

**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)**

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Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary

Date

Minutes prepared by Shannin Burns, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent