

Somers Board of Education Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024 7:00 PM

Somers High School Auditorium, 5 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the March 25, 2024 BOE Minutes 3
The Board to review and approve the BOE minutes from March 25, 2024.
 2. Approval of the April 1, 2024 BOE Minutes 7
The Board to review and approve the BOE minutes from the special meeting on April 1, 2024.
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. SES STEM/Robotics Club
Lynn Erickson, SES K-5 STEM Instructional Leader, will update the Board on the STEM/Robotics After School Club at SES.
 3. SES Fundraiser
Melissa Mucci, SES Principal and Ellie Reissig, a 3rd-grade student, will update the Board regarding her fundraiser providing students and staff with Solar Eclipse Glasses for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.
 4. Student Engineering Project
SHS student, Hunter Gaskell, will present to the Board a final model of a home with a virtual tour to highlight SHS' architecture and independent student project program.
 5. SHS Student Representatives
SHS students, Yanni Karaja, Nico Skalski, and Natalie Hoague, will update the Board on recent SHS events.
 6. CAS Award for Middle-Level School of the Year
Ms. Tiffany Caouette, Assistant Executive Director of CAS, will present the award for Middle-Level School of the Year to Mrs. Margot Martello, MBA Principal, and Dr. Hannah Dill, MBA Assistant Principal.
 7. Monthly Budget Report 8
Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget.
5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of April 8, 2024 9
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of April 8, 2024.
 2. Warrant of April 22, 2024 13
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of April 22, 2024.
 3. Resignations
 - David Brown, SHS Principal, will resign with his last day on June 30, 2024.
 - Olivia Kelly, SES Nurse, will resign with her last day on June 12, 2024.
 - 4. Leave of Absence
Megan Schneider, Kindergarten Teacher, will be taking a leave of absence from August 26, 2024 through November 15, 2024.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Recognition of Somers Education Foundation Discussion
The Board to discuss recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Somers Education Foundation.
 2. 2023-2024 Graduation Date

The Board to approve the Graduation date for Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The last day of school for grades 6-12 is Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The last day of school for grades PreK-5 is Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

3. 1st Posting DBS Policy 5112.3 - Dropouts 15
4. 1st Posting DBS Code 5118.21 - Educational Opportunities for Military Children 17
5. 1st Posting DBS Code 5142.4 - School Resource Officer 20
6. 1st Posting DBS Code 6172.6 - Remote/Online Courses 23
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Curriculum
 2. Policy
 3. Planning/Finance
 4. Salary & Negotiations
10. **CABE/CREC/State Dept. of Ed./SEF**
11. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, March 25, 2024
7:00 PM

(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)

Present BOE Members: Anne Kirkpatrick, Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Shane Manning, Jan Martin, Derek Zelek

Absent BOE Members: Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, David Brown, Dan Clement, Braden Davis, Gina Olearczyk, Eliana Wood

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Kirkpatrick at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the March 11, 2024 BOE Public Hearing Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the Public Hearing BOE minutes from March 11, 2024.

Motion to approve the minutes of 3/11/24 Public Hearing. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins), Abstain: 2 (Mike Briggs, JT Galloway)**

3.2. Approval of the March 11, 2024 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the Regular Meeting BOE minutes from March 11, 2024.

Motion to approve the minutes of 3/11/24 Regular Board of Education Meeting. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins), Abstain: 2 (Mike Briggs, JT Galloway)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway presented a gift of appreciation to Board Members for their service to the Board of Education.

Superintendent Galloway followed up with the state regarding the waiver for

the January 12th school closure. Approval of the waiver is still pending.

Superintendent Galloway attended the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on 3/21/24 to discuss the bid process for the SES HVAC project. Bids were obtained from Construction Solutions (\$411,377) and Colliers (\$281,250). The Board of Selectmen has endorsed the bid from Colliers.

The SHS production of Grease took place on Friday, 3/22/24 and Saturday 3/23/24. The girls' basketball team defeated Thomaston at Mohegan Sun on 3/23/24, making them the CIAC Class S State Champions.

The after-school STEM Club is in full swing at SES. The club will present its work at a future Board meeting.

Lori Caron and Dina Senecal attended the Neag Job Recruitment Fair at UConn. The district was well represented.

Superintendent Galloway will attend the Board of Finance meeting on 3/26/24 to follow-up on the initial budget presentation. Updates will be shared with the Board as necessary.

4.2. SAT Prep Academy

Rationale: David Brown, SHS Principal, and Dan Clement, SHS Business Teacher, will update the Board on the SAT preparation program.

Discussion: Principal Brown and Mr. Clement presented on the SAT Math Preparation Program. Mr. Clement thanked the team who made the program possible. An overview of the planning, marketing, and implementation of the program was provided. Forty-five SHS juniors signed up for the program, including 14 of 17 students identified as "threshold" students who could benefit from the program. Three math teachers supported students. Data from the PSAT was used to inform instruction between live teachers and Khan Academy modules. Individual student data and Khan Academy resources were provided for students who could not attend the program. Mr. Tim Percoski also offered 4 follow-up sessions after school.

4.3. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: SHS students Melea Wolters, Eliana Wood, and Braden Davis will update the Board on recent events.

Discussion: SHS Seniors Eliana Wood and Braden Davis presented to the Board. Eliana Wood reported academic updates, including the end of quarter 3, upcoming AP exams, the introduction of the Academic Hub for course selection, and the SAT scheduled for March 28, 2024. Extracurricular updates include the Girls' Basketball Class S State Championship victory. The production of Grease made approximately \$8,000. It was the

largest ticket and food sales in the last few years. NHS is hosting a blood drive on April 4, 2024. The spring sports season has commenced.

Braden Davis reported student recommendations, including school calendar additions and revision of science courses to encourage greater AP enrollment. Students also recommend that Senior Capstone should be changed to AP Seminar. Seniors could earn college credit this way. A student committee will review and provide input on the Athletic and Student Handbooks.

The student representatives shared photos from the state championship game and the Grease production.

A discussion ensued regarding how the Board can be supportive and helpful to the students.

A discussion ensued about ways the district can celebrate extracurricular and athletic accomplishments across the schools and within the community.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins),**

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of March 25, 2024.

6.1. Leave of Absence

Rationale: Mary Kate Tanguay, SES School Psychologist, will be taking a leave of absence beginning August 26, 2024 through January 2, 2025.

6.2. 2nd Posting DBS Code 4117.6 - Exit Survey/Interviews

6.3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5111 - Admissions/Placement

6.4. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5131.911 - School Climate (new mandated policy)

6.5. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9323 - Construction of the Agenda

6.6. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9324 - Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum

The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

9.2. Policy

This committee met on March 25, 2024. The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2024 at 6 p.m.

9.3. Planning/Finance

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

10. CABE/CREC/State Dept. of Ed./SEF

Chair Kirkpatrick met with Board Chairs from neighboring districts in the CABE area. The next SEF meeting will take place on April 1, 2024.

11. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Discussion: Gina Olearczyk shared that she attended the college training evening at SHS. She was impressed with the event and the tips that were shared with students as they prepare to look at colleges.

She also shared a concern on behalf of a group of SHS juniors. Ms. Olearczyk noted there has been momentum gaining among the junior class about a student returning to the student body. It is generating feelings among some students of being unsafe. She asked that administrators do whatever they can to remind students that they are safe.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. This motion, made by Jan Martin and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins),**

Jan Martin, BOE Secretary

Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary

Somers Board of Education Special Meeting
Google Meet
Monday, April 1, 2024
6:00 PM

Present BOE Members: Anne Kirkpatrick, Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Shane Manning, Jan Martin, Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Brian Wissinger

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education Special Meeting was called to order by Chair Kirkpatrick at 6:03 p.m.

2. 2024-2025 BUDGET

Motion to send the revised Board of Education budget of \$28,973,833 for '24-'25 with a 5.7% increase to the Finance Board. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 0**

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway thanked members of the Board for their consideration of the information they received concerning the 2024-2025 budget. Two options were presented after the Board of Finance requested a budget reduction of \$350,000 from the originally proposed budget. Option 1 suggests a reduction of \$100,000 coming from the benefits and unemployment lines. Option 2 suggests a total reduction of \$215,000. This is a combination of the \$100,000 reduction from benefits and unemployment and an additional \$115,000 reduction by removing the Indoor Air Quality assessment originally included in the budget. This assessment may be delayed by the state, even if approved in the budget. The Board of Finance stated that if funding is needed later, they would be open for a request for a special appropriation.

The Board supported the reduction of \$215,000 and felt strongly that personnel and programming cuts should not be made to reach the requested reduction of \$350,000.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. This motion, made by Jan Martin and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 0**

Jan Martin, BOE Secretary Date
Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary

2023-2024
Monthly Report
(Through 3/31/2024)

CATEGORY	ITEM	Approved Budget	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures	Encumbered	Total Projection	Variance	% +/-
Salaries	Teachers	11,890,609	(23,561)	11,867,048	7,537,790	4,247,546	11,785,336	81,712	0.69%
	Secretaries/Paraprofessionals	2,284,949	47,350	2,332,299	1,713,506	596,265	2,309,772	22,527	0.99%
	Administrators	1,743,659	39,435	1,783,094	1,373,860	423,083	1,796,943	(13,849)	-0.79%
	Custodians/Maintainers	957,390	(14,695)	942,695	721,250	221,445	942,695	0	0.00%
	Other Instructional	521,983	(26,716)	495,267	397,260	142,712	539,972	(44,705)	-8.56%
	Nurses	289,869	3,272	293,141	183,318	104,534	287,852	5,289	1.82%
	Medical Advisor	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	0	0.00%
	SUBTOTAL	17,689,959	25,085	17,715,044	11,928,485	5,735,585	17,664,070	50,974	0.29%
Insurance & Benefits	Health Insurance	3,608,118	(57,812)	3,550,306	2,623,301	853,977	3,477,279	73,027	2.02%
	Social Security	549,550	20,000	569,550	419,013	141,535	560,548	9,002	1.64%
	Pension	227,832	0	227,832	176,451	54,958	231,409	(3,577)	-1.57%
	Worker's Comp	100,000	(9,493)	90,507	90,743	0	90,743	(236)	-0.24%
	Property / Liability	98,525	346	98,871	99,240	0	99,240	(369)	-0.37%
	Long Term Disability	47,000	(5,000)	42,000	29,105	11,875	40,980	1,020	2.17%
	Life Insurance	32,000	(5,000)	27,000	15,052	5,440	20,492	6,508	20.34%
	School Board Legal	10,000	0	10,000	7,500	2,500	10,000	0	0.00%
	Unemployment	10,000	11,365	21,365	21,365	0	21,365	0	0.00%
	OPEB	28,089	0	28,089	14,045	14,044	28,089	0	0.00%
	SUBTOTAL	4,711,114	(45,594)	4,665,520	3,495,815	1,084,329	4,580,144	85,376	1.81%
Tuition	Special Education	1,040,421	(158,922)	881,499	650,604	297,076	947,680	(66,181)	-6.36%
	Non-Special Education	134,000	19,927	153,927	136,630	16,771	153,401	526	0.39%
	SUBTOTAL	1,174,421	(138,995)	1,035,426	787,234	313,847	1,101,081	(65,655)	-5.59%
Transportation	Regular Transportation	933,796	0	933,796	676,868	401,092	1,077,961	(144,165)	-15.44%
	Special Education Transportation	350,000	58,278	408,278	301,947	60,865	362,812	45,466	12.99%
	Athletics/Field Trips	39,850	0	39,850	31,324	9,071	40,395	(545)	-1.37%
	SUBTOTAL	1,323,646	58,278	1,381,924	1,010,139	471,029	1,481,168	(99,244)	-7.50%
Utilities	Electricity	473,000	0	473,000	294,754	105,592	400,346	72,654	15.36%
	Fuel	163,950	(186)	163,764	173,870	40,360	214,230	(50,466)	-30.78%
	Telephones	36,300	0	36,300	26,477	10,300	36,777	(477)	-1.31%
	SUBTOTAL	673,250	(186)	673,064	495,101	156,252	651,353	21,711	3.22%
Maintenance	General/Dept Maint	633,840	8,200	642,040	536,273	105,767	642,040	0	0.00%
	Custodial Supplies	48,000	0	48,000	50,741	1,895	52,635	(4,635)	-9.66%
	SUBTOTAL	681,840	8,200	690,040	587,013	107,662	694,675	(4,635)	-0.68%
Instructional Resources	Books, Textbooks, Workbooks	149,953	(7,900)	142,053	124,378	770	125,148	16,905	11.27%
	Technology AV Materials	101,230	7,000	108,230	106,031	900	106,931	1,299	1.28%
	General & Dept Supplies	176,810	0	176,810	136,721	15,580	152,301	24,509	13.86%
	SUBTOTAL	427,993	(900)	427,093	367,130	17,249	384,379	42,714	9.98%
Extracurricular	Coaches	193,225	16,125	209,350	146,134	58,770	204,904	4,446	2.30%
	Activity Advisors	60,349	2,487	62,836	165	56,358	56,523	6,313	10.46%
	Athletic/Academic Act	95,450	0	95,450	65,722	30,028	95,750	(300)	-0.31%
	SUBTOTAL	349,024	18,612	367,636	212,021	145,156	357,177	10,459	3.00%
Equipment	New and Replacement	249,000	0	249,000	226,071	16,198	242,269	6,731	2.70%
Admin Overhead	Postage, Dues, Travel, BOE Exp., etc.	181,185	25,500	206,685	155,397	43,856	199,253	7,432	4.10%
ARP Municipal	Offset	(50,000)	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	
	GRAND TOTAL	27,411,432	0	27,411,432	19,264,407	8,091,163	27,355,570	55,862	0.20%

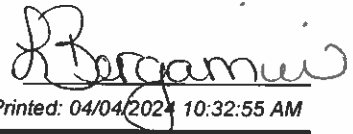
As of 4/5/2024

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1203

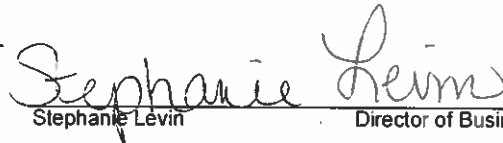
Voucher Date: 04/08/2024

Prepared By:


Printed: 04/04/2024 10:32:55 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$338,053.21 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.


Stephanie Levin Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund	Amount
10 GENERAL FUND	\$338,053.21
	\$338,053.21

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2023-2024

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 4/8/2024
 From Check: 24685
 From Voucher: 1203

To Date: 4/8/2024
 To Check: 24744
 To Voucher: 1203

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
24685	04/08/2024	Amazon Capital Services	\$7,070.25	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24686	04/08/2024	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	\$255,070.62	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24687	04/08/2024	Avery Septic Service	\$100.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24688	04/08/2024	Bergamini, Lisa	\$12.06	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24689	04/08/2024	CHLIC	\$10,959.36	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24690	04/08/2024	Clear Water Industries	\$233.33	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24691	04/08/2024	Connecticut Water Company	\$4,637.64	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24692	04/08/2024	COX Business	\$1,016.60	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24693	04/08/2024	DG Graphics	\$215.02	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24694	04/08/2024	Elan Financial Services	\$800.82	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24695	04/08/2024	Eversource Energy	\$5,420.74	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24696	04/08/2024	FireTech	\$1,820.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24697	04/08/2024	First Student, Inc	\$232.43	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24698	04/08/2024	Fletcher Sewer & Drain, Inc	\$510.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24699	04/08/2024	Flinn Scientific, Inc.	\$32.14	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24700	04/08/2024	Gateway Enterprise Corporation	\$44.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24701	04/08/2024	Geissler's Supermarket, Inc	\$19.89	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24702	04/08/2024	Gerry's Music Shop, Inc.	\$880.95	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24703	04/08/2024	Grassmere Country Club	\$2,805.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24704	04/08/2024	Half-Pint Readers	\$475.20	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24705	04/08/2024	Hartford HealthCare Corporation SBO	\$7,740.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24706	04/08/2024	High Grade Gas Service, Inc	\$746.83	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24707	04/08/2024	Home Depot Credit Services	\$261.56	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24708	04/08/2024	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$227.42	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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From Date: 4/8/2024
From Check: 24685
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To Date: 4/8/2024
To Check: 24744
To Voucher: 1203

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
24709	04/08/2024	Jim Shanahan	\$300.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24710	04/08/2024	Joseph Migliore	\$250.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24711	04/08/2024	Journal Inquirer	\$207.24	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24712	04/08/2024	JP Climate Control LLC	\$223.50	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24713	04/08/2024	K&S Distributors	\$379.50	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24714	04/08/2024	Karen Hocking	\$87.10	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24715	04/08/2024	Kelly Refrigeration & Freezer	\$475.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24716	04/08/2024	MagnaKleen Services	\$108.61	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24717	04/08/2024	MakerBot Industries	\$696.66	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24718	04/08/2024	National Association for Music Education	\$142.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24719	04/08/2024	NESDEC	\$1,495.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24720	04/08/2024	New England Turf Management	\$818.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24721	04/08/2024	Nuso, LLC	\$114.12	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24722	04/08/2024	PESi, Inc.	\$40.95	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24723	04/08/2024	PMT Associates, Inc.	\$295.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24724	04/08/2024	Pro-Ed, Inc.	\$293.70	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24725	04/08/2024	School Nurse Supply Inc.	\$846.14	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24726	04/08/2024	School Specialty, Llc	\$164.26	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24727	04/08/2024	Scott Czerwinski	\$483.27	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24728	04/08/2024	Shipman & Goodwin, LLP	\$933.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24729	04/08/2024	SLP Toolkit	\$675.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24730	04/08/2024	Speech Corner LLC	\$1,391.54	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24731	04/08/2024	The Hartford	\$4,895.31	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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To Check: 24744

From Voucher: 1203

To Voucher: 1203

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
24732	04/08/2024	The Home Depot Pro	\$375.25	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24733	04/08/2024	The Nixon Company Inc	\$300.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24734	04/08/2024	The OMNI Group_V60983	\$22.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24735	04/08/2024	Thermal Products Inc	\$1,047.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24736	04/08/2024	Town of Somers	\$8,843.17	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24737	04/08/2024	Tull Brothers, Inc.	\$750.00	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24738	04/08/2024	Verizon Wireless	\$398.68	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24739	04/08/2024	VEX Robotics Inc	\$1,409.40	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24740	04/08/2024	Voice New England	\$2,682.18	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24741	04/08/2024	WebstaurantStore	\$981.32	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24742	04/08/2024	William V. MacGill & Co.	\$227.90	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24743	04/08/2024	Wilson Language Training Corp.	\$3,990.60	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24744	04/08/2024	Zoro Tools Inc	\$378.95	1203	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Total Amount: \$338,053.21

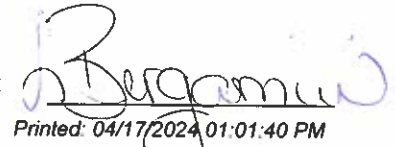
End of Report

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1217

Voucher Date: 04/22/2024

Prepared By:


Printed: 04/17/2024 01:01:40 PM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$160,159.27 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.



Stephanie Levin

Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund		Amount
10	GENERAL FUND	\$160,159.27
30	ACTIVITY	\$0.00
		<hr/>
		\$160,159.27

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2023-2024

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 4/22/2024

To Date: 4/22/2024

From Check: 24745

To Check: 24765

From Voucher: 1217

To Voucher: 1217

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
24745	04/22/2024	Amazon Capital Services	\$6,668.22	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24746	04/22/2024	CEN	\$130.00	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24747	04/22/2024	Cleaning Stuff	\$369.87	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24748	04/22/2024	Connecticut Water Company	\$4,170.65	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24749	04/22/2024	DBS Financial Services LLC	\$2,265.78	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24750	04/22/2024	First Student, Inc	\$113,522.57	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24751	04/22/2024	Gateway Enterprise Corporation	\$176.00	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24752	04/22/2024	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	\$210.32	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24753	04/22/2024	Grainger	\$8.86	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24754	04/22/2024	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$622.09	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24755	04/22/2024	LARSON, DR DAVID H	\$1,000.00	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24756	04/22/2024	Pro-Ed, Inc.	\$198.00	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24757	04/22/2024	School Specialty, Llc	\$365.03	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24758	04/22/2024	Somers Public Schools	\$16,589.47	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24759	04/22/2024	Somers Star Hardware	\$283.94	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24760	04/22/2024	The Home Depot Pro	\$59.36	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24761	04/22/2024	USA Waste and Recycling	\$1,733.20	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24762	04/22/2024	Valley Educational Services	\$5,982.64	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24763	04/22/2024	West Music Company	\$844.00	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24764	04/22/2024	William V. MacGill & Co.	\$480.14	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
24765	04/22/2024	Xerox Corporation	\$4,479.13	1217	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Total Amount: \$160,159.27

End of Report

Students

Dropouts

Parents and those who have the control of children from five years of age ~~and over and under~~ to eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. ~~The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.~~

A student who is eighteen years of age or older may withdraw from school. Such parent, guardian or student shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that such a school district has provided such parent, guardian or student with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. The parent or guardian having such control of a child seventeen years of age may withdraw such child from school and enroll such child in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69 in the state statutes. Such parent or guardian must personally appear at the school district office and sign an adult education withdrawal and enrollment form. The adult education withdrawal and enrollment form must include an attestation from a school counselor or school administrator of the school the district has provided the parent or guardian with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community, and the parent or guardian that the child will be enrolled in an adult education program upon the child's withdrawal from school.

The administration, guidance staff and faculty of the school system shall extend every possible effort ~~to the end that~~ to ensure each student may meet with success in his/her school program, have a favorable school experience and earn a diploma. Every attempt will be made to identify the potential dropout and to provide the appropriate resources in order to assist such students.

Any student who seeks to drop out of school shall be referred immediately to a guidance counselor or school administrator. The student, ~~if under~~ eighteen years of age or younger, must present to the guidance counselor or administrator the required written parental consent of his/her withdrawal. If the student is at or above the age of majority no such parental consent shall be sought. A student under age eighteen shall not be allowed to withdraw who has not presented such parental consent.

The interval between the student's announcement of his/her/[their](#) desire to leave and the possible presentation of the written consent will be used to attempt to dissuade the student from leaving and to resolve his/her/[their](#) problems so that he/she/[they](#) might continue in school and finish satisfactorily.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have terminated enrollment in the district's schools with parental permission as described previously and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to a district school not later than ten days after such termination. In such case the child will be provided school accommodations not later than three days after the requested readmission.

(cf. [5111](#) - Admission)

(cf. [5112](#) - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. [5113](#) - Admission/Excuses/Dismissal)

(cf. [5113.2](#) - Truancy)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10](#)-184 Duties of parents as amended by PA 98-243 ~~and~~ PA 00-157 and PA 09-6
(September Special Session)

[10](#)-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general.

Adopted: July 12, 2010

Revised: January 23, 2012

(We do not have this policy)

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Children of Deployed Parents/Guardians

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that one of the most difficult situations a child can experience is having a parent/guardian deployed as a result of military service involvement. The demands on military members and their families are increasing and becoming more complex. Members of the armed forces and their families sacrifice personal comfort and experience tremendous upheaval when called to serve the country, here and abroad. Children are especially vulnerable when separated from parents/guardians due to deployments.

Deployment is the term given to the movement of an individual or military unit within the United States or to an overseas location to accomplish a task or mission. The mission may be as routine as providing additional training or as dangerous as war. Deployment consists of three phases; (1) pre-deployment, (2) deployment, and (3) post deployment, which includes reunion. Each phase has unique challenges requiring proper interventions. Individual responses of children impacted by deployment will depend on such factors as age, maturity, gender, parent-child relationships, and coping skills of the caregiver during the separation.

***Note:** Cross-referenced policy #5118.2 defines deployment as the period one month before the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after return to their home station.*

Schools can be a place where stability and normal routine provide an anchor for children during the challenges of deployment and the resulting disruptions to daily life. The impact of deployment that includes changes in a child's psychological equilibrium and disruption of individual behavior and coping skills can be lessened by the predictability of classroom routine. Alternatively, it is also recognized that the stresses resulting from family separation have the potential to affect the school community and may interfere with the ability of students and staff to focus on learning.

The Board believes the school district has an obligation to help build coping skills in their students during and after a military deployment. The Board's goal is to bring needed support and understanding to the process while maintaining an optimal learning environment in the classroom and school.

Through a unified effort, military families and the school district can provide the best educational environment for military children in grades K-12. The District will provide military families with supports to address the unique challenges that occur when families transition from one duty station to another or during deployments during the course of a military career.

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Children of Deployed Parents/Guardians (continued)

The Board believes a school's focus must be on enhancing student learning opportunities, student achievement, and educator professional development to effectively address the unique challenges related to children of military parents/guardians, especially during a period of deployment.

Students in military families often experience high mobility and have diverse educational experiences from many locations in this country and around the world. The district must recognize the strengths these experiences bring to the learning environment as well as to identify the gaps that may exist due to inconsistencies across educational programs. These unique needs of military children need to be assessed and addressed. Staff development must be provided to staff to become knowledgeable in a variety of ways to identify military children struggling with their parent's/guardian's absence and with suggestions on how to help them in the classroom.

The District's responsibilities to students of deployed parents/guardians include the following:

- Training for school staff members
- Concerted effort on the school's part to initiate and maintain open and frequent communication with the caregiver with the parents/guardians prior to deployment and with the remaining caregiver after a deployment.
- Ensure that parents and, if appropriate, the children, are aware of services available to assist them.
- Ensure that community leaders and others are aware of the need to provide support and resources for the children and their families.
- Referral to District mental health personnel (counselors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, crisis intervention team members) for intensive individualized assessment and therapy as necessary based upon student's reaction to the deployment.
- Student intervention strategies in the classroom.
- Teacher supportive intervention strategies in the classroom.
- Establishment of the school setting as a safe and caring place in which the children of the deployed are nurtured and provided necessary support.
- Alterations to District's attendance regulations

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Children of Deployed Parents/Guardians (continued)

Considerations for excused absences:

- A one-day absence provided for students when their parent/guardian is deployed into active military service.
- A one-day absence provided for students when their parent/guardian returns from active military service or deployment.
- A student whose parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- Absences related to a student visiting with his/her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the District. The district will permit no more than ___ excused absences per year for this purpose. *(Note: The local district may specify in their policy how many excused absences are permitted)*
- Utilize Veteran’s Day or other days in which veterans are honored, to remind students of the sacrifices that the families of veterans and their families make, as well as the effect on active service members.

Through supportive interventions, delayed or prolonged stress responses can be minimized and learning can resume in a positive and productive manner for students of deployed parents/guardians.

(cf. 5113 – Attendance and Excuses)

(cf. 5118.2 – Educational Opportunities for Military Children)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-15f Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Students

Safety

School Resource Officer

In order to make schools more orderly, safer and secure, the district may employ police officers to deliver security services as school resources officers (SROs).

The School Resource Officer supports and facilitates the educational process within the Somers Public School System by providing a safe and secure environment through establishing and maintaining meaningful relationships with students and staff. He/she proactively interacts with the school community to ensure the enforcement of city and state laws, preserves public order, protection of life and property and the prevention, detection or investigation of crimes. The SRO works effectively with students, parents, school personnel and community agencies to support teaching and learning in the schools. He/she monitors district property (internally and externally) to protect students, staff and visitors from physical harm and prevents loss to district property resulting from criminal activity.

Essential Duties

- Maintain high visibility in all schools on a daily basis including but not limited to hallways, cafeteria and classrooms.
- Assists managing traffic during morning drop off and afternoon dismissals at each school.
- Monitors district property for suspicious activity, unauthorized persons on campus or unauthorized entry to buildings.
- Attends local and regional emergency management meetings.
- Works with school officials to develop and implement safety and security protocols.
- Provides occasional in-service training to help administrators with security, effective investigation techniques and other law related topics.
- Attends staff, leadership and student intervention meetings when requested.
- Takes law enforcement action to protect against unwanted intruders.
- Helps administration identify and prevent delinquent behaviors and substance abuse. Makes arrest on campus only when necessary to protect students, staff and school property from imminent danger.
- Assists other law enforcement agencies with incidents involving local criminal activity that may impact the safety of students and staff.
- Serves as the initial first responder.

- Provides occasional classroom presentations upon request and in collaboration with teachers (e.g. law, forensics, safety.)
- Conducts security building assessments for schools and campus.

The Board shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local police department that defines the officer's role and responsibilities.

(cf. [5114](#) - Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process)

(cf. [5131](#) - Student Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Assault)

(cf. [5131.21](#) - Terrorist Acts/Threats)

(cf. 5131.4 - School Grounds Disturbances)

(cf. 5131.41 - In-School Disturbances)

(cf. [5131.5](#) - Vandalism)

(cf. [5131.6](#) - Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol)

(cf. 5131.61 - Inhalant Abuse)

(cf. 5131.612 - Surrender of Physical Evidenced Obtained from Students)

(cf. [5131.7](#) - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. [5131.8](#) - Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. [5131.9](#) - Gang Activity or Association)

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Crisis Management)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

(cf. [5144](#) - Use of Physical Force)

(cf. 5145.11 - Questioning and Apprehension)

(cf. [5145.12](#) - Search and Seizure)

(cf. 5145.121 - Vehicle Searches on School Grounds)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[4-176e](#) through [4-180a](#). Contested Cases. Notice. Record.

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education.

[10-233a](#) through [10-233f](#). Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, and PA 98-139.

[53a-3](#) Definitions.

[53a-217b](#) Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.

PA 15-168 An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and School Resource Officers and the Collection and Reporting of Data on School-Based Arrests.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.

Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.

Adopted: December 7, 2015

Revised: March 26, 2018

INSTRUCTION

Distance Education

Virtual/Online Courses

The Board of Education believes that distance education through virtual/online courses is an effective means of instruction for students. A virtual school is hereby defined as an educational organization that offers courses at various grade levels through Internet or Web-based methods. These schools can offer courses to enhance, supplement or enrich the existing curriculum and can also provide an alternative means of instruction. Interactive distance learning does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor or other students.

Virtual/online courses will be part of this District's educational program delivery system to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction. In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, students in the District may earn credit through distance education provided by virtual/online courses.

In order to earn credits in meeting the requirements for high school graduation through the successful completion of on-line coursework, the Board, in compliance with C.G.S. [10-221a](#) (17) shall ensure, at a minimum, that (a) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional District classroom setting, (b) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (c) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (d) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (e) the courses are (1) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (2) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or (3) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of the board examination series permitting students in grades 9 through 12 to substitute achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for meeting credit requirements for graduation.

If the drop-out rate of the District is determined to be 8% or higher in the previous school year, the Board of Education shall establish an on-line credit recovery program for those students who are identified as being in danger of failing to graduate. These students, once identified by certified personnel, must be allowed to complete on-line District-approved coursework toward meeting high school graduation requirements. Each high school within the District shall designate, from among existing staff, an online learning coordinator to administer and coordinate the online credit recovery program.

The District will not use virtual/online courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K-8 (except in the case of emergency long duration closings due to pandemic or other health related circumstances)

Dual instruction is allowed as part of remote learning when it is needed to implement a student's IEP or 504 plan or as part of an intra-district or inter-district cooperative learning program for students on school grounds during a regular school day.

Credit from an online or virtual course may be earned only in the following circumstances:

1. The course is not offered at the District's high school or cannot be offered that year due to scheduling or low enrollment.
2. The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
3. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
4. The District has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
5. The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
6. Unless there are special circumstances students taking such courses must be enrolled in the District and take the courses during the regular school day at the school site.
7. A student has failed a course and wishes to recover credits in that course area.
8. The student's PPT or Section 504 Team has determined it to be an appropriate means of instruction.
9. Extended emergency school closings.

As determined by Board/school policy, students applying for permission to take a virtual course will do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before said student enrolls in a virtual course.
- Adhere to the District code of conduct to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the District.

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be posted on student transcripts.

Any and all fees imposed on the learner are the sole responsibility of the learner and not the Board of Education or its designee.

Through its policies and/or supervision plan, the school shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision, coordination, and monitoring of students taking virtual courses.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a "virtual library" available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance, and hands-on training and information. The Board of Education will not be responsible for providing internet access outside of school hours.

Approval of any course shall be based upon its compliance with Connecticut's academic standards and requirements, including but not limited to the course content and rigor, its length and scope, its method of assessing knowledge acquired by the student, the qualifications of the instructor and other appropriate factors.

On line course delivery must be from institutions accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or Western Association of Schools and Colleges or, if the institution is foreign, recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as having appropriate academic standards.

(cf. [6141.321](#) - Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet)

(cf. 6141.1 - Independent Study)

(cf. [6146](#) - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Adopted: September 14, 2004

Revised: December 6, 2010

May 11, 2020