MBA	Lynda Thorton	Sharon Walsh	Heather Connors	Kevin Nevins	Mike Szafir
SHS	Cheryl Gustafson	Suzy Williams	Linda Preston	Mary Curran	Kristin Angelica
District	Dina Senecal	Denise Messina			

As the new director of Curriculum and Instruction and the chair of the district’s Diversity and Equity Council, I wanted to begin the year by gathering information about the previous and on-going work of this council.

Over the summer, I met with Superintendent Czapla to discuss the work of this council as well as recent events. Together, the Superintendent and I updated the Diversity and Equity Status Report and compiled initial thoughts around potential activities and professional development. Additionally, I researched and enrolled in professional development on becoming anti-racist as well as created the Diversity & Equity website.

**October 6, 2020:**

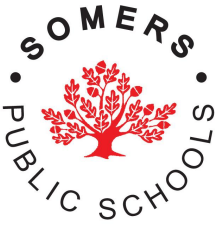
We convened the first Diversity and Equity Council meeting of the school year. We shared the work that was done, and discussions that were had over the summer. Together we discussed “next steps” of the team.

**October 21, 2020:**

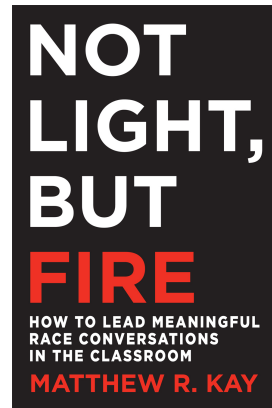
“Mind the Gap” presentation Understanding Learning Difficulties for Students Outside of “the Majority” at SHS and MBA. Suzy Williams and Sharon Walsh presented information to the staff in their respective buildings.

The Diversity and Equity Council will meet monthly throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Part of this year’s focus will be a book study of Not Light, But Fire by: Matthew R. Kay.

From the book study, we will create and facilitate building based professional for development for teachers related to the topics discussed in the book.



## Board of Education Administrative Report



### Book Synopsis:

Do you feel prepared to initiate and facilitate meaningful, productive dialogues about race in your classroom? Are you looking for practical strategies to engage with your students?

Inspired by Frederick Douglass's abolitionist call to action, “it is not light that is needed, but fire” Matthew Kay has spent his career learning how to lead students through the most difficult race conversations. Kay not only makes the case that high school classrooms are one of the best places to have those conversations, but he also offers a method for getting them right, providing candid guidance on:

- How to *recognize* the difference between meaningful and inconsequential race conversations.
- How to *build* conversational “safe spaces,” not merely declare them.
- How to *infuse* race conversations with urgency and purpose.
- How to *thrive* in the face of unexpected challenges.
- How administrators might *equip* teachers to thoughtfully engage in these conversations.

With the right blend of reflection and humility, Kay asserts, teachers can make school one of the best venues for young people to discuss race.



## Somers Board of Education Administrative Report

Title of Report: Technology Update - 5 Year Tech Plan

Board Meeting Date: October 26, 2020

Action       Report       Information       Discussion

Submitted by: Rob Wilson, Director of Technology and Information Services

### ***Executive Summary***

This report is intended to inform the Board of Education of the district's five-year technology replenishment plan. The goal is to keep student, staff, and teacher equipment up to date so all users can continue to use the most up to date software solutions.

### ***Report***

## **Technology Replacement Plan**

2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
SHS Chromebooks Staff MacBooks SES Media Center Lab SHS Media Center Lab Classroom Sound Systems Classroom Projections	Teacher / Staff MacBooks MBA Chromebooks MBA Media Center Lab SHS Business Lab (114) Classroom Sound Systems Classroom Projections	Teacher / Staff MacBooks Grade 4 & 5 Chromebooks SHS TechEd Lab (118) Network Infrastructure Classroom Sound Systems Classroom Projections
<b>TOTAL: \$260,000</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$269,980</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$269,680</b>

2023-2024	2024-2025
Teacher / Staff MacBooks SES iPads (Grades KG-3) SHS TechEd Lab (116)	Teacher / Staff MacBooks SES Media Center Lab SHS Chromebooks SHS Media Center Lab
<b>TOTAL: \$269,600</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$270,730</b>