

**Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers**

Monday, March 23, 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, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg

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. BOE APPRECIATION

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will present gifts to the Board members in recognition of Board of Education Appreciation Month.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway acknowledged Board Appreciation Week and thanked the members of the Somers Board of Education for the significant work they perform throughout the year, much of which is unseen by the public. He noted that Board members are also parents and professionals with other responsibilities, yet they volunteer their time to review and distribute information affecting the district, provide feedback, attend committee meetings, and participate in regular Board meetings. Superintendent Galloway stated that he feels incredibly supported by the Board and that this support yields meaningful benefits for students and families. Board members were presented with vests featuring the Somers Public Schools logo.

Chair Briggs expressed appreciation for the recognition and thanked his fellow Board members for the many hours of unpaid work they contribute behind the scenes. He noted that this work is driven by the shared mission of providing the best possible educational experience for Somers students and families, and he stated that the Board remains committed to that goal. Chair Briggs also thanked the teachers, administrators, custodians, IT staff, and Superintendent for their work on behalf of the district. These individuals are the engine that keeps the district moving forward and while the Board helps provide direction, the schools could not function without the daily efforts of the staff.

Board Member Anne Kirkpatrick thanked Mr. Briggs for his leadership.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the March 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 Special Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from March 9, 2026 Special Meeting. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

4.2. Approval of the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 Regular Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Ed DePeau, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway will attend the Board of Finance meeting regarding the budget on 3/24/26.

Congratulations to the eight SES students who advanced to the Connecticut Invention Convention State Finals on 5/2/26.

Career Day at MBA will take place on 5/1/26. The planning committee is still looking for a veterinarian, an individual with a career in coding or cybersecurity, and an athletic trainer.

SHS Junior Parent Night will take place on 3/24/26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

5.2. SHS Student Representatives

Rationale: SHS students will update the Board on recent events.

Discussion: Juniors Carolyn Castonguay and Jonathan Breton, and Senior Daniella Percoski presented recent and upcoming events at SHS.

A production of The Music Man took place on 3/6/26 and 3/7/26. Students described the performance as "phenomenal" and noted the time and effort put forth by the cast. Forty-seven students attended the ECE United States History Washington D.C. Field Trip from 3/12/26-3/14/26. The SAT Academy is being held bi-weekly with the goal of improving SAT scores. The Work Based Learning Panel took place on 3/19/26. Student and counselor conferences are ongoing, offering students an opportunity to discuss their plans for next year with counselors. Photos from the Washington D.C. trip and The Music Man production were shared.

The Tri-Town Pink Out Hockey Game took place on 2/28/26. The girls and boys basketball teams celebrated their Seniors Nights. Will Accorsi and Harry Accorsi each accumulated 100 wins in wrestling. Will Accorsi was also crowned the Class S champion and made All-State. Andrew Czerwinski scored 1,000 points in basketball and made All-Conference. Will Accorsi and Ben Medrek qualified for All-State Soccer. Ben Medrek also qualified as an All-New England participant. Addy Tabb qualified for All-Conference Basketball. Spring sports commenced on 3/21/26.

Upcoming events at SHS include an AP Art Trip to NYC on 3/27/26. The SAT Academy will take place on 3/28/26. The BC2N NYC Summit field trip is upcoming. The SAT will be administered on 3/31/26. The Trade Fair will take place on 4/2/26. The Spain Field Trip will take place from 4/2/26-4/11/26. The UConn Chemistry Field Trip will take place on 4/30/26.

The Blood Drive will take place on 5/1/26. AP and ECE contracts for next school year will be distributed during the week of 5/1/26. Senior Awards will be held on 5/27/26, and Prom is scheduled for 5/28/26 at The Riverview.

The senior outing will take place on 6/1/26 at Brownstone. The outing will be provided at no cost to students through funds that were raised. Underclassman Awards will be held on 6/3/26.

Senior exams are scheduled for 6/3/26, 6/4/26, 6/5/26, and 6/8/26, with makeup exams on 6/9/26. Graduation will take place on 6/10/26. Underclassmen exams are scheduled for 6/11/26, 6/12/26, 6/15/26, and 6/16/26, with makeup exams on 6/17/26.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by JT Galloway and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

7.1. Warrant of March 23, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of March 23, 2026.

7.2. Retirements

Rationale:

- Michael McDonnell, SES Assistant Principal, will be retiring at the end of the school year after 23 years of service with SPS.
- Kim LaBroad, SES Paraeducator, will be retiring effective June 17, 2026, after 11.5 years of service with SPS.

7.3. Resignations

Rationale:

- Kathryn Krauss, SES Special Education Teacher, will be resigning effective June 30, 2026, after six years of service with SPS.
- Lori Caron, HR Specialist, will be resigning effective 4/3/26, after eight years of service with SPS.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. 1st Posting to Modification of Existing SHS Course - Explorations in Algebra I

Rationale: Questions may be directed to the Curriculum Committee.

Discussion: The Board discussed proposed changes to Explorations in Algebra 1 at a recent subcommittee meeting. Board Member Ed DePeau explained that the course is currently taught over two years; however, this structure, has not produced the strongest outcome for students. The proposed modification would change the course from a two-year sequence to a one-year course. This change would allow students to complete more math coursework in high school, cover more content, better prepare for the SAT, improve overall school performance, and create greater opportunities for students to enroll in higher-level math courses. He also noted that the revised curriculum is aligned with the Connecticut model curriculum. The proposed change will not affect students who take Algebra I in eighth grade.

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg explained that the revised course is based on a prioritized set of Algebra I standards designed to best prepare students for Algebra II. The district plans to remove supplementary standards and focus instruction on the most essential content. Under the previous structure, students earned two credits for what was a single course. Access to higher-level math courses has a direct impact on SAT performance and overall readiness. If a student spends both freshman and sophomore years in Algebra 1 and does not take Geometry until junior year, that student is less prepared for the SAT.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Curriculum

The next meeting will be held in April.

10.2. Policy

The Policy Committee met on 3/23/26. The next meeting will be held on 5/11/26 at 6 p.m.

10.3. Planning/Finance

This committee is on hold.

