

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 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. Recognition of IT Department
Dr. Galloway will recognize the IT Department and present them with a gift.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the September 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes 2
The Board to review and approve the minutes from the September 28, 2026 Board meeting.
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. Monthly Budget Report 7
Dr. Galloway will update the Board on the monthly budget report.
6. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of October 13, 2026 8
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of October 13, 2026.
 2. Retirement
Richard Zini retired on October 5, 2026, after 23 years of service to SPS as a custodian at SES, Head Custodian at MBA, and Supervisor of Building and Grounds.
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. February 2027 Quebec City Field Trip 12
Ms. Jennifer Meyers, SHS French Teacher, will present the Quebec field trip to the Board.
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 will enter into Executive Session for discussion concerning the Superintendent's contract.
15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, September 28, 2026
7:00 PM

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

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz

Absent BOE Member: Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Dr. Jamie Rechenberg, Stephanie Levin, Julie Hinkley, Jonathan Breton, Carolyn Castonguay, Juliana Cianci, Jessica Chen, Aja Drammeh, Aiden Ritch

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the September 9, 2026 Special BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the special meeting on September 9, 2026.

Motion to approve minutes from September 9, 2026 Special Meeting. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried.
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Derek Zelek)

3.2. Approval of the September 14, 2026 BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the September 14, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Derek Zelek)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway presented the annual report required by Public Act 25-93 regarding community partnerships, workforce initiative, and staff attrition. Community partnerships include Somers Youth Services, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, Somers SHINE, and the Somers Education Foundation (SEF). Partnerships by schools include:

- **SES:** PTO.
- **MBA:** Junior Achievement, PTO, and the Network Against Domestic Abuse.
- **SHS:** Athletic Boosters, UConn Indoor Air Quality Initiative, Asnuntuck Community College, and UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Coursework.

SPS Pupil Services is partnered with the Willie Ross School for the Deaf, Alternative Access and Assistive Technology Services, and multiple out-of-district programs.

Workforce development partnerships at SHS provide students with internships and co-ops, in-school job training, guest speakers and recruitment across many industries. Superintendent Galloway commended students earning credentials, including CPR certification for 76 students, OSHA certification for 4 students, and SolidWorks certification for 7 students.

The annual SHS Career Fair continues to grow. The most recent event included approximately 50 businesses and industry professionals who made themselves available to students, provided hands-on exposure to professional tasks, and shared materials related to their respective fields.

Staff attrition statistics were also reviewed.

4.2. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, SHS Principal, will introduce the 2026-2027 SHS student representatives to the Board.

Discussion: Dr. Jamie Rechenberg introduced SHS student representatives, who each shared information about their school involvement, interests, and future plans.

- **Jonathan Breton, Senior:** Class President and three-sport athlete participating in cross country, basketball, and lacrosse. He is also involved in NHS, Beta Club, and BC2M. He plans to study mechanical or aerospace engineering, with a possible minor in business, and is considering colleges in the Boston/Massachusetts area.
- **Carolyn Castonguay, Senior:** Third-year Board of Education student representative, SEF student liaison, SPAR leader, and indoor and outdoor track athlete. She is also involved in sports photography. She plans to major in kinesiology and pursue a pathway toward physical therapy or athletic training.
- **Juliana Ciani, Junior:** Participates in soccer, basketball, and lacrosse and serves as social media manager for the Class of 2028. She is also involved in Beta Club and BC2M.
- **Jessica Chen, Senior:** Member of the Student Advisory Council, Board of Education student representative, STEM Club Secretary, Interact Club, BC2M, NHS, Beta Club, and track. She plans to attend college in the Boston or Pennsylvania area and pursue a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

- **Aja Drammeh, Senior:** Active in several school clubs and community service activities. She shared her interests in volunteering, cooking, reading, and travel and plans to attend college in the Boston area.
- **Aiden Ritch, Senior:** Student Advisory Council member, NHS Vice President, and participant in BC2M and STEM Club. He enjoys volunteering and a variety of extracurricular interests.

Aiden Ritch provided an update on Fall athletics.

Dr. Rechenberg provided an update on SPAR- Spartan Progress, Accountability and Reflection, an advisory program incorporated into double-period days. The program provides focused sessions designed to support student growth, accountability, leadership, post-secondary planning, and school connection. Students meet in SPAR twice per week for 17 minutes.

One SPAR session each week is dedicated to clubs. Students who are not participating in a club work with their advisor to identify areas of need using PowerSchool data and develop a plan for support. Students can also use SmartPass to schedule themselves into learning centers for additional academic assistance.

SPAR student leaders facilitate community-building activities. Student leaders receive advanced training and support from staff, including Ms. Denise Collins, Ms. Amanda Welch, and Ms. Gina Rock. There are currently 36 student-leaders.

Student leadership is a significant component of the program. Dr. Rechenberg noted that traditional advisory programs can experience varying levels of engagement, and involving student leaders has helped strengthen participation and peer connection.

SPAR also includes curated resources, activity links, and learning targets for each session. The program is an evolving initiative as leaders continue to learn from implementation and identify ways to strengthen leadership opportunities, particularly for juniors and seniors.

Board members noted that student representatives had requested additional community-building opportunities during the previous school year and asked students for feedback on the program. Jonathan Breton shared that the first session included a team-building activity that helped students get to know one another in a different way. A subsequent session focused on AI and students' perspectives on its use. Students were encouraged to continue sharing feedback with the Board.

In response to a question from Dr. Sharon Goulet regarding training for SPAR leaders, Dr. Rechenberg explained that initial training began prior to the start of school and addressed the structure of the program, available resources, and how student leaders can connect peers with appropriate adult support. Teacher leaders review each lesson's learning target and prepare student leaders to confidently facilitate the activities. Student leaders are also strategically paired with teacher leaders.

Board members noted that the experience will provide student leaders with opportunities to develop skills in conflict resolution, managing difficult conversations, and real-time decision-making.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Derek Zelek)**

6.1. Warrant of September 28, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of September 28, 2026.

6.2. Leave of Absence

Rationale: Amanda Morrisino, MBA Math Intervention, is requesting a leave of absence beginning approximately February 16, 2027, through the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

6.3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 3280 - Grants and Bequests

6.4. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9326.1 - Minutes

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. 2026 - 2027 Organizational Chart

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will update the Board on the 2026-2027 SPS Organizational Chart per Admin. Reg. 2100.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway provided the annual organizational update, noting that there were few changes from the previous year. The organizational structure is reviewed with the Board annually.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum

No report.

9.2. Policy

The next meeting will be held on 10/13/26 at 6:00 p.m.

9.3. Planning/Finance

This committee is on hold.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

The next meeting will be held on 10/5/26 at 5:00 p.m.

9.5. Building

The contract with Gilbane is about 99% complete. There will be a PCR meeting with the state soon, and permitting with the town is underway. The next meeting will be held on 10/6/26 at 4:00 p.m.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

The next CIP meeting will be held on 10/8/26.

Grants from all schools are due to SEF by 10/23/26. The next SEF meeting will be held on 11/4/26 at 7:00 p.m.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

Chair Briggs reviewed upcoming events:

10/1/26: College Fair in SHS Gym

10/9/26: Early Release for students

10/12/26: No school

10/13/26: CAFE workshop

10/13/26: PTO meeting at SES

10/16/26: SBAC Breakfast @ 8 a.m.

10/23/26: Early release for students

10/30/26: SHS Broadway Night @ 7pm in the SHS Auditorium

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Derek Zelek)**

Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary	Date
Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary	

(Through 9/30/2026)

CATEGORY	ITEM	Approved Budget	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures	Encumbered	Total Projection	Variance	% +/-
Salaries	Teachers	12,845,985	0	12,845,985	1,562,738	11,209,926	12,772,665	73,320	0.57%
	Secretaries/Paraprofessionals	2,365,806	0	2,365,806	420,013	1,893,177	2,313,189	52,617	2.22%
	Administrators	1,935,942	0	1,935,942	507,034	1,346,966	1,854,000	81,942	4.23%
	Custodians/Maintainers	1,085,692	0	1,085,692	279,561	694,102	973,662	112,030	10.32%
	Other Instructional	321,175	0	321,175	66,966	306,594	373,559	(52,384)	-16.31%
	Substitutes	291,800	0	291,800	8,250	283,550	291,800	0	0.00%
	Nurses	269,400	0	269,400	38,674	227,611	266,286	3,114	1.16%
	Medical Advisor	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	-	0.00%
	SUBTOTAL	19,117,300	0	19,117,300	2,884,736	15,961,926	18,846,661	270,639	1.42%
Insurance & Benefits	Health Insurance	4,547,645	0	4,547,645	1,351,577	3,235,314	4,586,891	(39,246)	-0.86%
	Social Security	635,268	0	635,268	117,515	517,753	635,268	-	0.00%
	Pension	176,000	0	176,000	33,235	129,702	162,937	13,063	7.42%
	Worker's Comp	93,500	0	93,500	46,045	46,048	92,094	1,406	1.50%
	Property / Liability	109,025	0	109,025	60,590	52,567	113,157	(4,132)	-3.79%
	Long Term Disability	40,000	0	40,000	8,752	31,248	40,000	-	0.00%
	Life Insurance	20,000	0	20,000	4,806	15,194	20,000	-	0.00%
	School Board Legal	10,000	0	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	-	0.00%
	Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	#DIV/0!
	OPEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	#DIV/0!
	Tuition Reimbursement	7,500	0	7,500	0	0	0	7,500	100.00%
	SUBTOTAL	5,638,938	0	5,638,938	1,627,521	4,032,825	5,660,346	(21,408)	-0.38%
Tuition	Special Education	1,135,600	0	1,135,600	111,918	821,206	933,123	202,477	17.83%
	Non-Special Education	110,698	0	110,698	67,022	40,252	107,274	3,424	3.09%
	SUBTOTAL	1,246,298	0	1,246,298	178,940	861,458	1,040,398	205,900	16.52%
Transportation	Regular Transportation	1,085,650	0	1,085,650	1,078	1,084,572	1,085,650	-	0.00%
	Special Education Transportation	525,000	0	525,000	29,982	543,942	573,924	(48,924)	-9.32%
	Athletics/Field Trips	50,000	0	50,000	150	40,000	40,150	9,850	19.70%
	SUBTOTAL	1,660,650	0	1,660,650	31,210	1,668,514	1,699,724	(39,074)	-2.35%
Utilities	Electricity	579,000	0	579,000	70,735	508,265	579,000	-	0.00%
	Fuel	144,200	0	144,200	427	137,323	137,750	6,450	4.47%
	Telephones	36,750	0	36,750	3,944	25,946	29,890	6,860	18.67%
	SUBTOTAL	759,950	0	759,950	75,105	671,535	746,640	13,310	1.75%
Maintenance	General/Dept Maint	841,167	0	841,167	252,002	271,629	523,630	317,537	37.75%
	Custodial Supplies	61,000	0	61,000	7,171	4,806	11,977	49,023	80.36%
	SUBTOTAL	902,167	0	902,167	259,173	276,435	535,608	366,559	40.63%
Instructional Resources	Books, Textbooks, Workbooks	234,991	0	234,991	168,312	20,128	188,440	46,551	19.81%
	Technology AV Materials	74,160	0	74,160	64,812	7,011	71,823	2,337	3.15%
	General & Dept Supplies	184,170	0	184,170	30,333	9,684	40,016	144,154	78.27%
	SUBTOTAL	493,321	0	493,321	263,457	36,823	300,279	193,042	39.13%
Extracurricular	Coaches	239,290	0	239,290	35,168	108,368	143,536	95,754	40.02%
	Activity Advisors	72,390	0	72,390	0	61,901	61,901	10,489	14.49%
	Athletic/Academic Act	99,900	0	99,900	4,534	48,718	53,252	46,648	46.69%
	SUBTOTAL	411,580	0	411,580	39,702	218,988	258,689	152,891	37.15%
Equipment	New and Replacement	238,369	0	238,369	11,636	67,123	78,759	159,610	66.96%
Admin Overhead	Postage, Dues, Travel, BOE Exp., etc.	235,455	0	235,455	72,263	103,645	175,908	59,547	25.29%
	GRAND TOTAL	30,704,028.00	0.00	30,704,028.00	5,443,741.35	23,899,270.31	29,343,011.66	1,361,016.34	4.43%
As of 10/1/2026									

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1100

Voucher Date: 10/13/2026

Prepared By:

L. Bergamini
Printed: 10/08/2026 08:11:27 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$565,186.79 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (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	\$565,186.79
20	GRANTS	\$0.00
		\$565,186.79

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2026-2027

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 10/13/2026
From Check: 28017
From Voucher: 1100

To Date: 10/13/2026
To Check: 28075
To Voucher: 1100

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
28017	10/13/2026	3H Back Flow Device Testing, Inc.	\$225.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28018	10/13/2026	A+ Pump & Service, LLC	\$1,600.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28019	10/13/2026	Alternative Access Assistive Technology	\$3,558.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28020	10/13/2026	Amazon Capital Services	\$4,088.66	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28021	10/13/2026	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	\$344,110.17	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28022	10/13/2026	ARC Document Solutions LLC	\$289.50	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28023	10/13/2026	Carolina Biological Supply Co.	\$50.60	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28024	10/13/2026	Caroline Hargraves	\$53.74	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28025	10/13/2026	CHLIC	\$12,897.07	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28026	10/13/2026	Clear Water Industries	\$260.76	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28027	10/13/2026	COX Business	\$208.24	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28028	10/13/2026	CREC-HVSA	\$150.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28029	10/13/2026	DBS Financial Services LLC	\$2,262.41	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28030	10/13/2026	Dina Senecal	\$73.11	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28031	10/13/2026	Eagle Rivet Roof Services, LLC	\$4,180.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28032	10/13/2026	Elan Financial Services	\$5,452.51	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28033	10/13/2026	Ellington Board of Education	\$21,200.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28034	10/13/2026	ESS Northeast, LLC	\$30,560.99	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28035	10/13/2026	First Student, Inc	\$789.53	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28036	10/13/2026	Flinn Scientific, Inc.	\$634.47	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28037	10/13/2026	Gale/CENGAGE Learning	\$3,425.55	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28038	10/13/2026	Gengras Center	\$29,105.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28039	10/13/2026	Global Industrial	\$1,728.57	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		

Somers Board of Education

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From Date: 10/13/2026
From Check: 28017
From Voucher: 1100

To Date: 10/13/2026
To Check: 28075
To Voucher: 1100

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
28040	10/13/2026	GMT Home Services	\$69.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28041	10/13/2026	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	\$862.54	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28042	10/13/2026	Grainger	\$216.55	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28043	10/13/2026	Hartford Sprinkler Co., Inc	\$400.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28044	10/13/2026	HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd	\$389.33	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28045	10/13/2026	Hillyard-New England	\$975.18	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28046	10/13/2026	Hugh's Mechanical Equipment, LLC	\$650.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28047	10/13/2026	Hussey Seating Company	\$2,650.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28048	10/13/2026	ID Shop, Inc	\$571.76	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28049	10/13/2026	Intensive Education Academy, Inc.	\$9,143.73	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28050	10/13/2026	Joe Warren & Sons Co., Inc	\$1,346.60	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28051	10/13/2026	John Rice	\$112.31	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28052	10/13/2026	KnowBe4	\$9,889.16	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28053	10/13/2026	Kurtis Martel	\$65.09	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28054	10/13/2026	MagnaKleen Services	\$112.95	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28055	10/13/2026	Mary Kay Trail	\$112.31	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28056	10/13/2026	Monarch Watch Shop	\$30.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28057	10/13/2026	MSC Industrial Supply Co.	\$89.21	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28058	10/13/2026	Norman Girard	\$112.31	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28059	10/13/2026	Nuso, LLC	\$118.26	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28060	10/13/2026	Options Employment&Educational Services	\$47,765.79	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28061	10/13/2026	OTIS Elevator Company	\$275.60	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28062	10/13/2026	PAR, Inc	\$1,125.71	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		

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To Date: 10/13/2026

To Check: 28075

To Voucher: 1100

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
28063	10/13/2026	PMT Associates, Inc.	\$345.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28064	10/13/2026	Prestwick House, Inc	\$504.68	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28065	10/13/2026	Rosetta Stone	\$456.24	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28066	10/13/2026	Scholastic Inc	\$4,373.56	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28067	10/13/2026	Shipman & Goodwin, LLP	\$672.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28068	10/13/2026	Standard Insurance Company	\$4,636.57	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28069	10/13/2026	ULINE	\$32.70	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28070	10/13/2026	Verizon Wireless	\$460.65	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28071	10/13/2026	Western Psychological Services	\$693.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28072	10/13/2026	William V. MacGill & Co.	\$4,397.02	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28073	10/13/2026	Williams Scotsman, Inc	\$335.00	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28074	10/13/2026	Xerox Corporation	\$3,970.32	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		
28075	10/13/2026	Zoro Tools Inc	\$322.78	1100	Printed	Expense	☐		

Total Amount: \$565,186.79

End of Report



Field Trip Request Form (Admin Reg: 6153)



*All overnight/international field trips are subject to Superintendent & BOE Approval

Today's Date: Tuesday 9/22/26		Destination: Quebec City, Canada		Date(s) of the Field Trip: 2/9/27 - 2/12/27	
				Departure Time: 7 AM	
				Returning Time: 10 PM	
Requested By: JEN MEYERS			Type(s) of Transportation: LUXURY MOTOR COACH		
Is this an international trip? ☒ Yes ☐ No	Is this an overnight trip? ☒ Yes ☐ No	Number of Students Attending: 25-35	Number of Chaperones Attending: 4	Expense to the Students: \$990 - \$1274 DEPENDING ON FINAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	
Company:					
How many field trips has this class/group/department had this year? NONE		What student(s) will be attending (grade level, course/content areas): GRADES 9-12 FRENCH STUDENTS, SPANISH STUDENTS		Expense to the District: 0	
Please provide a short description of the trip along with the curriculum/content/course(s)/club(s) this trip supports. What educational activity/assessment will come from this trip? THIS TRIP SUPPORTS OUR UNIT ON FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES. STUDENTS ARE LEARNING ABOUT FRENCH CANADIAN CULTURE, HISTORY, FOOD, AND TRADITIONS. A TRIP OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO EMBRACE A FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRY'S CULTURE SUPPORTS OUR MISSION STATEMENT "TO PREPARE EACH STUDENT TO CONTRIBUTE AND SUCCEED IN AN EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL SOCIETY" ASSESSMENT: STUDENTS WILL RECORD THEMSELVES SPEAKING →					
Principal's Signature				Date: 9/23/26	
Director of Curriculum's Signature				Date: 9/28/26	
Superintendent's Signature				Date: 9/28/26	

Central Office Use Only

BOE Approval Needed? ☒ YES ☐ NO
Business Office Notified? ☒ YES ☐ N/A

BOE Meeting Date: **10/13/26**

- ☐ Approved
☐ Disapproved

FRENCH WITH THE QUEBECOIS AS THEY SHOP IN QUEBEC CITY OR HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH OUR TOUR GUIDE OR EACH OTHER, THERE WILL BE A REFLECTION ACTIVITY AS WELL BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AND IMMERSION IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

- 1.1 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION
- 1.2 INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION
- 2.1 RELATING CULTURAL PRACTICES TO PERSPECTIVES
- 3.1 MAKING CONNECTIONS

VOYAGE À QUÉBEC : Tuesday, February 9, 2027 to Friday, February 12, 2027

PRICE: \$990 per student (for a group of 40 students)
\$1074 per student (for a group of 35 students)
\$1164 per student (for a group of 30 students)
\$1274 per student (for a group of 25 students)

CONTACT INFORMATION

We are staying at the Holiday Inn Express Québec (**Same hotel as last spring**)
In the event of an emergency, you can call my cell phone at (860) 541-0507

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express Québec
3145 Avenue des Hôtels
Québec City, Québec
418-653-9321

ITINERARY

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

07:00 AM Departure from SHS via chartered luxury motorcoach.
(stops and lunch en route at individual expense)

03:30 PM Scheduled Arrival in Quebec City and Hotel Check-in. Our Québécois tour guide will meet us upon arrival and we will relax and unwind before dinner.

05:00 PM Dinner in downtown Quebec City at French Bistro *Les Trois Garçons*.

07:00 PM Hurdle down the slopes of a century-old *60 foot slide* at *Dufferin Terrace*!

08:00 PM Departure to the hotel

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

08:00 AM Breakfast buffet at the hotel. MANGEZ BIEN!!!!

09:00 AM Departure from the hotel accompanied by Québécois tour guide.

09:30 AM Visit to the Upper Town to see the *Château Frontenac*, *Parliament Building*, and *Fontaine de Tourny*.

10:00 AM Visit to *L'Observatoire de la Capitale*, the tallest building in Quebec City.

11:30 AM *CARNAVAL DE QUÉBEC*- the largest winter carnival in the world!

02:45 PM *PASSION HUSKY DOG SLEDDING!!!* Amusez-vous avec les chiens!

04:30 PM Departure to the hotel to relax and unwind before dinner.

06:30 PM Dinner at log cabin inspired restaurant *Au Petit Chalet*.

08:00 PM Return to *CARNAVAL DE QUÉBEC* to visit the iconic *ICE CASTLE!*

09:00 PM Departure to the hotel.

Thursday, February 11, 2027

07:45 AM Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Bon appétit!

08:45 AM Head to *Côte-de-Beaupré* (Coast of the Beautiful Prairie) and explore its rich heritage including vegetable markets and outdoor bread ovens.

09:30 AM Make your own copper medaillon at the *Albert Gilles Copper Museum*.

10:45 AM Visit to *Parc de la Chute-Montmorency*, the highest waterfall in Quebec!

12:15 PM Next stop, *Les Galeries de la Capitale* shopping center which has an amusement park!

04:00 PM Rendez-vous à l' *Hôtel de Glace* (Ice Hotel).

05:00 PM Visit to winter play center *le Village Vacances Valcartier* and experience a variety of winter slides!!

08:00 PM Departure back to the hotel.

Friday, February 12, 2027

08:00 AM Breakfast buffet at the hotel. BEAUCOUP DE BOUFFE!

09:30 AM Departure from the hotel with luggage packed.

10:00 AM Visit to the *Plains of Abraham* for some competitive fun with snowshoes!

11:45 AM Lunch in Old Quebec and the Carnival sites.

01:30 PM Board the motorcoach and depart from Quebec City (dinner en route at individual expense).

10:00 PM Arrival at SHS.

LUGGAGE

Remember, we will be away for 3 nights during the middle of winter in Quebec City. PLEASE PACK ACCORDINGLY.

WEATHER

The temperature in Québec at this time of year is freezing cold ranging between a high of 21 degrees Fahrenheit, and a low of 3 degrees Fahrenheit. However, with the wind factor and frequent snowfall (25 inches of snow is no big deal to Canadians), the temperature will feel like BELOW ZERO. We will be doing a lot of walking in heavy, wet snow, so appropriate footwear is necessary.

WHAT TO PACK

- a warm, heavy winter coat or jacket (that is insulated and waterproof)
- a warm hat/ ski cap
- earmuffs
- 2 pairs of insulated gloves or heavy mittens
- a warm scarf or neck warmer
- thermal underwear/ thermal leggings
- snow boots /winter boots
- ski pants or snow pants (waterproof)
- 3 sweaters/ fleeces
- 3 shirts for easy layering (long-sleeved t-shirts, flannels, etc)
- 3 extra pairs of pants (sweat pants, fleece pants, jeans, etc)
- 3 pairs of heavy socks
- underwear
- personal toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, brush/comb, etc)
- warm pajamas/robe
- slippers
- hand warmers
- lip balm
- umbrella (in case of mixed precipitation)
- phone charger/power bank

- water bottle
- credit/debit card or cash

SNACKS

Students may bring lunches, snacks and drinks for the motorcoach bus ride to Quebec.

In regard to sharing snacks, we request that food items be individually wrapped packages (by manufacturer) to ensure that there has been no cross contamination of ingredients. Thank you for your attention to this, as we want to ensure a safe trip for everyone.

GRATUITIES

Mme MEYERS will be collecting gratuities for the motorcoach charter bus driver prior to departure. This will be approximately \$10 cash per traveler. If possible, please submit to Mme MEYERS along with your child's payment for the trip by Monday, January 11, 2027.

While staying at the hotel, the housekeeping staff will work very hard to keep our rooms clean. We would like to remind our students to be respectful of the hotel staff by keeping the rooms tidy. We do not want to jeopardize our relationship with the hotel or tour company.

CONSENT LETTER, MEDICAL FORM, AND BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

Please complete and return the consent letter (for border crossing), medical form, and behavior agreement, signed by both parent and student.

For the border consent letter, please have both parents sign, if possible.

FOOD ALLERGIES AND MEDICAL ISSUES

Please fill out the paperwork pertaining to medical issues, including allergies.

If there are any food allergies, please let Mme MEYERS know ASAP if you haven't already.

It is important for the teacher chaperones to be apprised of any medical issues, so that we can keep everyone safe and happy on the trip.

It is very important that all medications be transported in their properly labeled prescription bottle or container. If your child must have medication administered during the trip (and a parent will not be traveling with the group) please be sure to complete paperwork for authorization of self-administration. Please submit this paperwork to Mme MEYERS by Monday, January 11, 2027.

PASSPORTS

Passports or *passport cards* will be necessary to acquire before the trip. Passport cards are less expensive at \$15 for children (16 and under) and \$30 for adults and can be used for land and sea travel, but not for air travel. Mme MEYERS will collect all passports/passport cards by Monday, January 11th and they will be kept in the school safe prior to departure. Also, during the tour, Mme MEYERS will hold the passports/passport cards which will be locked in the hotel safe. More information on how to apply for a passport or passport card can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/card.html>

SPENDING MONEY

Students will need money for snacks and meals en route to Canada and home. We typically stop at fast food restaurants / convenience stores for these meals.

However, once we arrive in Canada, I recommend that students use either a credit card or debit card (put through as a credit card) for the best exchange rate. Currently, 1 US dollar = 1.40 Canadian dollars. (it went up since last spring!)

*There is no need to exchange money prior to departure. If students don't have a credit or debit card, most retailers accept American currency, and students will be able to exchange money in the city upon arrival. Also, students may opt to take money out at an ATM, where they would get an excellent exchange rate.

Students will need money for souvenir shopping and/or "snacks in between meals." I would recommend that each student bring between \$200 and \$300 spending money. Typically, a good sweatshirt runs around \$40. As for snacks in between meals, I encourage students to try some local Québécois cuisine, such as *poutine* and *queues de castors* so they should plan on spending between \$10 to \$15 for such foods.

BEHAVIOR

We will be staying at the same hotel as last year's spring trip to Quebec City. Positive behavior is expected on the trip. All Somers Board of Education policies are in place during this trip.

The tour company has cultivated strong relationships with the hotel it uses. We will remind students to keep noise levels down while at the hotel, and to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in the lobby and hallways of the hotel.

At curfew, there will be a security guard in the hallway to ensure that students remain in their rooms, or to alert me should a problem arise during the night.

BAGGAGE CHECK

Please be advised that students' bags will be checked prior to departure.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at jen.meyers@somers.k12.ct.us



Tuesday, February 09, 2027

- 07:00 AM** The day has arrived; the trip you've been waiting for is finally here! Hop aboard your locally chartered luxury motorcoach, get comfortable and get ready for your adventure!
- Stops and lunch en route (at individual expense).
- 03:30 PM** Hooray! You've arrived in Quebec City! Meet your tour leader and check in to the hotel to relax and unwind before dinner. The fun starts now :)
- 05:00 PM** For tonight's dinner, let's discover a lovely "bistro français" on Rue St-Jean, le Bistro Les Trois Garçons. À table!
- 07:00 PM** Enjoy the "Au 1884" experience, a century-old slide on Quebec City's iconic Dufferin Terrace, just steps away from the famous Château Frontenac. A must-do adventure to hurtle down the slopes of the slide for maximum fun with friends.
- 08:00 PM** Departure for the hotel.
- 08:30 PM** Arrive at the hotel and unload the motorcoach. Hang in there a few more minutes as your tour leader gives you instructions for proper hotel conduct and for the next day full of exciting activities!

Spend the night at the Holiday Inn Express Québec
3145, Avenue des Hôtels, Québec, QC, G1W 3Z7
PH : 418-653-9321

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

- 08:00 AM** Begin your day with a lovely breakfast and orientation session at the hotel with your tour leader.
- 09:00 AM** Everybody ready? Time to head out for your activities! Your tour leader will fill you in on all the fun that's in store.
- 09:30 AM** Enjoy a walk around Quebec's Parliament Building, home to the National Assembly. Check out the 22 statues of major people who shaped the province's history, see Quebec's motto, the "Je me souviens" centered above the main entrance door, try to spot out the "fleurdelisé" atop the Parliament tower (dedicated to Jacques Cartier, who discovered Canada in 1534) and take a few pictures beside the elegant Fontaine de Tourny.
- 10:00 AM** Soar to new heights at L'Observatoire de la Capitale, the city's tallest building! Explore the amazing panoramic views and fresh perspective of the cityscape during your self-guided visit.
- 11:30 AM** Who is this funny-looking Bonhomme guy anyway?! Find out as you spend some time exploring Old Quebec and the sites of the largest winter carnival in the world: Carnaval de Québec! Don't forget to grab lunch along the way (at individual expense).
- > Need some tips on how NOT to freeze? Ask your tour leader about our famous motto: Winterize vs Dewinterize!
- 02:45 PM** Dog sledding is an important part of our culture and history. Experience this unique means of transportation by leading your own dog team at Passion Husky. In this wilderness environment, you'll see dogs at their best. Get ready to pet a few dogs who are just waiting to be petted.
- 04:30 PM** Depart for the hotel to relax and unwind before dinner.
- 06:30 PM** At Au Petit Chalet, come and discover tasty, gourmet dishes in this restaurant with its warm, log-cabin-inspired atmosphere.
- 08:00 PM** Spend evening exploring the sites of the Quebec Winter Carnival! See Bonhomme's Ice Castle and perhaps participate in one of the different events happening during the celebrations!
- 09:00 PM** Departure for the hotel.

Thursday, February 11, 2027

- 07:45 AM** Begin your day with a lovely breakfast and orientation session at the hotel with your tour leader.



- 08:45 AM** Everybody ready? Time to head out for your activities! Your tour leader will fill you in on all the fun that's in store.
Head to Côte-de-Beaupré! On Avenue Royale, take note of the region's rich heritage. There are vegetable cellars, a preservation technique originating from indigenous knowledge, outdoor bread ovens that are still in use, and wayside crosses, a legacy of the Catholic faith of French Canadians.
- 09:30 AM** Discover the copper trade in Quebec and the art of "repoussé" metal before making your own medallion at the Albert Gilles Copper Museum.
- 10:45 AM** Parc de la Chute-Montmorency is a spectacular historic site, not least because of the Battle of Montmorency on July 31, 1759, and its legends, such as that of the "White Lady". The highest waterfall in Quebec dominates the landscape at 83 meters. During your visit, you'll be able to get up close to it in a variety of ways and feel its full strength.
- 12:15 PM** Let's go to the Galeries de la Capitale shopping center! It's a great place to shop and maybe buy a souvenir or two. It's also the perfect place to practice your French. Don't forget to have lunch (at your own expense) while you're there!
- 03:30 PM** All aboard! Next stop: Valcartier!
- 04:00 PM** Rendezvous at the Hôtel de Glace, the only one of its kind in America. This ephemeral work of art made entirely of ice and snow offers a fascinating spectacle. Visit the great hall, the chapel, the slide and the rooms... Yes, yes, some dare to spend the night! Enjoy your visit!
- 05:00 PM** Village Vacances Valcartier is renowned for its winter play center. You'll have the chance to discover a host of different slides... Himalaya, Avalanche, and many more. Which one will be your favorite?
Please note: The site no longer accepts cash. Kiosks for converting cash into prepaid cards are available on site.
Have dinner on site (at individual expense).
- 08:00 PM** Departure for the hotel.

Friday, February 12, 2027

- 08:00 AM** Begin your day with a lovely breakfast and orientation session at the hotel with your tour leader.
- 09:30 AM** You won't believe it, but the time has come...for your last day of this fantastic journey! Don't forget your luggage.
- 10:00 AM** In the company of a 20th-century character, raw hide snowshoes and an arrowhead sash to snowshoe the Plains of Abraham. Spark your competitive spirit! What to expect: A race, a quiz, a traditional "chanson à répondre" in French and other challenges. End the adventure with a delicious cup of hot chocolate!
- 11:45 AM** Time for lunch and to explore in Old Quebec and the Carnival sites! Hang out with your friends, grab some food (at individual expense) and practice your conversational French. Your tour leader will give you a meeting place and time.
- 01:30 PM** It's already time to say "au revoir" to Quebec City. You've seen and done so much, yet you've only scratched the surface. This is definitely a city that's best experienced over many, many visits. Until next time!
Stops and dinner en route (at individual expense).
- 10:00 PM** This is when you're expected to arrive back at your school, where your family and friends will be eager to hear all about your adventure!



TOUR PRICE (including taxes)

Complimentary chaperones Double Occupancy	Paying students Quad Occupancy	Per student
4	40	US\$990.00
4	35	US\$1074.00
5	30	US\$1164.00
8	25	US\$1274.00

✓ WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 1 Tour Leader(s) with your group 24/7, to bring your itinerary to life!
- Virtual parent/guardian meeting (by request and pending availability)
- All programming, reservations and itinerary items
- Bracelets featuring our 24/7 toll free emergency line
- Round trip transportation via luxury motorcoach(es)
- Hotel(s) and restaurant(s) as per itinerary (or equivalent depending on availability when trip is confirmed)
- 24/7 access to George Washington University Doctors on Call
- Online individual payment and registration platform
- 24/7 tour support, with a direct patch to our senior staff
- Your money placed in a bonded trust account
- \$25M in liability protection for teachers and chaperones
- Early warning service for disruptions or global threats to avoid or minimize risks to travel security
- All fees related to road, bridge, tunnel and parking tolls
- Private security guard (per coach) to monitor the hallways at night
- Carbon neutral travel

🍴 MEALS

- 3 Breakfast(s)
- 2 Dinner(s)

🚶 ACTIVITIES

- Parc de la Chute-Montmorency (Sépaq)-Self-guided visit of Montmorency Falls
- Au 1884-3-slide package with hot chocolate
- Passion Husky-Dog sledding for 30 minutes
- Carnaval de Québec-Effigies (Access pass)
- Observatoire de la Capitale-Self-guided Visit
- Village Vacances Valcartier-Valcartier winter playground (tubes included)
- Village Vacances Valcartier-Visit the Hôtel de Glace
- Musée des plaines d'Abraham-The Snowshoer
- Albert Gilles-Visit + Workshop



TO CONFIRM YOUR TRIP

The contents of the proposed itinerary are subject to availability. As soon as you sign below and return a copy of this page to me, I will activate your online portal which will give you access to planning resources, a preliminary itinerary and the payment schedule. An initial payment of \$249 per paying participant is due 30 days following the signing of this contract which enables me to begin reserving your entire proposed itinerary and guarantee your trip price.

CLASSROOM TRAVEL RESOURCES

Our classroom travel resources will help you and your community stay organized and energized as you prepare for your adventure.

INSURANCE

By law, we are required to inform you of the insurance plans available to your group. I have sent you information about comprehensive coverage. Please distribute this information to your group as insurance must be purchased at the same time as the initial payment.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read our complete terms and conditions. The following sections are particularly helpful:

- Flexible Payment Options
- Standard Cancellation Policy
- Protecting your Investment

By signing below you are confirming:

- That you agree with the itinerary and price
- That you agree with the payment schedule
- That you have distributed our travel insurance options to your group
- That you have read and accepted our terms and conditions

Client signature

Date

Portal activation will act as your electronic signature in case we do not receive this signed proposal.

CONSENT FORM for QUEBEC TRIP

To Whom It May Concern,

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of
_____, born on _____.

I hereby give my full consent for my child to travel with **Somers High School** on a school-sponsored trip from Somers, Connecticut, United States, to Quebec, Canada.

Trip Details:

Destination: Quebec, Canada

Departure Date: **Tuesday, February 9, 2027**

Return Date: **Friday, February 12, 2027**

Mode of Transportation: **Chartered Luxury Motor Coach**

Supervising Teacher(s)/Chaperone(s): **Mme Meyers and 3 or 4 school chaperones.**

- ☐ I authorize the supervising school staff to act *in loco parentis* for my child during this trip.
I also grant permission for my child to receive emergency medical treatment if necessary, and I accept responsibility for any related costs.

My child is a U.S. citizen and will be traveling with the following documents:

- ☐ Passport
☐ Passport card

I can be reached during the trip at:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Student Medical Information & Allergy Disclosure Form

This form must be completed by a parent or legal guardian for each student attending the Quebec, Canada trip. The information will be used only in case of illness or emergency.

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Secondary Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Medical Conditions

Does your child have any medical conditions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list and explain (asthma, diabetes, seizures, heart conditions, anxiety, etc.):

Allergies

Does your child have any allergies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please check and describe:

Food Allergies:

☐ Nuts ☐ Dairy ☐ Eggs ☐ Shellfish ☐ Gluten ☐ Other: _____

Details: _____

Medication Allergies:

Environmental Allergies (bee stings, pollen, latex, etc.):

Medications

Is your child currently taking any medication?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list all medications, dosage, and instructions:

Medication Name: _____ Dose: _____

Instructions: _____

Medication Name: _____ Dose: _____

Instructions: _____

Medical Devices

Does your child use any medical devices?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify (inhaler, EpiPen, glucose monitor, etc.):

Insurance Information

Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____

Emergency Authorization

I authorize school personnel and designated chaperones to obtain emergency medical treatment for my child if necessary while traveling in Quebec, Canada. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me in the event of an emergency.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

For School Use Only:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Notes: _____

Student Behavior Contract

Participation in this school-sponsored trip to Quebec, Canada is a privilege. Students are expected to represent Somers High School positively and to follow all school rules, trip guidelines, and laws while traveling.

Student Expectations

By signing this contract, I agree to:

1. Follow all Somers High School rules, policies, and the Student Code of Conduct at all times during the trip.
 2. Follow all instructions given by teachers, administrators, chaperones, bus drivers, hotel staff, and tour guides.
 3. Demonstrate respectful behavior toward classmates, staff, chaperones, members of the public, and property.
 4. Remain with the assigned group at all times unless given explicit permission by a chaperone.
 5. Observe all curfews, room assignments, and hotel rules.
 6. Behave appropriately on the bus and during all travel activities.
 7. Abide by all local, provincial, and federal laws of Canada.
 8. Refrain from the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal substances, or any prohibited items.
 9. Understand that bullying, harassment, vandalism, theft, or unsafe behavior will not be tolerated.
 10. Understand that failure to follow expectations may result in disciplinary consequences.
-

Consequences

I understand that violations of this contract may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- Immediate restriction from trip activities
- Parent/guardian notification
- School disciplinary action upon return
- Early dismissal from the trip at parent/guardian expense

Serious violations may result in removal from the trip without refund.

Acknowledgment

I understand that participation in this trip is contingent upon my compliance with this behavior contract. I agree to accept responsibility for my actions and understand the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

Student Information

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have reviewed this behavior contract with my child and understand the expectations and consequences outlined above.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____