

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026 7:00 PM
Somers Board of Education Chambers, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**
 1. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Certificate of Excellence Awards
Dr. Galloway will present the CAPSS Certificate of Excellence Awards to Alyssa Gridley from SES, Kyanalis Torres from MBA, and Aja Drammeh from SHS.
 2. Board Recognition of Ashley Guerra
Dr. Galloway will introduce Ashley Guerra, MBA's Administrative Assistant, to the Board for her Westover Airlift Wing 2025 Key Support Liaison of the Year Award, which recognizes a volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the Commander's Key Support Program. Ashley acted as a vital link between the squadron leadership and military families, specifically ensuring families are supported during deployments and separations, allowing service members to focus on the mission.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the May 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes 3
The Board to review and approve the minutes from the May 26, 2026 Board meeting.
 2. Approval of the May 28, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes 8
The Board to review and approve the Special Meeting minutes from May 28, 2026.
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. Morgan Stanley Update
Kevin Nichols from Morgan Stanley will update the Board.
 3. Monthly Budget Report 9
Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget report.
6. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of June 8, 2026 10
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of June 8, 2026.
 2. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5112.01 - Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver 14
(2026-2027)
 3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5131.81 - Use of Electronic Devices 16
 4. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9120.1 - Officers - Election 18
 5. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9231.4 - Minor Matters 19
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Puerto Rico Field Trip 20
Chris Mangini, SHS Spanish Teacher, will present the Puerto Rico Trip to the Board for their approval.
 2. FY27 Budget Discussion
Discussion and possible action regarding the FY27 budget.
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Curriculum
 2. Policy

3. Planning/Finance
4. Salary & Negotiations
5. Building
11. **CIP/CREC/SEF**
12. **ADVANCE CALENDAR**
13. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Non-Union staff wage adjustments for the 2026-2027 school year and to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. The Board will invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting**Somers Board of Education Chambers****Tuesday, May 26, 2026****7:00 PM***(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)*

Present BOE Members: Dr. Ed DePeau (arrived 7:40 p.m.), JT Galloway, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz, Mike Briggs (arrived 8:03 p.m.)

Absent BOE Members: Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Dr. Jamie Rechenberg, Dr. Michael Dietter, Margot Martello, Kim LaBroad, Melissa Mucci, Stan Targonski, Jeremy Targonski, Jennifer Targonski, Becky Joyal, Mike McDonnell, Trish McDonnell, Carolyn Castonguay, Jon Breton

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS****3.1. Retirement Recognitions**

Rationale: On behalf of the BOE, Superintendent Galloway, Melissa Mucci, SES Principal, and Margot Martello, MBA Principal, will present gifts to the following retirees:

- Michael McDonnell, SES Assistant Principal
- Therese Kowalski, SES Library Media Center Paraeducator
- Kim LaBroad, SES Paraeducator
- Kevin Nevins, Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher
- Stanley Targonski, MBA Math Teacher

Discussion: Retirees were recognized for their years of service and contributions to the district.

Melissa Mucci, SES Principal, recognized:

- Michael McDonnell, Assistant Principal - recognized for 23 years of service, dedication to students, leadership, and positive impact on the school community.
- Kim LaBroad, Paraeducator - recognized for 11.5 years of service and her compassionate work with students and staff.
- Therese Kowalski, Paraeducator/Library Media - recognized for 12 years of service, creativity, teamwork, and support of students.

Margot Martello, MBA Principal, recognized:

- Kevin Nevins, Language Arts Teacher - recognized for over 30 years in education, and his engaging instructional practices.
- Stan Targonski, Math Teacher - recognized for 40 years of service, coaching accomplishments, leadership, and mentorship.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the May 11, 2026 regular meeting. This motion, made by JT Galloway and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Gina Olearczyk), Absent: 3 (Mike Briggs, Ed DePeau, Derek Zelek)**

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5.1. Superintendent Update

Discussion: The Superintendent provided district updates.

Somers Elementary School

- Testing scheduled for completion by May 27
- Upcoming events: STEM Night, Field Day, Revolutionary War Day (Grade 4)

Mabelle B. Avery Middle School

- State testing completed
- Successful completion of the school walkathon

Somers High School

- State testing completed May 7
- Upcoming events: Senior Awards, Mock Car Crash presentation, Prom activities

Athletics Update

- Track athletes earning medals and All-Conference recognition
- Golf qualifying for NCCC tournament play
- Girls Lacrosse: 12-4 record; #2 state tournament seed
- Boys Lacrosse: 14-2 record; #2 state tournament seed; Coach McCarthy achieved 500 career wins
- Softball: 12-8 record; #11 seed
- Baseball: approximately 15-5 record; #5 seed

5.2. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: SHS student representatives will update the Board on recent events.

Discussion: Student representatives updated the Board regarding recent district activities, including:

- District Art Show
- UCONN ECE Chemistry field trip
- Blood Drive
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- NGSS testing and AP exams
- Upcoming senior activities, prom, graduation, and Capstone presentations

5.3. School Wellness Committee Report

Rationale: Cheryl Fry, Head Nurse, will present the School Wellness Committee update.

Discussion: Cheryl Fry, Head Nurse, presented the School Wellness Committee report. Topics included:

- Over 13,000 student health visits district-wide
- Approximately 956 students identified with medical conditions/alerts
- Increased concerns regarding students arriving at school ill
- Increase in mental health-related visits and somatic complaints among elementary students

Health initiatives discussed:

- Emergency cardiac response teams established in all buildings
- Increased availability of Stop the Bleed kits
- Addition of LifeVac choking devices in cafeterias
- Implementation of nasal epinephrine (NEFI) and staff training

Nutrition and student wellness concerns discussed:

- Continued demand for snacks and food support
- Staff members and entrance monitors frequently providing food to students
- Discussion regarding possible formal breakfast/snack options
- Concerns regarding student food choices and parent awareness of purchases

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Ed DePeau, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Mike Briggs, Derek Zelek)**

7.1. Warrant of May 26, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of May 26, 2026.

7.2. Resignations

- Emma Dashnaw, MLL Paraeducator, will be resigning at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Krista Oliver, SES Paraeducator, will be resigning effective May 28, 2026.

8. OLD BUSINESS**9. NEW BUSINESS****9.1. 1st Posting DBS Code 5112.01 – Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver****9.2. 1st Posting DBS Code 5131.81 – Use of Electronic Devices****9.3. 1st Posting DBS Code 9120.1 – Officers – Election****9.4. 1st Posting DBS Code 9321.4 – Minor Matters****10. COMMITTEE REPORTS****10.1. Curriculum**

No update.

10.2. Policy

Meeting scheduled for June 8.

10.3. Planning/Finance

Discussion included:

- Budget adjustment requiring approximately \$113,000 in additional reductions
- Reductions expected primarily through attrition and lower-rate hiring
- Discussion regarding town-wide reductions and budget impacts
- Need for improved community communication regarding budget and revaluation impacts

10.4. Salary & Negotiations

Meetings scheduled for maintenance and nurses on May 27.

10.5. Building

No update.

11. CIP/CREC/SEF

Somers Education Foundation reported over \$84,000 awarded this year with a current endowment of approximately \$1.4 million.

12. ADVANCE CALENDAR**13. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS****14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Rationale: The Board to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session to report on his goals.

Motion to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session to report on his goals at 7:47 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay 0, Absent: 2 (Mike Briggs, Derek Zelek)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:53 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Gina Olearczyk, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Derek Zelek)**

Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary

Date

Minutes prepared by Shannin Burns, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

DRAFT

Somers Board of Education Special Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2026 6:00 PM
Virtual

Meeting code: meet.google.com/uyx-gani-amf

Phone Numbers: (US)+1 413-318-4696

PIN: 558 645 958#

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Anne Kirkpatrick, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Derek Zelek, Gina Olearczyk, Shane Manning

Absent BOE Members: Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Kim Radziewicz

1. CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order by Chair Briggs at 6:00 p.m.

2. BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Rationale: The Board to discuss and approve the recommended budget Reductions.

Discussion: The Board of Finance reduced the budget by \$113,848. Dr. Galloway and Stephanie had anticipated this cut and adjusted plans accordingly. The cut will not result in any additional staff layoffs; instead, open positions will remain unfilled. The new proposed budget is \$31,178,538.

Motion to approve the budget. This motion, made by Sharon Goulet and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0.**

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the special meeting at 6:01 p.m. This motion, made by Sharon Goulet and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0.**

Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary

Date

Minutes prepared by Shannin Burns, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

(Through 6/1/2026)

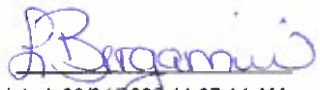
As of 6/1/2026

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1355

Voucher Date: 06/08/2026

Prepared By:


Printed: 06/04/2026 11:07:14 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$366,531.30 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (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	\$366,531.30
	\$366,531.30

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 6/8/2026

To Date: 6/8/2026

From Check: 27585

To Check: 27633

From Voucher: 1355

To Voucher: 1355

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27585	06/08/2026	A&D Portable Rentals	\$95.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27586	06/08/2026	Alexandra Marino	\$435.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27587	06/08/2026	Alternative Access Assistive Technology	\$5,952.50	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27588	06/08/2026	Amazon Capital Services	\$1,704.11	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27589	06/08/2026	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	\$297,429.43	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27590	06/08/2026	Awards & More	\$1,070.25	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27591	06/08/2026	C.E.S	\$780.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27592	06/08/2026	CHLIC	\$11,837.56	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27593	06/08/2026	Clear Water Industries	\$245.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27594	06/08/2026	COX Business	\$1,047.79	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27595	06/08/2026	DG Graphics	\$207.50	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27596	06/08/2026	Dina Senecal	\$83.37	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27597	06/08/2026	Elan Financial Services	\$2,381.02	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27598	06/08/2026	Ellington Agway Power Equipment	\$78.99	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27599	06/08/2026	Eric Barakat	\$187.50	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27600	06/08/2026	Eversource Energy	\$4,759.53	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27601	06/08/2026	First Student, Inc	\$1,591.61	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27602	06/08/2026	Flores & Associates	\$210.90	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27603	06/08/2026	Gateway Enterprise Corporation	\$354.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27604	06/08/2026	Grainger	\$351.35	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27605	06/08/2026	Hartford Sprinkler Co., Inc	\$2,752.60	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27606	06/08/2026	Hillyard-New England	\$2,081.46	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27607	06/08/2026	Honors Graduation	\$94.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		

Somers Board of Education

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Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27608	06/08/2026	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$147.99	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27609	06/08/2026	K&S Distributors	\$105.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27610	06/08/2026	KnowBe4	\$374.10	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27611	06/08/2026	Lynn Erickson	\$53.54	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27612	06/08/2026	MagnaKleen Services	\$108.61	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27613	06/08/2026	Michael Savage	\$187.50	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27614	06/08/2026	Monica Willemain	\$110.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27615	06/08/2026	Novi AP Summer Institute	\$750.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27616	06/08/2026	Nuso, LLC	\$117.06	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27617	06/08/2026	Prestwick House, Inc	\$876.29	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27618	06/08/2026	Sarah Martin	\$255.20	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27619	06/08/2026	Sarah Uyar	\$75.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27620	06/08/2026	Shannin Burns	\$142.45	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27621	06/08/2026	Shipman & Goodwin, LLP	\$5,954.50	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27622	06/08/2026	Silktown Roofing	\$933.46	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27623	06/08/2026	Sonitrol New England	\$1,263.59	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27624	06/08/2026	Stephanie Levin	\$1,072.03	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27625	06/08/2026	Stephanie Toney	\$108.75	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27626	06/08/2026	The Hartford	\$5,067.69	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27627	06/08/2026	The Home Depot Pro	\$448.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27628	06/08/2026	Town of Somers	\$6,401.59	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27629	06/08/2026	Verizon Wireless	\$530.75	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27630	06/08/2026	William V. MacGill & Co.	\$523.08	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27631	06/08/2026	Williams Scotsman, Inc	\$300.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		

Somers Board of Education

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Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27632	06/08/2026	Xerox Corporation	\$4,096.65	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		
27633	06/08/2026	Zoro Tools Inc	\$798.00	1355	Printed	Expense	☐		

Total Amount: \$366,531.30

End of Report

(Boards of Education that allow waivers for the 2026-2027 school year are required to have a policy allowing such waivers.)

Students

Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver (2026-2027)

I. Purpose

In accordance with the Connecticut General Assembly's **March 2026 Emergency Legislation, §§26-27** and **Public Act 23-208**, this policy establishes the age requirements for enrollment in kindergarten and the specific, time-bound "transitional" waiver process available to families for the 2026-2027 academic school year.

The [Somers](#) Board of Education adopts the following procedures for the 2026-2027 school year.

II. Eligibility for "Automatic" Enrollment

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1.

Transitional Waiver (2026-2027)

The District recognizes that the shift in the state-mandated cutoff date (from January 1 to September 1) may place a hardship on families. Therefore, for the 2026-2027 school year, the District shall provide a waiver process for children who turn five between September 2, 2026, and December 31, 2026.

Note: A waiver is not a guarantee of enrollment; it is a request for an exception based on a determination of developmental readiness. However, students transferring to the District from other Connecticut districts and have been assessed in accordance with state requirements and subsequently granted a waiver for the 2026-2027 school year, shall be granted a waiver for the same academic year.

Waiver Application Requirements

To apply for a waiver, parents or guardians must complete the following steps:

1. **Written Request:** Submit a formal "Request for Kindergarten Waiver" to the Principal of the child's assigned school. This request must be submitted no later than (insert District Deadline, e.g., May 1, 2026).
2. **Parental Questionnaire:** Complete a developmental history and social-emotional snapshot of the child to provide context for the school's assessment.
3. **Mandatory Assessment:** Under state law, once a written request is received, the District shall conduct an assessment of the child. The child will be invited to a school-based screening where a certified staff member (e.g., kindergarten teacher, school psychologist, or early childhood specialist) will evaluate:
 - a. Social and emotional maturity
 - b. Communication and language skills
 - c. Physical and cognitive development

Determination

The Principal, in consultation with the assessment team, shall issue a written decision to the family. The decision of the Principal and the certified staff regarding whether early entry is “developmentally appropriate” is final and not subject to further appeal to the Board of Education.

Sunset of “Transitional” Waiver

- **Effective Dates:** This policy applies to the 2026-2027 enrollment cycle.
- **Expiration:** The “transitional” waiver option described herein shall expire on June 30, 2027). Future enrollment cycles shall be governed by the standing Board Policy on kindergarten admissions, which may be more restrictive as the state’s transition period concludes.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-15c
 Public Act 23-208 An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education
 Statutes
 2026 Emergency Legislation (SB 298), §§ 26 & 27 – Kindergarten Waivers

STUDENTS

Use of Electronic Devices

During instructional time, from the official school start time to end of the day school dismissal, which includes class periods, lunch period (elementary schools), and other specified times as determined by administration, electronic communication devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight unless:

- a. Permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member;
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 education plan; or
- c. It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Phones and/or electronic communication devices, and accessories (i.e. earbuds, headphones, etc.), should remain concealed and be turned off unless in use pursuant to this policy. Such phones and other electronic communication devices may be used in compliance with the individual school's guidelines for usage. This time of usage may include before/after school as well as during the student's lunch time and in designated locations.

The building administration reserves the right to limit the use of cell phones in the building wherever they deem appropriate.

Unauthorized Use of Devices

A student's possession, display or use of a cellular telephone and other wireless communication devices on school property contrary to the provisions of this policy shall be viewed as the unauthorized use of the cellular phone or other wireless communication devices when such possession, display or use of such devices results in conduct which includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Interference with or disruption of the instructional or educational environment.
- b. Use which violates academic integrity, as the reproduction of images of tests, communication of test or examination contents or answers, to provide access to unauthorized school information, or assistance to students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates school Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct.
- c. The communication of the marks or grades assigned to students resulting from evaluation or the actual contents, or parts thereof, of any evaluation activity being completed by an individual(s).
- d. Use to commit a crime, under federal or state law.
- e. Violation of a student's or other person's reasonable expectation of privacy, by using such devices with photographic capabilities in student locker-rooms, restrooms, any other student changing areas, or the classroom, whether such use occurs during the instructional school day or on school property. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices may not be utilized to take "photographs" or "videos" while on

school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

f. Use in a manner that is profane, indecent, obscene, threatening, discriminatory, bullying or harassing language, pictures or gestures. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices which have the capability to take "photographs" or "moving pictures" shall not be used for such purposes while on school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

Unauthorized use of these devices is grounds for confiscation by school officials, including classroom teachers. Repeated unauthorized use of such devices may lead to disciplinary action.

Responsibility/Liability

Any student who chooses to bring a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device to school shall do so at his or her own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of his or her cellular phone or wireless communication device. Neither the school personnel or Board will assume any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to a cellular phone or other wireless communication device brought onto school property, or for the unauthorized use of any such device.

Legal Reference: PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety

PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates

PA 99-256 An Act Concerning AAC Laser Pointers

Connecticut General Statutes

[10-233j](#) Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Adopted: July 13, 2009

Revised: July 12, 2010

March 25, 2019

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Officers

Election:

The first order of business shall be the election of a ~~Chairman~~ Chair who shall take office upon election. The Board shall then elect a Secretary and a ~~Vice-Chairman~~ Vice Chair who shall take office upon election. Election shall require the majority vote of the members of the Board.

Duties of the ~~Chairman~~ Chair and Secretary are detailed in policies #9121 and #9123. The ~~Vice-Chairman~~ Vice Chair will chair the meetings of the Board of Education when the Chairman is absent, as well as perform other duties the Board delegates to him/her.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings

Adopted: August 28, 1980

Revised: February 24, 1992

Reviewed: April 4, 2000

This policy will be deleted.

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Minor Matters:

In minor matters requiring Board of Education action before the next regular meeting, the board may be polled by the Chairman or Secretary.

Action shall be upon the concurrence of a majority of the board and the vote ratified and recorded at the next regular meeting of the board.

Adopted: March 23, 1981

Reviewed: June 21, 2000

FIELD TRIP REQUEST

(All Overnight trips are subject to Superintendent and Board of Education Approval)

School: Somers High School Date: May 21, 2026
 Requested by: Chris Mangini Department: SHS World Languages
 Destination: Puerto Rico - San Juan, Fajardo, Ponce Date of trip: January 27-January 31, 2027
 Departure time: Depart from Bradley Int'l airport morning of 1/27/27 Approx. time of return: Return to BDL evening of 1/31/27
 Number of students involved: Minimum 20 students Number of chaperones: 3

Teachers attending:

Chris Mangini
Jen Meyers
Shannon Rooney

Sub Needed: ☐ None ☒ Full Day ☐ Half DaySub Needed: ☐ None ☒ Full Day ☐ Half DaySub Needed: ☒ None ☐ Full Day ☐ Half DaySub Needed: ☐ None ☐ Full Day ☐ Half DaySub Needed: ☐ None ☐ Full Day ☐ Half Day**Please enter into Frontline Absence Management AFTER your request has been approved.**Type of transportation: Bus or carpools to airport, airplane to and from destinationExpense to students: ~\$3000 (20 students); price reduces with more students Expense to school system: \$0Specific Content/Unit(s) the field trip supports: Spanish language use; Puerto Rican/Taino culture, history, geography, food; Ecological conservation

Describe how student learning will be assessed: During the trip: reflection notebook in which students document their day in the target language using current and new grammar/vocabulary terms. This will also serve as a note-taking method to prepare for the return assessment that will include information about what students learned about Puerto Rico's history, culture, and geography.

Standards addressed (list by number and code) -

ACTFL Standards with objectives:

Cultures - students will learn about Puerto Rican culture

Communication - students will increase their knowledge of written and spoken Spanish to better understand and interact with others

Comparisons - students will make and reflect on comparisons between familiar information/places/customs and the new information they gain

Connections - students will be encouraged to connect their new learning to other academic disciplines (e.g. history) and areas of interest (sports, music)

Communities - students will participate in a multilingual community in the target language that can be transferred to another situation, abroad or domestically

If approved, both the field trip activity and assessment need to be put into Atlas.Approved by: [Signature]
Principal's SignatureApproved by: [Signature]
Director of Curriculum

CENTRAL OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved ☒Disapproved ☐[Signature]
Superintendent or Designee's Signature

Date

6/4/26

Tour Price Quote

Explore Puerto Rico

Prepared For
Christopher Mangini at Somers High School

Prepared On
May 13, 2026

Tour Page
www.efexploreamerica.com/SAJ

All-inclusive Price

Based on a private tour with 35 - 40 paying travelers
Price valid for travelers enrolled May 13, 2026 - May 31, 2026

Student
\$2,699

or \$372 / 7 mos

Adult
\$3,209

or \$445 / 7 mos

Price Breakdown

Program Fee	\$2,711
Lunch included: \$20 per day	\$88
Early Enrollment Discount	-\$100

Number of paying travelers	Price per student	Price per adult
15 - 19	\$3,319	\$3,829
20 - 24	\$3,039	\$3,549
25 - 29	\$2,879	\$3,389
30 - 34	\$2,779	\$3,289
35 - 40	\$2,699	\$3,209

Protect your travelers with the Travel Protection Plus Plan for \$329. Ask your Tour Consultant for details.

For every 10 paying travelers, 1 chaperone travels FREE

Unless explicitly stated, lunches are not included.

Adult supplement required for travelers age 20 and older at the time of travel.

An additional \$200 Under 10 Supplement will be applied to all traveler accounts if the group size falls under 10 paying travelers. This will be applied to paying traveler accounts no later than 140 days before departure. Applicable airline baggage fees are not included and can be found at EFExploreAmerica.com/Baggage. All prices subject to verification by an EA tour consultant. To view EA's Booking Conditions, visit EFExploreAmerica.com/BC. Breakfast excluded on day of arrival; dinner excluded on day of departure (Unless otherwise noted).



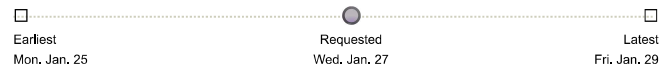
Your travel details

Total Length
5 days

Departing From
Hartford (CT)

Requested Travel Dates
Wednesday, January 27, 2027 - Sunday, January 31, 2027

Your Departure Date Range



Your experience includes

Round-trip Transportation

Hotel Accommodations

Overnight Security

Meals

All Gratuities

Guided Tours and Activities

Full-time Tour Director

Your Tour Director stays with your group 24/7, providing local insight and knowledge, while handling every on-tour detail.

Training and Support

We prepare new Group Leaders on a free Training Tour and provide personal support every step of the way.

Traveler Resources

We offer travelers flexible payment options as well as a dedicated support team to manage finances and answer tour questions.

24-hour Emergency Service

Travelers and their families can count on EF's dedicated emergency service team while on tour.

Expert Tour Planning

Your dedicated EF team provides expertise every step of the way—from recruiting and enrolling travelers to planning and managing your tour.

Personalized Learning Support

Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.

Illness and Accident Coverage

Rest easier knowing your travelers are covered on tour with EF's comprehensive coverage plan.

\$50 Million Liability Policy

Group Leaders and schools are protected while on tour.

Your tour consultant



Maggie McLaughlin
1-800-503-2323
maggie.mclaughlin@ef.com



Old San Juan

Day 1: San Juan

- Arrive in San Juan
- Tour Director-led walking tour

Day 2: San Juan

- Snorkel in San Juan
- Guided sightseeing tour of Old San Juan: San José Church, La Fortaleza, Cathedral of San Juan Bautista, Capitol Building, Paseo de la Princesa
- Visit El Morro

Day 3: San Juan • Fajardo

- Tour of El Yunque Rainforest
- Free time at Luquillo Beach
- Bomba dance lesson on the beach
- Bioluminescent bay kayak tour

Day 4: Las Piedras • San Juan

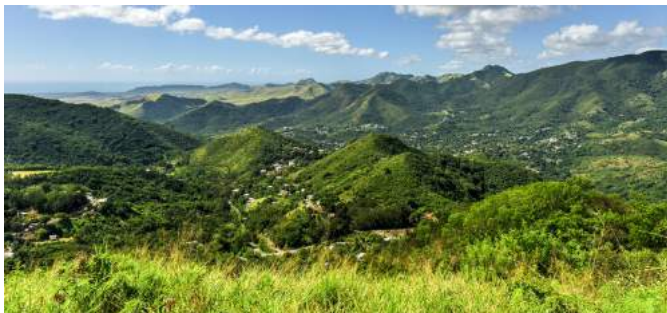
- Educational program at Hacienda 8A (includes lunch)
- Salsa lesson

Day 5: Return home

- Depart for home

HACIENDA 8A

Surrounded by hundreds of acres of lush Caribbean countryside, Hacienda 8A provides a prime setting to discover more about the agriculture of Puerto Rico. At this family-run ranch, travelers will learn how to care for the on-site horses, create crafts using local materials, and participate in an agricultural activity, such as planting or composting. They'll also enjoy a lunch of traditional Puerto Rican cuisine, with the island's natural wonders as the backdrop.



EL MORRO

Construction on this Old San Juan fort began all the way back in the 16th century, just 50 years after Columbus arrived in the New World. Overlooking San Juan Bay, the wide open fort has cannonballs, parapets, sentry boxes, tunnels, and staircases to explore. Since the time it was built, the fort has seen more than its fair share of action, having defended itself against everyone from Sir Francis Drake in 1595, to the Dutch, British, and American militaries in the centuries that followed. Today, El Morro is a World Heritage Site maintained by the U.S. National Parks Service.



Everything you get

-  Round-trip and on-tour transportation
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  4 nights hotel accommodations
-  Breakfast and dinner daily
-  Comprehensive sightseeing tours
-  Visits to special attractions
-  Overnight security at your hotel
-  Illness and Accident Coverage
-  Travel ID badges and backpacks
-  Gratuities

Options

- Lunches
- Earned credit for Group Leaders and students

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Testimonials

“EF Explore America is different because of the relationships that they form with their Group Leaders. They’re willing to do what’s best for students and Group Leaders. They become personally vested in each and every tour.”

Marc | Teacher, California

“My students always come back overwhelmed and awed by seeing their studies come to life. Teachers tell me that after going on the trip, the students come back and share their connections in class discussions and they see a marked difference in their understanding and appreciation for history!”

Derrick | Principal, California

“By partnering with EF, we have been able to offer students opportunities to explore interests, find passions, and dig deeper into the school curriculum.”

Tricia | Director of Student Services, Ohio

For over 50 years, we’ve worked tirelessly to fulfill our global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. We’re dedicated to helping educators like you transform the way students look at the world—and themselves. That passion has helped grow our family-owned business into the world leader in international education with more than 1 million students experiencing our programs every year.

efexploreamerica.com | 800-503-2323



Explore America

Administrators' Guide to Global Education

Preparing your students for success in the classroom and beyond

Welcome to EF Explore America

We've been partnering with educators for over 50 years to work toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*.

Our team of educators and travel experts work with schools across the country to build global education programs that help prepare students for success in our increasingly interconnected world. No matter the destination, every EF tour is rooted in educational experiences that enhance critical thinking, global understanding, and self-discovery.

What you'll find inside

- 4 COMMITMENT TO SAFETY
- 5 EF'S WORLDWIDE PRESENCE
- 6 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
- 8 EARNING CREDIT
- 10 UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT
- 12 AFFORDABLE EXPERIENCES
- 10 A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



Commitment to safety

The safety of your students is our priority, backed by our global presence and over 50 years of experience. Travelers are also covered from unforeseen circumstances that may arise before or during tour.

EF'S GLOBAL LIABILITY POLICY
Group Leaders and schools are automatically insured under our \$50 million General Liability Policy, regardless of whether or not the tour is considered a school event. This policy safeguards Group Leaders and schools in case of claims from on-tour incidents such as personal injury and provides a legal defense and covers all associated legal fees.

EF'S PEACE OF MIND PROGRAM
All groups are automatically covered by our Peace of Mind program. Should a group's travel plans need to change for any reason, this program provides the flexibility to change their tour date, destination, or itinerary up to 45 days before their tour.

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENT COVERAGE
Included in all EF Explore America travelers' cost is our Illness and Accident coverage. This coverage helps travelers cover any hospital and doctors' fees and medical transportation for illnesses or injury sustained on tour.

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SUPPORT
When students are traveling, we can be reached 24 hours a day at our North American headquarters in case of an emergency.

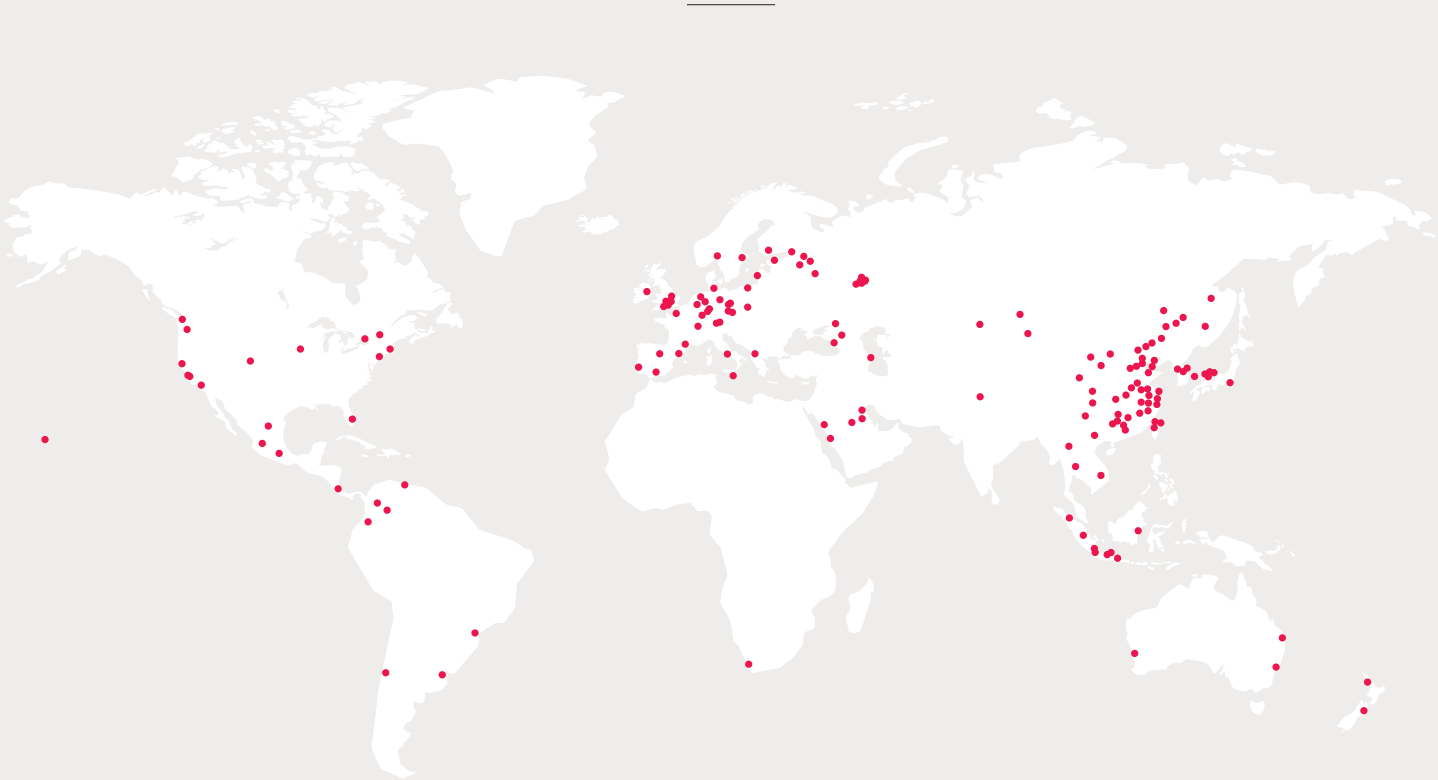
PROFESSIONAL OVERNIGHT SECURITY
To help ensure students are safe and sound (and staying in their rooms), we provide licensed overnight security that is dedicated specifically to your group.

INDUSTRY-LEADING CHAPERONE-TO-STUDENT RATIO
Having more eyes on what matters is easy when you have the best chaperone-to-student ratio in the industry on your side.



EF's worldwide presence

As the world leader in international education, we're accessible wherever and whenever travelers need us.



1,000,000	43,500	500	53	1
Students educated each year	EF staff, educators, and Tour Directors	EF schools and offices	Countries with EF operations	Shared passion for helping people become citizens of the world

Educational impact

We work with educators across the country to build or enhance global education programs. It's all based in our blended learning approach, which combines classroom, online, and experiential learning.

EF IS ACCREDITED, JUST LIKE YOUR SCHOOL

We're accredited by five prestigious educational associations:



A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Our educational travel programs bring to life the knowledge and skills that are called for in many education initiatives, including:

- Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
- International Baccalaureate – PYP, MYP, Diploma, IBCC
- Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects
- Global Competence Criteria – defined by the Asia Society and Council of Chief State School Officers
- Global Connection Standards in the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies
- Culture and Connections Standards in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning
- Standards of Professional Learning – defined by Learning Forward

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Through experiential learning, every tour is designed to:

- Increase awareness of global perspectives
- Foster appreciation for different cultures
- Strengthen new language skills
- See curriculum come to life
- Sharpen skills like critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and global competence in a global setting
- Develop leadership skills to successfully navigate new experiences with confidence

WESHARE: PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Every tour comes with weShare, a personalized learning experience powered by students' curiosity. Using EF's guided learning model, students use their strengths to investigate an issue or topic that inspires them. They reflect on what they've learned through a post-tour project that gives even more meaning to travel—and can earn them academic credit.



Earning credit

Teachers and students can earn academic credit or professional learning hours or points by completing coursework before, during, and after their tour.

Opportunities for students:

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students in grades 7-12 can earn credit with weShare, EF's personalized learning experience, by developing an essential question to investigate on tour and creating a post-tour project. Successful course completion will earn students 0.5 elective high school credits.

Opportunities for educators:

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING HOURS/POINTS

Educators traveling on an EF tour can earn professional learning hours/points through experiential learning research, reflection, and unit planning. Successful course completion will earn educators 45 professional learning hours/points.

GRADUATE-LEVEL UNIVERSITY CREDIT

Educators traveling on an EF tour can earn graduate-level university credit through research, travel, and reflection with EF's university partner, Southern New Hampshire University. Successful course completion will earn educators 3.0 or 6.0 graduate-level university credits. Tuition is \$285 per 3.0 credit course and \$450 per 6.0 credit course.



Unconditional support

Traveling with EF means having a dedicated support team to handle all the details—before, during, and after tour. Parents can rest assured knowing their children are safe during travel while educators have time to enjoy the experience of a lifetime with their students.



Support team:

DEDICATED TOUR CONSULTANTS
Our Tour Consultants guide educators through the planning process, make recommendations, and oversee the management of their tour.

TRAVELER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS
Our friendly and knowledgeable representatives offer round-the-clock help with any tour-related questions students and parents have.

FULL-TIME TOUR DIRECTORS
Tour Directors connect with educators before travel, keep students engaged and excited on tour, and manage all on-tour logistics while offering 24/7 support.

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL ADVISORS
Educational Travel Advisors—fellow teachers who’ve led countless EF Explore America trips—are available to talk and offer firsthand experiences to help with tour planning.

Training opportunities & helpful tools:

TRAINING TOURS
We train qualified first-time Group Leaders—for free—in Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, or New York City. It’s an incredible opportunity for educators to experience a tour before they lead one, gain confidence from travel, and earn professional learning hours or points.

PERSONAL TOUR WEBSITES
Educators have their own secure website to communicate with students, share tour information, manage deadlines, and more.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS
Safety and tour handbooks, tour itineraries, brochures, and more are provided to educators, travelers, and their parents to walk them through the planning process.



Affordable experiences

We offer the lowest prices possible while also providing our travelers with more choices for managing their payments.



The EF Price Guarantee:

We're dedicated to making travel accessible to as many students as possible. Our unmatched global presence and longstanding relationships with airlines and hotels ensure that our travelers will always receive the best experience at the lowest price, guaranteed.

EVERY TOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 
Round-trip transportation | 
Full-time Tour Director | 
24-hour emergency support |
| 
Safe, quality hotel accommodations | 
Breakfast and dinner daily (some tours include lunches as well) | 
Professional overnight security |
| 
Expertly led sightseeing tours & all entrance fees | 
All gratuities | 
Access to weShare, EF's personalized learning experience |

Flexible payment options:

PAY IN FULL AT ENROLLMENT

Travelers pay the entire balance at the time they enroll.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

After travelers enroll with a \$95 deposit, payments are automatically deducted from their bank account at their choice of a monthly or bi-weekly frequency.

MANUAL PAYMENT PLAN

After a \$95 deposit and \$50 plan fee, travelers must have at least \$350 paid by 30 days after enrollment. Their remaining balance is due 110 days (approximately 3.5 months) prior to departure.



A world of possibilities

We offer a range of culturally rich, global experiences designed to meet the needs of your school and curriculum.



EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Establish a yearly class trip program for your school and create more engaged, interested students. You could make a Washington, D.C. or New York City tour an annual tradition, or take the entire class to the capital one year and the Big Apple the next. Wherever you choose to travel, you'll see your students' minds open a little more with each new experience. And because we know these locations better than anyone, we can ensure that every tour will be an experience to remember.



STEM DISCOVERY TOURS

These Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) tours are your students' chance to discover the real world applications of these subjects for themselves. Spend time with leading scientists, mathematicians, and engineers as they guide your students through workshops and hands-on demonstrations—everything from nuclear physics to robotics to engineering a bridge. Plus, there's enough time to take in the sights of the incredible cities you'll visit too.



SERVICE LEARNING TOURS

On a Service Learning Tour, you and your students work side by side with locals on community-driven projects. We partner with established non-profits and NGOs—like the Borderlands Restoration Organization and Native Seed Search Conservation Farm—to ensure your contributions are both meaningful and sustainable. Through hands-on work and deep exposure to the local culture, students learn vital collaboration and problem-solving skills. And, they return home inspired to make a difference in their own communities.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

These extraordinary events combine educational tours and a two-day leadership conference, tackling significant global challenges in places where they come to life. From our European Summits for high school students to our North American Summits for middle school students, these experiences give students the opportunity to learn from experts such as Anthony Bourdain, Arun Gandhi, and Ndaba Mandela and use the design thinking method to design and present their own solutions to our world's most pressing issues.



COLLEGE VISIT TOURS

Tour a range of colleges and universities with your students in areas like the Northeast and California. Campus visits and exposure to local culture help students discover what is interesting, exciting, and important to them for their future. They'll return home more engaged in their college search and with a better understanding of what types of schools to visit with their families.



INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Our tours to international destinations take your students out of their comfort zones and into an experience that makes them more open minded, more confident, and prepared for life in our interconnected world. Wherever you go, your Tour Director will be with you every step of the way and expert local guides will explain the significance and secrets of the world's most amazing locations. Authentic cultural activities and experiential learning moments make every tour an unforgettable educational experience.

Example assessment for Puerto Rico Trip - Will be altered to reflect information learned on the trip

_____/20 points

Fill-in the basic facts about Puerto Rico from the terms in the word bank (13 points)

Tostones	Mofongo	Caribbean Sea	Arroz con gandules	El Yunque	
Spaniards	Vieques	Christopher Columbus	Atlantic Ocean	Taínos	Pernil
		Boricua	Culebra		

Situated in the both the 1. _____ and 2. _____

The two islands on its east side are 3. _____ and 4. _____.
(smaller island) (larger island)

5. _____: Fried plantains

6. _____: Marinated pork shoulder

7. _____: Rice with chickpea beans

8. _____: Discovered Puerto Rico for the Spanish to give access to the Americas in the late 1400s through the late 1800s.

9. _____: After colonization, these people had built forts, such as el Morro, and other official buildings to provide protection and defense from pirates and other nations during the 16th through 18th centuries.

10. _____: The island of Puerto Rico is originally named Boriquén or Borinquen by these natives. They lived there before Spanish colonization and were later forced into labor by the Spanish.

11. _____: Modern day Puerto Ricans refer to themselves as this term to affirm their cultural identity and native roots.

12. _____: Traditional dish made from mashed plantains, broth, garlic, and salt.

13. _____: Tropical rainforest in Puerto Rico; home to the *Coquí*.

Provide the answer (English or Spanish) based on what you learned about Puerto Rico. (7 points)

Capital: _____

Official language(s): _____

Currency: _____

Number of U.S. House of Representatives Votes: _____

The Representative's vote is counted. (True / False) _____

Puerto Rico is a U.S. Territory. (True / False) _____

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. (True / False) _____