

Somers Board of Education Special Meeting (DRAFT)

Thursday, April 2, 2026

6 PM

Virtual

Google Meet - meet.google.com/gbq-sqwd-dth

Phone - (US) +1 307-316-3039 PIN: 901 141 835#

BOE Members Present: Mike Briggs, Anne Kirkpatrick, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Kim Radziewicz, Derek Zelek, JT Galloway

BOE Members Absent: Gina Olearczyk, Shane Manning, Dr. Ed DePeau

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin

1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Somers Board of Education was called to order by Chair Briggs at **6:03 PM**.

2. FY 27 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Rationale: Discussion and possible action on FY 27 budget.

Motion: Motion made to approve the \$305,811 reduction to the FY2027 budget. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0 (Absent: Gina Olearczyk, Shane Manning, Ed DePeau)**

Discussion:

Background – The Board previously approved the FY2027 budget. Subsequent feedback from the Board of Finance indicated a need for reductions. While a final reduction amount was not specified, a town-wide reduction of approximately **\$450,000** was discussed, with an estimated **\$300,000 impact** to the Board of Education budget.

Proposed Reductions: The administration presented the following adjustments

- **Health Insurance Savings:**
Updated premium increase of **12.6%** (reduced from 15%) resulting in savings of approximately **\$163,000**
- **Staffing Adjustments:**
 - Non-replacement of a departing student support nurse (~**\$40,000 savings**)
 - Replacement of a high school ELA teacher at a lower salary due to step difference
 - Non-replacement of a retiring middle school ELA teacher

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Total Reduction

- **\$305,811** total reduction (approximately 1% of the budget)

Revised Budget Figures

- **Total Budget:** \$31,292,381
- **Increase Over Prior Year:** 2.68% (*Original increase prior to reductions: 3.68%*)

The Board emphasized that reductions were made to:

- Minimize impact on current staff
- Preserve instructional programs and student services
- Utilize natural attrition and updated cost data to achieve savings

3. TOWN OF SOMERS SPECIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

Rationale: The Board to appoint a Board member to the town's Special Building Committee.

Motion: Motion made to appoint Sharon Goulet to the Special Building Committee. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0 (Absent Gina Olearczyk, Shane Manning, Ed DePeau)**

Discussion: The Town of Somers is establishing a permanent **Special Building Committee** to:

- Review and evaluate Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests.
- Determine project readiness.
- Provide recommendations for further development or approval.

The committee will include representatives from:

- Board of Selectmen
- Board of Finance
- Board of Education

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- Library Board
- Town CFO
- Director of Public Works
- Construction professional

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. This motion, made by Sharon Goulet and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0 (Absent Gina Olearczyk, Shane Manning, Ed DePeau)**

Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary
(Minutes prepared by Shannin Burns, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent)