

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, November 25, 2024 7:00 PM

Somers Board of Education Chambers, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the November 11, 2024 BOE Minutes 3
The Board to review and approve the minutes from the November 11, 2024 Board meeting.
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. SHS Student Representatives
Students from Somers High School will update the Board on recent events.
5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of November 25, 2024 10
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of November 25, 2024.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - Global and World Cultures 14
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 2. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - Freshman Academy 16
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 3. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - ECE Solidworks for Industrial Design 19
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 4. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - Digital Literacy 21
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 5. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - AP Physics C: Mechanics 23
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 6. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - AP Calculus BC 25
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 7. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - AP Precalculus 27
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
 8. 1st Posting New Course Proposal - Middle School Math Applications 29
Dina Senecal, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Operations, will be available to answer any questions.
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Curriculum
 2. Policy
 3. Planning/Finance
 4. Salary & Negotiations
 5. Building

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

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

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board will enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway and Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, into Executive Session to discuss the ratification of the SESA contract.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, November 11, 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, Shane Manning, Jan Martin, Kim Radziewicz, Carl Stebbins, Derek Zelek

Absent BOE Member: JT Galloway

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Dr. Michael Dietter, Jen DeRagon, Stephanie Levin, Margot Martello, Tenley Stoltz, Julie Hinkley, Lisa Horan, Frank Poirer, Lisa Sigafose, Robert Sigafose

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Kirkpatrick at 7:09 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1. Recognition of Robert Sigafose

Rationale: Dr. Galloway to recognize Robert Sigafose, previous Mabelle B. Avery Middle School crossing guard and current volunteer hall monitor.

Discussion: Chair Kirkpatrick recognized Dr. Galloway and Board Member Carl Stebbins. Dr. Galloway and Mr. Stebbins are veterans. Chair Kirkpatrick thanked them for their service.

Superintendent Galloway recognized Mr. Robert Sigafose for his 13 years of military service. Through the VA in Somers, Mr. Sigafose became the crossing guard at MBA. While ensuring that students made it home safely from school, Mr. Sigafose built positive relationships with students and families. Mr. Sigafose currently serves as a volunteer hall monitor at MBA. Superintendent Galloway noted his appreciation for Mr. Sigafose's daily effort to be a part of MBA and connect with students. Superintendent Galloway presented Mr. Sigafose with a gift. Mr. Sigafose expressed that he felt honored to be at the Board meeting and to be part of the school system. The Commander of the American Legion, Frank Poirer, honored Mr. Sigafose for his years of service. Mr. Poirer presented a certificate and challenge coin to Mr. Sigafose. Superintendent Galloway thanked the American Legion for the support of the schools on Veterans Day.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the October 28, 2024 BOE Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the October 28, 2024 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of October 28 Board of Education Meeting. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Mike Briggs, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway wished a happy Veterans Day to all those who have served and to the families and communities who have supported service members. Recognition ceremonies took place at all 3 schools on 11/11//24.

Superintendent Galloway shared a Fall sports update. The football team is 4-4 and will play against Valley on 11/15/24. The final game will be on Thanksgiving Eve against Windsor Locks. Girls Soccer ended the regular season with a record of 11-3-2. The team entered the quarterfinals. The Boys Soccer team won the conference championship after a 14-2 regular season. The Girls Cross Country team won the NCCC Championship. The team finished 4th in the Class S Meet. Three team members advanced to the State Open Run at Wickham Park. The Boys Cross Country team placed 3rd in the NCCC and finished 5th in the Class S Meet. The Field Hockey team had a solid season and missed the tournament by only one game. The roster grew to 25 members this year, and the team expects the roster to grow even more next year.

5.2. Introduction of Dr. Michael Dietter, MBA Assistant Principal

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will introduce Dr. Michael Dietter, MBA Assistant Principal, to the Board.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway introduced Dr. Michael Dietter. Superintendent Galloway and Dr. Dietter know each other from their previous assignments in Bristol. Dr. Dietter served as the Director of Pupil Services and later as the Deputy Superintendent for the Bristol Public Schools. Despite their history, Dr. Dietter endured the rigor of the standard application process with school leaders and staff without the influence of Superintendent Galloway. Dr. Dietter shared his optimism about the opportunity. He has been enjoying the activities and happenings at MBA. Staff and students have been welcoming. He gave a shout-out to Principal Martello and Ms. Caitlin Hoffman for ensuring that he has everything he needs to effectively manage his role.

5.3. Monthly Budget Report

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget.

Discussion: Stephanie Levin presented the monthly budget report for October. There are 6 anticipated leaves of absence starting in December through

March/April for various reasons. If these employees use unpaid time, some of those funds can be used to offset the cost of long-term subs. The SES Secretary position is currently vacant. Principal Mucci is reviewing applications. The position is eligible for benefits, so there is potential that it will impact the health insurance budget. All known Special Education outplacements have been encumbered. ECS reimbursement is based on the expenses that are submitted by 12/1/24. Somers is in the tier to receive 88% reimbursement; however, it is expected that the district will receive between 65-75% reimbursement due to rising outplacement costs statewide. Last year the district received just short of \$200,000. The first payment from the state is expected in February. A discussion regarding a variance in the transportation line ensued.

5.4. Superintendent Goals

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will present his goals to the Board.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway presented his goals for the district to the Board and community. Superintendent Galloway outlined the path taken since his arrival in Somers in April 2023. At that time, he was able to identify "question marks" in the systems and operations in the district. He shared his strategy of "look, listen, and learn" to create a plan of action. From April to June 2023, Superintendent Galloway visited every classroom and met with every teacher. He noted the hardworking teachers, involved parents, and students with fewer obstacles than in other communities. He also identified inefficiencies, a lack of coordinated processes, and issues with workflow and accountability measures.

Superintendent Galloway introduced the Coherence Framework to build a culture of continuous improvement. The Coherence Framework integrates the 9 indicators for school success and 12 accountability indicators that serve as a report card for a school and district. Superintendent Galloway shared that all his decisions drive to the instructional core made up of students, teachers and curriculum, with thought and coherence behind what everyone is trying to do. At this time, his focus will shift to adult actions and the impact of those actions. Superintendent Galloway shared the 7 steps of organizational improvement to help move Somers from a good district to an exceptional district. The start of this process includes replicating what is effective and being open to changing course when practices are not effective. An example of the use of data teams across the district was shared. While some practices are not new to Somers, it is important that the effective practices are implemented with fidelity across PreK-12. Superintendent Galloway also shared the tenants of the 'Good to Great' Philosophy from Jim Collins. Superintendent Galloway shared some inconsistencies that have been uncovered over the past year that can be remedied with more coordinated processes and a focus on the right things at the right time. School leaders are currently working with staff to help each role see how they fit into the indicators of success and where efforts can be focused. The belief that adult actions yield a high return on investment was reiterated.

Chair Kirkpatrick expressed appreciation for Superintendent Galloway's

willingness to take risks and "peel back the onion" to investigate what is going on in the district, identify what is good, and find areas for improvement. She stated that hiring Superintendent Galloway was one of the best decisions the Board has ever made. Superintendent Galloway shared that he is excited for the work ahead, especially with the supports and resources that are in place.

Board Member Carl Stebbins shared that he was inspired by tonight's presentation, and it is easy to see why students, staff, and parents are rallying around the work being done in Somers to provide a high quality education.

Board Member Shane Manning expressed appreciation for the consistency and follow-up on initiatives that are introduced by school leaders.

Ms. Tenley Stoltz, SHS Library Media Specialist, shared that all the work that was described in Superintendent Galloway's presentation is out there being discussed in the buildings throughout the school year.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Jan Martin, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

7.1. Warrant of November 11, 2024

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of November 11, 2024.

7.2. Leave of Absence

Rationale: Heather Benoit, Grade 1 Teacher, will be taking a leave of absence approximately January 27, 2025 through the end of the school year.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1. CIP Projects

Rationale: The Board to approve proposed CIP projects to move to CIP.

Motion to approve the amount of \$196,000 for SHS library replacement to move forward to CIP. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Jan Martin, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

Motion to approve the SES boilers, MBA roof, and SES transfer switch CIP projects for 25-26 school year. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Mike Briggs, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

Discussion: Stephanie Levin presented an update regarding one of the proposed CIP projects that was discussed at the last meeting. Originally, a request was made for \$123,000 for furniture replacement and updates for the SHS Media

Center. Upon further thought, a change in the shelving was requested. Changing the shelving would bring the project cost to \$196,000. Ms. Tenley Stoltz shared the reasoning behind the change with the Board. The originally selected shelving units are 7-foot stacks that are bolted together, like the shelving that is in the Media Center currently. The newly selected shelving units would change the aesthetic of the Media Center, but more importantly, these units measure only 5 feet tall and are on hidden casters, rather than bolted in place. The shorter height would give staff better sight lines into the shelves and hallway. The casters would allow for more flexibility, as the shelves can be moved to reconfigure the space.

Ms. Levin explained that the Board's vote tonight moves the projects to CIP. The CIP Committee then prioritizes the projects from the BOE and other town boards. Ms. Levin asked the BOE to prioritize projects so that this information can be shared with the CIP Committee.

Board Members Derek Zelek and Shane Manning requested to prioritize the replacement of the SES boilers before they stop functioning. Mr. Zelek noted that it makes sense to also do the transfer switch when the boilers are replaced. Board members agreed to prioritize the SES boilers, MBA roof, SES transfer switch, and finally the SHS Media Center replacement. Ms. Levin will provide an update at the next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Investment Policy Statement

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the revised Investment Policy Statement. Board Member, Mike Briggs, will be able to speak about this from a Planning/Finance Committee perspective.

Motion to approve the revised Investment Policy Statement. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Ed DePeau, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

Discussion: Board Member Mike Briggs explained that the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) outlines the objectives of the pension plan and provides guardrails for how the hired manager can utilize the plan. The IPS should be updated annually. This has not been done in recent years; however, it will be updated annually moving forward. The changes made to the IPS give the manager the ability to invest a little differently. These updates are mostly due to changing interest rates. The plan will be reviewed next year by the Planning & Finance Committee.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Curriculum

The committee met on 11/11/24. Three new courses at MBA and 5 new courses at SHS will be posted at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in 2025.

10.2. Policy

The next regular meeting will take place on 11/25/24 at 6 p.m. A virtual meeting will take place on 11/14/24 to approve a policy regarding sexual harassment.

10.3. Planning/Finance

The next meeting will take place on 12/9/24 at 5:30 p.m.

10.4. Salary & Negotiations

The Paraeducators and Secretaries bargaining unit ratified their contract. The contract will be shared with the BOE soon. There may be a special meeting called for the Board to vote on the contract.

10.5. Building

At the last Building Committee meeting, Superintendent Galloway reported that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen voted to approve the \$15 million budget for the SES HVAC project. This includes the 5% contingency. Colliers and Gilbane would like to start drafting bid documents with the goal of having them ready for 12/18/24. The next committee meeting is on 11/27/24.

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

Superintendent Galloway and three members of the Board will attend the upcoming CABE Convention. Board Member Carl Stebbins will attend the next CREC meeting on 11/20/24. There is an SEF meeting on 11/12/24 focused on voting on grants. Board Member Shane Manning will attend. The NHS Induction will take place on 12/5/24. Board members are encouraged to attend.

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Community member Lisa Horan shared her support of Superintendent Galloway's mindset regarding courageous investigation and risk taking. Ms. Horan inquired about the state accountability indicators shared during Superintendent Galloway's presentation. Superintendent Galloway fielded a question from Ms. Horan regarding the prioritization of the indicators, highlighting the need to pay attention to how high needs students are growing. Ms. Horan asked a question regarding data teams. Superintendent Galloway explained the structure of data teams in the district and reviewed a typical workflow for a data team.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. This motion, made by Jan Martin and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (JT Galloway)**

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

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1146

Voucher Date: 11/25/2024

Prepared By:

L. Bergamini

Printed: 11/21/2024 10:14:02 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$319,546.48 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (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
Stephanie Levin Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund	Amount
10 GENERAL FUND	\$319,546.48
	\$319,546.48

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 11/25/2024	To Date: 11/25/2024
From Check: 25467	To Check: 25522
From Voucher: 1146	To Voucher: 1146

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
25467	11/25/2024	4imprint	\$490.71	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25468	11/25/2024	A&D Portable Rentals	\$285.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25469	11/25/2024	Adelbrook Inc	\$24,818.50	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25470	11/25/2024	Alarm New England-Sonitrol	\$175.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25471	11/25/2024	Alternative Access Assistive Techology	\$2,798.75	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25472	11/25/2024	Amazon Capital Services	\$4,501.43	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25473	11/25/2024	American Time	\$754.58	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25474	11/25/2024	Apple Inc.	\$1,348.45	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25475	11/25/2024	Awards & More	\$225.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25476	11/25/2024	Bart Truck Equipment LLC.	\$172.71	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25477	11/25/2024	BSN Sports LLC	\$580.50	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25478	11/25/2024	Bureau of Education & Research, Inc.	\$295.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25479	11/25/2024	Chief Architect Software	\$900.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25480	11/25/2024	Chromebook Parts	\$399.90	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25481	11/25/2024	Colonial Flower Shoppe	\$150.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25482	11/25/2024	CREC	\$150.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25483	11/25/2024	DBS Financial Services LLC	\$2,235.17	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25484	11/25/2024	DG Graphics	\$526.60	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25485	11/25/2024	Eric Barakat	\$75.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25486	11/25/2024	Eversource Energy	\$27,754.91	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25487	11/25/2024	First Student, Inc	\$116,292.10	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25488	11/25/2024	Flores & Associates	\$99.90	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25489	11/25/2024	Frank's Landscaping	\$1,760.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 11/25/2024
From Check: 25467
From Voucher: 1146

To Date: 11/25/2024
To Check: 25522
To Voucher: 1146

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
25490	11/25/2024	Frontier Communications	\$1,020.11	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25491	11/25/2024	Geissler's Supermarket, Inc	\$244.10	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25492	11/25/2024	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	\$220.82	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25493	11/25/2024	Grainger	\$69.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25494	11/25/2024	Hartford HealthCare Corporation SBO	\$30,250.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25495	11/25/2024	Hudi	\$9,050.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25496	11/25/2024	Hussey Seating Company	\$1,300.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25497	11/25/2024	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$75.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25498	11/25/2024	Jamie Rechenberg	\$492.94	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25499	11/25/2024	MagnaKleen Services	\$108.61	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25500	11/25/2024	Manchester Board of Education	\$8,470.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25501	11/25/2024	Michael Savage	\$75.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25502	11/25/2024	Pedal Power of Vernon LLC	\$749.03	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25503	11/25/2024	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	\$114.75	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25504	11/25/2024	Portabull	\$100.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25505	11/25/2024	Scott Czerwinski	\$202.34	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25506	11/25/2024	Shannin Burns	\$171.20	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25507	11/25/2024	Silvia Gopalakrishnan	\$75.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25508	11/25/2024	SLP Toolkit	\$675.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25509	11/25/2024	Somers Public Schools	\$283.50	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25510	11/25/2024	Teachers Synergy, LLC	\$161.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25511	11/25/2024	The Aero All-Gas Co	\$179.25	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25512	11/25/2024	The Children's Center of Hamden	\$7,281.36	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25513	11/25/2024	The College Board	\$2,441.27	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 11/25/2024

To Date: 11/25/2024

From Check: 25467

To Check: 25522

From Voucher: 1146

To Voucher: 1146

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
25514	11/25/2024	The Granite Group Wholesalers, LLC	\$244.98	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25515	11/25/2024	The Home Depot Pro	\$637.86	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25516	11/25/2024	The Nixon Company Inc	\$42.00	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25517	11/25/2024	The Stepping Stones Group LLC	\$29.04	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25518	11/25/2024	USA Waste and Recycling	\$2,171.63	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25519	11/25/2024	Van Pool Transportation LLC	\$61,160.32	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25520	11/25/2024	W.B. Mason Co., Inc.	\$179.13	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25521	11/25/2024	Xerox Corporation	\$4,266.57	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
25522	11/25/2024	Zoro Tools Inc	\$216.46	1146	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Total Amount: \$319,546.48

End of Report

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course **New Course**

Proposed Course Title: Global and World Cultures	Content Area: Humanities		
<p style="text-align: center;">This course is designed for:</p> Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School	<p style="text-align: center;">Length of Course:</p> Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester		
Prerequisites needed by students to take this course: None			
What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need? This course will support our ongoing work of creating an inclusive climate at MBA Middle School by increasing whole-school cultural interactions and supporting equitable pedagogical approaches by promoting a variety of cultures and experiences. This course will not only provide students with further learning on a variety of cultures and customs, but also increase a sense of belonging for students and staff by highlighting a variety of world views and experiences.			
Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course) This course will provide students with a cultural overview of a variety of world and American cultures and include topics such as food, fashion, climate and cultural values. Students will be presented with units that provide an understanding and appreciation of a variety of cultures through units in Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, African American and Black Studies, and Native American Studies, and others.			
Who designed this course? Caitlin Hoffman MBA Humanities Teachers	What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully? None		
What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space? This is part of our ongoing work to reduce study halls for middle school students at MBA. This course will be offered as an elective for 7th and 8th grade students.			

Resources Needed for this Course:
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

<u>Materials/Resources</u>	<u>Cost</u>

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
<i>Mr. Hammett</i>	World Language	11/01/2024
<i>Carie Hunter</i>	Tech Ed	11/1/2024
<i>Cassie Myers</i>	math	11/1/2024
<i>Clay</i>	Inst. Leader/Curric.	11/01/24
<i>[Signature]</i>	Math Skills	11/1/24

Principal Signature: *M. Maefello*

Date: 11/1/24

Superintendent Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature: *Dina M Seneca*

Date: 11/6/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: Freshman Academy Content Area: General

This course is designed for: Freshman Length of Course: 1 Semester, 0.5 credits

Prerequisites needed by students to take this course: None

What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?

Freshman academies provide valuable support for students transitioning into high school, addressing several key needs:

- **Smooth Transition:** Freshmen often face significant changes in academic expectations and social dynamics. An academy helps ease this transition by providing structure and support.
- **Academic Support:** Freshman academies focus on developing essential skills like time management, study habits, and critical thinking, which are crucial for success in high school.
- **Social Connections:** These programs foster a sense of community among students, helping them build friendships and navigate social challenges in a new environment.
- **Personal Development:** Freshman academies often incorporate social and emotional learning, helping students develop self-awareness, resilience, and interpersonal skills.
- **Career Awareness:** Early exposure to various career options and pathways can help students start thinking about their future and setting long-term goals.
- **Engagement and Motivation:** By integrating hands-on activities and collaborative projects, freshman academies can enhance student engagement and motivation.
- **Supportive Environment:** They provide a safe space for students to ask questions, seek help, and express concerns as they adjust to high school life.

Give a general overview of what this course will cover.

- **Academic Skills Development:** Emphasis on critical thinking, study habits, time management, and effective note-taking.
- **Career Exploration:** Introduction to various career paths and vocational skills, often including guest speakers and workshops.
- **Social and Emotional Learning:** Activities that promote self-awareness, empathy, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
- **Goal Setting:** Encouraging students to set personal, academic, and career goals, along with strategies to achieve them.
- **Technology Integration:** Use of digital tools and resources for research, collaboration, and communication.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Group projects and activities that foster teamwork and collaborative skills.
- **Academic Pathways:** Guidance on course selection and academic planning for high school and beyond.

Who designed this course? What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?

- Committee of teachers and coaches will devise the curriculum, the committee will be constructed of the teachers that will be teaching the section..
- Teachers would need ongoing professional learning to build a bank of strategies and lessons to support students in Freshman Academy.
 - Potential Professional Learning Opportunities:
 - AVID
 - SchoolLinks
 - College Board

Revised 2022

What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?

- Would require one section per department

Resources Needed for this Course:

Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

- School Links
- College Board
- AVID Training \$1200 per teacher

Materials/Resources Cost:

- Schoolinks-already in SHS budget
- College Board-Access already included
- AVID Training/Strategies-\$1200 per teacher, (x5)

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature

Content Area Date

Jana Fortini
Dr. Mc

Math 11/4/24

TECHNOLOGY ED 11-4-24

- IMPACT TO ELECTIVES?
- FRESHMAN STUDYING REMAIN

h

Science 11/4/24

Signature	Content Area Date
<i>Jana Fortini</i> <i>Dr. Mc</i>	Math 11/4/24
	TECHNOLOGY ED 11-4-24
	- IMPACT TO ELECTIVES? - FRESHMAN STUDYING REMAIN
<i>h</i>	Science 11/4/24

Principal Signature:

Naima St. Pierre

Date: 11/4/2024

Superintendent Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature:

Dana M. General

Date: 11/6/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: ECE Solidworks for Industrial Design	Content Area: Technology Engineering Education
This course is designed for: Freshman Sophomores Juniors <u>Seniors</u> Middle School	Length of Course: <u>Full Year</u> Semester Quarter Trimester
Prerequisites needed by students to take this course: None	
What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need? This course is already in place and has an articulation agreement with Asnuntuck Community College. However, this course will allow for an articulation with the University of Connecticut, enabling students to earn credits for their work in high school, but also credits from the University of Connecticut for taking this course.	
Give a general overview of what this course will cover. By the successful completion of this course, students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw basic isometric views of parts, by hand and using CAD 2. 2. Draw basic orthogonal views by hand and using CAD and orient them in the first and third angle projections. 3. Identify and compare fundamental manufacturing techniques. 4. Explain the meaning of geometric tolerances. 5. Build parts and part assemblies in CAD using a variety of modeling techniques. 6. Modify an existing part based on redefined design requirements or constraints. 7. Identify factors in a design that require the use of specific manufacturing techniques. 	
Who designed this course? This course was initially designed by Mr. Kosloski, however the parameters for the ECE component come from the University of Connecticut.	What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully? Mr. Kosloski will be required to become certified to teach this class. Initial thoughts from the University of Connecticut and Early College Experience office have indicated that Mr. Kosloski is more than qualified to teach the course.

What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?





There are no staffing implications or curricular areas that will be affected except for the advantage of adding another course as a UConn ECE course to our program of studies.

Resources Needed for this Course:

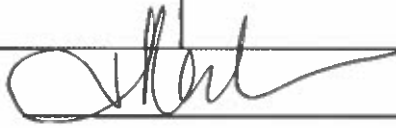
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

Materials/Resources	Cost
Annual Subscription to Solidworks (already purchased annually)	\$3000

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
	K-12 STEM IL	11/4/2024
	Tech Ed	11-4-2024
	Tech Ed	11/4/2024
	Tech Ed	11/4/2024


Principal Signature:



Date:

11/4/2024

Superintendent Signature:



Date:

11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature:



Date:

11/6/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

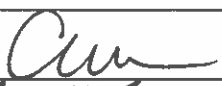


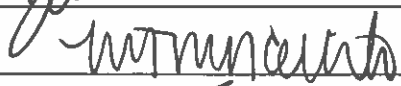


Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course **New Course**


Proposed Course Title: Digital Literacy	Content Area: STEM & Humanities
<p style="text-align: center;">This course is designed for:</p> <p>Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School Full Year</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Length of Course:</p> <p>Semester Quarter Trimester</p>
<p>Prerequisites needed by students to take this course:</p> <p>All 6th graders will take this course, barring any scheduling conflicts.</p>	
<p>What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?</p> <p>Digital Literacy is the ability to use digital resources and technology safely and responsibly in order to communicate, research and create. There is an ever-growing need for students to be responsible Digital Citizens, and understand both the ways in which they communicate through technology, and also students are in need of a strong foundation for digital literacy. There is an ever-growing need for students to utilize these skills in the classroom across all disciplines and grades.</p>	
<p>Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course)</p> <p>Skills will be applicable in all classes throughout grades 6-8.</p> <p>Students will learn the importance of internet safety and responsibility across various platforms, appropriate and effective ways to communicate through various means including email, digital slide shows and other digital written and verbal communications. Students will also learn to use current digital platforms for internet and database research and organization.</p>	
<p>Who designed this course?</p> <p>Jackie Rivard, Caitlin Hoffman</p>	<p>What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?</p> <p>Professional Development on the newest trends in internet and technology platforms in education.</p>
<p>What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?</p> <p>This is part of our ongoing work to reduce study halls at MBA. Students will go to the Library Media Center for this class.</p>	

Resources Needed for this Course:
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

<u>Materials/Resources</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Student Chromebooks	District Funded
Google Suite	District Funded

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.


Signature	Content Area	Date
	Inst. Leader/Curric.	11/01/24
	Health Ed./Teacher	11/01/24
	Social Studies	11/1/24
	ELA	11/1/24
	ELA	11.1.24
	Success Seminar	11-4-24

Principal Signature: 

Date: 11/11/24

Superintendent Signature: 

Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature: 

Date: 11/10/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: AP Physics C: Mechanics	Content Area: Science
This course is designed for: Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School	Length of Course: Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester
Prerequisites needed by students to take this course: Calculus can be taken prior to or concurrently with this course	
What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need? Certain colleges do not offer students credit towards an engineering major for taking and passing the AP Physics 1 (algebra) based exam. Colleges are more likely to accept credit for a student taking and passing the calculus-based physics exam, AP Physics C. Students have shown interest in taking the AP Physics C: Mechanics course. One student is currently enrolled in AP Physics 1 and, after receiving materials for the AP Physics C Mechanics course, will be taking both the AP Physics 1 and AP Physics C Mechanics exams this year. There is also a group of students at MBA who are in an accelerated math program and this course would be accessible to them by their senior year.	
Give a general overview of what this course will cover. AP Physics C: Mechanics covers the topics of Kinematics, Forces and Translational Dynamics, Work, Energy, and Power, Linear Momentum, Torque and Rotational Dynamics, Energy and Momentum of Rotating Systems, and Oscillations using calculus. This course is equivalent to the first course in an introductory college course sequence in calculus-based physics.	
Who designed this course? The curriculum will follow the Course and Exam Description for AP Physics C Mechanics from the CollegeBoard. This document can be found on the CollegeBoard website.	What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully? The teacher should consider attending an AP Summer Institute for the course to gain insight into the course materials and requirements and maintain ongoing professional learning to stay updated with the course and curricular changes. The teacher should also have a background in physics and calculus.

What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?

This course should be offered every other year on an even or odd cycle. This course would not replace Honors Physics or AP Physics 1, so that science teacher would not be able to teach as many sections of integrated science. This may have an effect on half year elective courses.

Resources Needed for this Course:
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

<u>Materials/Resources</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fundamentals of Physics, Volume 1, 12th Edition David Halliday, Robert Resnick, Jearl Walker	\$91.95 per ebook
AP Summer Institute	Cost varies by institution and in person vs virtual

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
<i>Susan Coppier</i>	Science	11-4-2024
<i>Karen Jegg</i>	Science	11/4/2024
<i>Alicia Bonin</i>	Science	11/4/2024
<i>May Mey</i>	Science	11/4/2024
<i>[Signature]</i>	6-12 STEM IL	11/4/2024

Principal Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 11/4/24

Superintendent Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 11/6/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: AP Calculus BC	Content Area: Math
<p style="text-align: center;">This course is designed for:</p> <p>Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Length of Course:</p> <p>Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester</p>
<p>Prerequisites needed by students to take this course:</p> <p>Successful completion of AP Pre. Calc</p>	
<p>What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?</p> <p>As we begin identifying students in the lower grades accelerating in math, we need to make sure we have an appropriate culminating course for those students in high school.</p>	
<p>Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course)</p> <p>Limits Derivatives Integrals and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus Series</p>	
<p>Who designed this course?</p> <p>Collegeboard</p>	<p>What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?</p> <p>AP Training Institute (already completed the 2023-2024 school year)</p>
<p>What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?</p>	

What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?









None

Resources Needed for this Course:

Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.


Materials/Resources	Cost
"Calculus of a Single Variable"	already used in AP Calc AB

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
	Math	6/6/24
	STEM Instructional Leader	6/6/24
	Math	6/6/24
	MATH	6-6-24
	Math	6-6-24
	Math	6-6-24
	Math	6-6-24
	Math	6-7-24

Principal Signature:  Date: 6/7/24

Superintendent Signature:  Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature:  Date: 11/6/24

Somers Public Schools

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: AP Precalculus	Content Area: Math
<p>This course is designed for:</p> <p>Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School</p>	<p>Length of Course:</p> <p>Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester</p>
<p>Prerequisites needed by students to take this course:</p> <p>B or better in Algebra 2 OR C or better in Honors Algebra 2 OR Teacher Recommendation</p>	
<p>What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?</p> <p>Increases AP course offerings and student access to upper level courses within the math department.</p>	
<p>Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course)</p> <p>This course's goal is to provide students with the necessary skills for calculus and other higher-level mathematical courses. Throughout the course, students will explore topics such as properties and graphs of various functions (polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, etc.), applications of trigonometric functions (identities, equations, inverse functions, etc.), analytic geometry (conic sections, parametric equations, polar coordinates, etc.), vectors in two and three dimensions, as well as sequences and series (arithmetic, geometric, and their sums).</p>	
<p>Who designed this course?</p> <p>College Board</p>	<p>What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?</p> <p>Mrs. Duval went to an AP Precalculus summer institution during the 2024 summer. The College Board offers regular updates and curricular shifts for AP Courses. Ongoing professional development will allow for course and pedagogy updates to be learned directly by Mrs. Duval. The professional development courses are shorter in duration and have less financial consequences.</p>
<p>What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?</p> <p>None</p>	

Resources Needed for this Course:
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

<u>Materials/Resources</u>	<u>Cost</u>

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
Ashley D. Daniel	Math	9/25/24
Jane Fortner	Math	9/26/24
John Ah	Math	9/26/24
Paul E. McNamee	Math	9/26/24
P. Curtis	Math	9/26/24
Steve J. Garski	Math	9-26-24
[Signature]	MATH	9-26-24
T. [Signature]	6-12 STEM IL	9-30-2024

Principal Signature: [Signature]

Date: 9/24/2024

Superintendent Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11/6/24

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

<p>Proposed Course Title:</p> <p>Middle School Math Applications</p>	<p>Content Area:</p> <p>Mathematics</p>
<p>This course is designed for:</p> <p>Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School</p>	<p>Length of Course:</p> <p>Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester</p>
<p>Prerequisites needed by students to take this course:</p> <p>Student request OR recommendation by MBA Staff</p>	
<p>What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?</p> <p>This course addresses several needs. First, students at MBA have a robust math experience, however there are some students who are seeking greater challenges or more work in math. While differentiation to meet the students' needs happens at the classroom level, this course will enable students to learn math topics beyond the math curriculum allowing them to enrich their learning and love for math. Additionally, offering an additional elective course in mathematics will give students an additional option for a class to take in the place of a study hall period.</p>	
<p>Give a general overview of what this course will cover.</p> <p>Rooted in real-world and practical/problem based mathematics, the course will cover curricular topics in the following realms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra and Algebraic Thinking • Geometry and Right Angle Trigonometry • Problem Solving and Data Analysis • Probability and Statistics • Financial Literacy • Computer Science and Programming <p>The students will demonstrate their learning through applications of math, real world math, and project based learning. The course is intended to foster a love and appreciation for the beauty of math while appropriately challenging students who yearn for more.</p>	
<p>Who designed this course?</p> <p>MBA Math Department</p>	<p>What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?</p> <p>The teacher only would need to be certified appropriately to teach math.</p>

What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?

In order to offer this course, an additional math teacher would be needed at MBA. From a curriculum lens, this course would supplement and support the curriculum that is currently in place, allowing for deeper study of math topics for students to occur. It will support the curricular standards that students are taught in addition to providing access to other standards (such as high school standards) earlier in their learning.

Resources Needed for this Course:
Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.

Materials/Resources	Cost
Defined Learning Platform	Free
code.org access	Free

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
<i>J. Sanford</i>	Math	11-4-24
<i>[Signature]</i>	Math	11/4/24
<i>Cassie Myjuro</i>	math	11/4/24
<i>Amanda Modugno</i>	math	11-4-24
<i>TEA [Signature]</i>	6-12 STEM IL	11-4-24

Principal Signature: *M. Mardello* Date: 11/4/2024

Superintendent Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 11/6/24

Director of Curriculum Signature: *Dina M. Senecal* Date: 11/6/24