

BOE Meeting Template

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 7:00 PM

Mabelle Avery Middle School District Offices Board Room, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 4
- 4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

- 1. CABE Communications Award Presentation

- A representative from CABE will make a presentation at the board meeting recognizing the SHS Student Handbook for the CABE Communications Award. This was one of a few documents we submitted to CABE earlier in the year for recognition through the awards process.

- 2. Alternative Ed/Differentiating Instruction Curriculum Presentations 8

- Alternative Ed

- Mr. Robert Kapner, Assistant Principal of Somers High School, and Ms. Donna Delany, Teacher of the Alternative Education Program at Somers High School will give a presentation on the first year implementation of this program. Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

- Differentiated Instruction

- The Directors of Curriculum and Pupil Services will present an overview of a new state initiative, Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI), which is designed to assist schools in their work to ensure all students succeed.

- For more information, see the Curriculum web site for the Somers Public Schools:

- <https://sites.google.com/a/somers.k12.ct.us/somers-curriculum--instruction--and-assessment-information/Home/Scientific-ResearchBased-Interventions>

- 5. CORRESPONDENCE
- 6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
- 7. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 1. Approval of Bills 19
 - 2. Retirement (D. Gaston) 26
 - Donald Gaston, SHS Social Studies teacher, has submitted his retirement notice effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Gaston has been a teacher in our district since 1976.

- 8. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Reappointments

- Based upon the outcome of the budget referendum I am submitting the following names to be reappointed for the 2009-2010 school year. These names include the remaining group of staff members who received notices of nonrenewal except for 2 SHS teachers, 1 MBA teacher, and 3 SES teachers who at this time will not be renewed. As a result of retirements and resignations some cuts were absorbed through these actions.

Sarah Burda	SHS Art
Katherine Chung	MBA .4 World Language
Mary Curran	MBA .2/SHS .6 Art)
Paul Dailey	SES .8 Art
Nicole Dzicek	SES Grade 3
Kelly Fisher	SES .5 Grade 1
James Griffin	SES .5 Gifted/Talented
Kelly Kimball	SES Grade 5

Jill Lund	SES Grade 2	
Kristen Moretta	SES Grade 4	
Donna Norige	SHS Information Specialist	
Maria Peterson	SES Grade 4	
Meredith Randall	SHS English	
Shireen Rhoades	SES .5 Grade 2	
Judith Schober	SES Music	
Erin Scholes	MBA Social Studies	
Melissa Staunton	SES .5 Grade 1	
Lynn Tracy	SHS Food Service	
Andrea Zanelli	SES Grade 1	
2.	First Warning of DBS Code: 5113.2-Attendance & Excuses-Truancy	27
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
3.	First Warning of DBS Code: 5123-Promotion/Acceleration/Retention	29
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
4.	First Warning of DBS Code: 5131.3-Student Vehicles	31
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
5.	First Warning of DBS Code: 5131.9-Out of School Misconduct	32
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
6.	First Warning of DBS Code: 5134-Married/Pregnant Students	34
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
7.	First Warning of DBS Code: 6112-School Day	36
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
8.	First Warning of DBS Code: 6114.1-Fire Emergencies	37
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
9.	First Warning of DBS Code: 6141.321-Student Telecommunications	38
	These are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second warning/adoption will be on the 6/8/09 agenda.	
10.	First Warning of Supplemental Spelling Program for Grades 1-3	40
	The Director of Curriculum and Curriculum Specialist Teacher for Language Arts, K-5 will present a supplemental spelling program, titled <i>Cast-A-Spell</i> for grades 1-3. Currently, spelling is taught through our reading series, however, the teachers in grades 1-3 have found that it is not sufficient to meet the needs of emerging readers and writers. One teacher from each grade level has piloted this program this past year and they have found it an excellent supplement to the spelling program in the reading text.	
	Enclosed with this agenda item are the Instructional Resource Form and a quote for materials needed to implement the program.	
11.	Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code: 5123.2-Summer School Work for Credit	43
	The Policy Committee has reviewed the recommendations made by the board and has made the necessary adjustments in the summer school policy as requested.	
12.	Curriculum Reorganization	
	Due to the significant increase in class sizes in several sections at the high school, and due to the need to reduce these class sizes to a more reasonable level, I am recommending that the board eliminate the positions of Curriculum Specialist Teachers (CST's) and reassign these individuals to	

full-time teaching positions commensurate with their areas of certification. Through this action class sizes will be more evenly balanced and will be at a more reasonable level.

In order to coordinate the curricula at the high school and throughout the district I am recommending that a decentralized curriculum model be implemented. This will require appointment of 7 team leaders at the high school as defined in the SEA contract in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Applied Arts, and Guidance. These team leaders will coordinate the curricula at the high school and will work as building-based curricula facilitators in conjunction with team leaders at the elementary and middle schools.

Lastly, to coordinate all curriculum work within the district I am recommending that the board reinstate a full-time Director of Curriculum with the same job description and responsibilities as defined with the current position.

9. OLD BUSINESS
10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 1. Superintendent's Report
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Budget
 2. Curriculum
 3. Policy
 4. Salary & Negotiations
 5. Planning
 6. Other Committees
12. OTHER
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. Approved 5/26/09 Minutes

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ninth District Road

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – May 11, 2009

Members Present: T.Henderson, M.Marquardt (arrived at 7:43 p.m.), D.Atkinson, A.Kirkpatrick, J.Formeister, D.Palmer, T.Potrikus,Boucher, R.Lees

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: M.Suffredini, B.Boutwell, J.Morrow

Staff Present: None in attendance

Citizens Present: T.Lewis, J.Shlafstein, R.Bower, C.Manning, C.Watt

Students Present: None in attendance

Student Representatives: None in attendance

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chairman Henderson in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School-BOE Board Room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 April 27, 2009 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (D.Atkinson) to approve the April 27, 2009 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 7-0-1 (E.Boucher abstained)

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Chairman Henderson reported receipt of the following:

- An email from J.Griger updating the Board on the work being done with regards to recycling at Somers Elementary School by a group of parents.
- Policy information from CABA.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of 5/11/09 Bills – \$300,239.63

It was MOVED (A.Kirkpatrick) SECONDED (D.Atkinson) to approve the 5/11/09 bills in the amount of \$300,239.63. PASSED 8-0

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Approval of Technology Plan 2009-2012

Mr. Morrow presented the district’s new three-year technology plan, which will be submitted to the CSDE following Board approval as mandated for state certification.

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (E.Boucher) to approve the 2009-2012 Technology Plan as presented. PASSED 8-0

8.2 Second Warning/Adoption of K-2 Math Textbooks

The adoption of this new K-2 math series will align the elementary math curriculum to establish a unified math program at the elementary level.

It was MOVED (D.Atkinson) SECONDED (R.Lees) to adopt the new elementary math textbooks as presented. PASSED 7-1 (J.Formeister opposed)

These textbooks will be purchased out of the 2008-2009 budget.

8.3 First Warning of DBS: 5123.2-Summer School Work for Credit

Dr. Suffredini stated that the district's guidance counselors and administration have reviewed this policy. Other district's summer school policies have been looked at as well.

The Board expressed concern regarding some of the wording in this policy. The Board wants to insure that the intent of the policy is clearly stated. The intent of the Summer School Work for Credit Policy is to give students an opportunity to succeed. The Policy Committee will clarify the language and present a revised Summer School Work for Credit policy as a Second Warning at the May 26, 2009 BOE meeting.

Chairman Henderson requested information regarding the number of students who would be eligible for summer school and how many students would not be eligible using the minimum numerical grade cut-off of 50, which is stated in this policy.

Following Board approval of the Summer School Work for Credit Policy, parents will be notified of the summer school options available for students who are failing a course. Summer classroom instruction or online courses offered through CREC are currently available.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS – None

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1 Technology Program/Parent Portal Demonstration (J.Morrow)

J.Morrow presented a technology status report for the district. Mr. Morrow reported the following:

- The infrastructure is current.
- The firewall and routing updates have been completed.
- There is wireless in all building.
- All classroom teachers, administrators, and CSTs have laptops.
- The computer to student ratio as reported in the Strategic School Profile (SSP) is improving.

Mr. Morrow presented a Computer Age Report for each building. There is an expected 4-5 year life span on the equipment currently in service. With the exception of one computer cart (25 computers) at each school, the student computers at the high school and middle school are fairly new and there should not be any major equipment problems. The student computers in the elementary school computer lab are in dire need of replacement. Mr. Morrow estimated that the cost to replace these computers

would be around \$20,000. The computer cart at the elementary school needs to be replaced, as well, at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

There will be no funding from CIP this year for computer replacement. Mr. Morrow stated that we can get by for one year but if funding is cut next year, the district will be in real trouble.

Mr. Morrow reported that the new student information system software that was installed over the summer is working very well and teachers are happy with it. This system has allowed for more efficient state reporting.

Mr. Morrow has been consulting with the Somers Public Library. The same applications that are used by the schools will be installed on the library computers, which will allow students to access their files while at the library. Mr. Morrow stated that the public library and the schools are working collaboratively in the area of technology.

Mr. Morrow reported on the State and Federal Mandated reports that he files during the year to stay in compliance under the No Child Left Behind Act and state mandates.

Funding received from the Enhancing Education Through Technology grant allowed staff training in podcasting, blogs and wikis.

A lot of work took place this year to integrate technology throughout the district and expand the use of technology in the classroom as stated in Goal #2 in the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan.

Ubiquitous technology and constant changes in tools and delivery, as well as funding, are issues facing the district.

T.Potrikus suggested that a 5-year Computer Replacement Plan, similar to the 5-year Textbook Plan, be developed. Mr. Potrikus stated that this plan would be helpful for future budget planning and CIP funding.

Mr. Morrow presented a demonstration of the Parent Portal module, which is part of the new student information software. The Parent Portal will be available next year for grades 4-12. Parents will be issued a user name and password for each child, which will allow them to access their child's grades and attendance. There is also an email icon that will allow parents to email their child's teacher directly from the portal. Parents also will have the option of being updated on their children's grades and attendance automatically, as often as they want. Parents will be notified during the summer on how to access and use this portal.

10.2 Enrollment

Dr. Suffredini reported that the number of students (1724) remains the same; however, changes have occurred due to families either moving in or out of the district during the month of April.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Budget

Mr. Boutwell reported that there have been no significant changes in the 2008-2009 Budget. There have been no changes in the out-of-district placements.

Mr. Boutwell reported that the state might not reduce the amount of the excess cost grant funding as he had anticipated. He will know definitely by the end of this week.

11.2 Curriculum

A meeting will be scheduled to review the new Physical Education and World Language Curriculum and Science Electives.

11.3 Policy

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 18th. Handbooks will be reviewed.

11.4 Salary & Negotiations

There have been no negotiation sessions scheduled.

11.5 Planning – No Report

11.6 Other Committees – No Report

12.0 OTHER

- T.Potrikus reported some formatting issues with eMeeting.
- J.Formeister reported that the Building Committee has received the Robert B. Percoski Award.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (D.Palmer) and SECONDED (M.Marquardt) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Somers Board of Education at 9:33 p.m. PASSED 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Atkinson, Secretary
Joan Jaquith, Recording Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Somers High School
Alternative Education Program
2008-2009 Inaugural Year
BOE Executive Summary

The program currently has nine (9) students enrolled in grades 9-12. The daily schedule consists of morning classes with a focus on the core subject areas (English, math, science and history) followed by work/internship experiences in the afternoon. Ms. Donna Delany is the program coordinator and serves as the primary instructor. She is joined by Mr. Mike Byrnes who teaches self-help and life skills. A dedicated paraprofessional assists so there are always two adults in the room. The school counselors, social workers, and school-to-career coordinator are also providing services.

The program is housed in a self-contained classroom. Instruction is individualized with most of the work being done on-line through the "Moodle" program and a proprietary math program called "Aleks". Students each have their own dedicated workspace with a computer. Some students are extending the school day to earn additional credits.

Although the program is in its infancy and is still experiencing "growing pains", its impact is already apparent. Students who were not having success before are producing more work and attending school more regularly. All of the students who began the year in the program are still enrolled. Indeed, there has even been some interest from past students who dropped out of Somers High School. The impact of the Alternative Education Program has also been felt in other areas. Teachers around the building report that they have been able to establish a better learning environment this year with fewer classroom distractions and disruptive behavior. In addition, the number of major disciplinary offenses and repeated infractions are down significantly from years past.

Scientific Research-Based Interventions

**New Directions for the
2009-2010 School Year
and Beyond**

Continuum of Support

Tier 3: Intensive
1-7%
(Specialized/Individual Support System)

Tier 2: Intervention
5-15%
(At-Risk System, Supplemental, Small Groups)

Tier 1: Universal
80-90%
(District, School-Wide, & Classroom Systems)

Individual Support

School-Wide



SRBI is...

- An organizational structure
- An opportunity for many resources to be used for all students based on needs
 - Involves *entire* school community
 - Academic and behavioral
- A way to think differently about how resources can be used to help students
 - Regular education
 - Special education
 - Intervention/Title I
 - English Language Learners

SRBI is NOT...

- A program
- A prescriptive model
- Another set of “hoops” to jump through on the way to a referral to Special Education

New Ways of Working

Old Rules

1. Some students will learn “it” and some won’t.
2. If they don’t learn “it”, it’s their fault.
3. Preparing students for industrialized society.

New Rules

1. All students will learn “it” (standards).
2. If they don’t learn “it” the adults (administrators, teachers, staff, parents) and students have to take responsibility.
3. Preparing students for knowledge society.

New Ways of Working

Old Ways

1. Isolation
2. One size fits all
3. Limited or no change
4. Time as constant

New Ways

1. Teams
2. Differentiated Instruction
3. Continuous change
4. Achievement as constant

What does SRBI mean for Somers?

■ Core Curriculum

- Standards-based
- Priority Standards
- Understanding by Design
- Differentiated Instruction
- Technology for Instruction, Communication & Collaboration

■ Assessment

- Universal screening
- Progress monitoring
- Common Formative Assessments

What does SRBI mean for Somers?

■ Data Analysis

- Critical Friends Group Protocols
- Data-Driven Decision Making (D³M)

■ Service Delivery at Tiers I, II, & III

- Strategies and Resources

Building the Airplane While Flying

Questions



GENERAL BUDGET FINANCIAL REPORT

2008-2009

DATE: 05/26/09

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TOTAL: \$99,286.95

PAYROLL:

PAYROLL DATE: 05/15/09 \$ 511,504.64

TOTAL: \$610,791.59

APPROVED BY:

WBB

5/20/09

WILLIAM B. BOUTWELL

DATE:

Charge Account/Vendor Name	Ref #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Check Number	Amount
K-5 - SCIENCE/HEALTH SUPPLIES					
202 10-100-2-2-28-242-611-2000-01 CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL SUPPLY CO.	198884	41794019 RI	5/4/2009	2001215	\$279.52
Line Account Total:					\$279.52
MA - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES					
182 10-100-2-3-12-242-611-2000-01 W.R. ROBINSON LUMBER	198911	Inv 127987	5/4/2009	2001233	\$216.67
Line Account Total:					\$216.67
HS - PHYSICAL ED SUPPLIES					
195 10-100-2-4-22-242-611-2000-01 S & S WORLDWIDE	198913	Inv 6247691	5/7/2009	2001234	\$172.48
Line Account Total:					\$172.48
SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES					
873 10-100-2-5-14-241-611-2000-01 THE TREE HOUSE	198920	Inv 12121	5/4/2009	2001242	\$188.00
Line Account Total:					\$188.00
SP ED-INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS					
1117 10-120-9-9-98-955-330-0000-02 MICHAEL N. FULCO, PH.D.	198891	Tdonovan 2/16	3/27/2009	2001221	\$2,700.00
Line Account Total:					\$2,700.00
MA - GUIDANCE INSTRUCT. SUPPLY					
224 10-212-2-3-46-242-611-2000-02 NAESP ATT: PRESIDENT'S AWARD	198903	Inv 25903	5/11/2009	2001229	\$46.00
Line Account Total:					\$46.00
SW - TESTING					
252 10-212-2-5-46-243-611-2000-02 SURVEYMONKEY.COM	198912	Inv 16372773	5/19/2009	2001240	\$200.00
HARLAND TECHNOLOGY SERV. A DIVISION OF S	198894	Inv 12446297	5/4/2009	2001235	\$315.00
Line Account Total:					\$515.00
HS - PRINCIPAL'S TRAVEL					
269 10-221-1-4-50-251-580-1000-05 ROB KAPNER	198902	RTI workshop	5/13/2009	2001228	\$37.95
Line Account Total:					\$37.95

Charge Account/Vendor Name	Ref #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Check Number	Amount
B.O.E. - OTHER PROF. SERVICES					
45 10-231-1-5-74-134-330-1000-10					
SULLIVAN, SCHOEN, CAMPANE & CONNON	198918	1060 01108 22	4/30/2009	2001239	\$1,347.00
SULLIVAN, SCHOEN, CAMPANE & CONNON	198919	1060 01501 22	4/30/2009	2001239	\$208.00
				Line Account Total:	\$1,555.00
B.O.E. - SUPPLIES					
47 10-231-1-5-74-134-690-1000-10					
SOMERS LUNCH PROGRAM	198916	BOE meeting	5/11/2009	2001238	\$10.50
				Line Account Total:	\$10.50
CO - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE					
271 10-232-1-5-72-251-580-1000-05					
SUSAN SELLEY	198915	ADS training lu	5/13/2009	2001237	\$30.00
SUSAN SELLEY	198914	CASPA mileag	5/12/2009	2001237	\$72.60
				Line Account Total:	\$102.60
CO - OFFICE SUPPLIES					
42 10-232-1-5-72-258-690-1000-04					
INFOSHRED, LLC	198900	Inv 3047578	4/18/2009	2001226	\$526.40
				Line Account Total:	\$526.40
CO - POSTAGE METER					
526 10-232-6-5-66-830-440-1000-04					
PITNEY-BOWES, INC. .	198906	Inv 918523	5/16/2009	2001231	\$105.00
				Line Account Total:	\$105.00
HS - GRADUATION					
274 10-240-7-4-54-880-690-1000-07					
HERFF JONES	198893	Inv 627590	4/20/2009	2001223	\$2,286.00
HERFF JONES	198892	Inv 627591	4/20/2009	2001223	\$54.00
				Line Account Total:	\$2,340.00
K-5 - TELEPHONE					
363 10-260-5-2-64-642-530-1000-04					
AT&T	198874	860 749-2279	5/9/2009	2001212	\$147.85
AT&T	198869	860 763-0620	5/1/2009	2001212	\$37.64
AT&T	198873	860 749-2366	5/9/2009	2001212	\$99.37
				Line Account Total:	\$284.86

Charge Account/Vendor Name	Ref #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Check Number	Amount
MA - TELEPHONE					
365 10-260-5-3-64-642-530-1000-04 AT&T	198875	860 749-2279	5/9/2009	2001212	\$120.96
Line Account Total:					\$120.96
HS - QUANTITY FOODS MAINT.					
393 10-260-5-4-38-722-430-2000-01 RJ MASE, LLC	198908	Inv A-189260	3/19/2009	2001232	\$16.00
RJ MASE, LLC	198909	Inv A197255	4/2/2009	2001232	\$16.00
RJ MASE, LLC	198907	Inv A-182027	3/5/2009	2001232	\$16.00
RJ MASE, LLC	198910	Inv A-212506	4/30/2009	2001232	\$16.00
Line Account Total:					\$64.00
HS - TELEPHONE					
366 10-260-5-4-64-642-530-1000-04 AT&T	198876	860 749-2279	5/9/2009	2001212	\$201.60
AT&T	198871	860 749-9264	5/9/2009	2001212	\$149.96
Line Account Total:					\$351.56
CO - TELEPHONE					
367 10-260-5-5-64-642-530-1000-04 AT&T	198872	860 749-0113	5/9/2009	2001212	\$68.04
AT&T	198877	860 749-2279	5/9/2009	2001212	\$201.60
AT&T	198870	860 763-0222	5/1/2009	2001212	\$47.91
Line Account Total:					\$317.55
SW - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE					
1077 10-260-5-6-62-722-430-0000-01 BLUE RAVEN TECHNOLOGY	198878	Inv JP6KD300	5/5/2009	2001213	\$15.70
BLUE RAVEN TECHNOLOGY	198879	Inv JP6KD301	5/11/2009	2001213	\$319.00
WHALLEY COMPUTER ASSOC.	198923	Inv 865979	5/13/2009	2001243	\$134.47
EFILLIATE, INC.	198887	P06372270102	5/4/2009	2001217	\$29.85
EFILLIATE, INC.	198886	P06372270101	5/4/2009	2001217	\$23.11
Line Account Total:					\$522.13
SW - TOOL SUPPLY					
445 10-260-5-6-62-722-430-1000-08 DEPT. 30- 1202918379 TRACTOR SUPPLY CREDIT	198865	6035 3012 029	5/15/2009	2001211	\$449.99
Line Account Total:					\$449.99

Charge Account/Vendor Name	Ref #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Check Number	Amount
HS - FUEL #2					
356 10-260-5-6-64-630-620-1000-05 EAST RIVER ENERGY	198885	Acct 51720, 28	5/12/2009	2001219	\$26,326.25
Line Account Total:					\$26,326.25
K-5 - ELECTRICITY					
358 10-260-5-6-64-641-620-1000-05 CL & P	198881	51681404059	5/15/2009	2001216	\$2,172.93
Line Account Total:					\$2,172.93
MA - ELECTRICITY					
360 10-260-5-6-64-641-620-1000-05 CL & P	198880	51456004092	5/15/2009	2001216	\$2,917.67
Line Account Total:					\$2,917.67
HS - ELECTRICITY					
361 10-260-5-6-64-641-620-1000-05 TRANSCANADA POWER MARKETING LTD.	198921	Inv 229090	5/6/2009	2001241	\$3,569.51
TRANSCANADA POWER MARKETING LTD.	198922	Inv 229091	5/6/2009	2001241	\$6,627.97
Line Account Total:					\$10,197.48
MAINTENANCE - ELECTRICITY					
362 10-260-5-6-64-641-620-1000-05 CL & P	198882	51564724045	5/15/2009	2001216	\$182.76
Line Account Total:					\$182.76
SP ED - TRANSPORTATION AIDE					
333 10-270-9-9-84-522-112-1000-12 FIRST STUDENT AMERICA	198888	10220159, Pre	5/5/2009	2001220	\$1,603.20
FIRST STUDENT AMERICA	198890	10220179, Riv	5/5/2009	2001220	\$1,402.80
FIRST STUDENT AMERICA	198889	10220179, Gen	5/5/2009	2001220	\$1,603.20
Line Account Total:					\$4,609.20
SW - HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
1228 10-280-6-5-82-820-200-1000-13 HSABank	198895	Inv 87145	5/19/2009	2001224	\$11.25
Line Account Total:					\$11.25
ANNUITIES					
508 10-280-6-5-82-820-200-1000-13 SCHOOL PAYROLL	198867	Board TSA	5/15/2009	92051509	\$110.79
Line Account Total:					\$110.79

Charge Account/Vendor Name	Ref #	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Check Number	Amount
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
517 10-280-6-5-82-820-200-1000-13 ADMINISTRATOR,UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSAT	198868	Emp # 00-017-	5/14/2009	2001218	\$19.00
Line Account Total:					\$19.00
SOCIAL SECURITY					
506 10-280-6-5-96-820-200-1000-13 SCHOOL PAYROLL	198866	Board FICA	5/15/2009	91051509	\$14,046.24
Line Account Total:					\$14,046.24
MA - ACADEMIC AWARDS					
849 10-320-2-3-54-880-690-2000-07 C SANDERS EMBLEMS, INC.	198883	Inv D64510	5/1/2009	2001214	\$106.00
HAMMOND & STEPHENS	198899	Inv 887502	5/6/2009	2001222	\$150.21
Line Account Total:					\$256.21
HS - ATHLETIC TRAINER					
1006 10-320-7-4-42-860-590-0000-06 SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY	198917	SOMHS05010	5/1/2009	2001236	\$6,000.00
Line Account Total:					\$6,000.00
SP ED - TUITION					
673 10-613-9-9-88-955-561-2000-14 HARTFORD HOSPITAL	198897	14634190-09,	5/4/2009	2001225	\$4,572.00
HARTFORD HOSPITAL	198896	14634190-09,	5/4/2009	2001225	\$4,572.00
HARTFORD HOSPITAL	198898	14631691-09,	5/4/2009	2001225	\$3,810.00
NATCHAUG HOSPITAL SCHOOL PROGRAM	198904	019589, AN Ap	5/9/2009	2001230	\$1,325.00
NATCHAUG HOSPITAL SCHOOL PROGRAM	198905	027048, PM Ap	5/9/2009	2001230	\$4,240.00
INTENSIVE EDUCATION att: BUSINESS OFFICE	198901	Inv 4152, HL	5/11/2009	2001227	\$3,012.00
Line Account Total:					\$21,531.00
Grand Total:					\$99,286.95

Treasury Warrant: 01-26

FY: 2009 for Warrant Dated 5/26/2009

with Checks Dated: 5/26/2009

Charge Account/Vendor Name

Ref #

Invoice #

Invoice Date

Check Number

Amount

Grand Totals by Fund

Fiscal Year	Fund	Fund Total
	GENERAL FUND	\$99,286.95
	Fund Grand Total	\$99,286.95

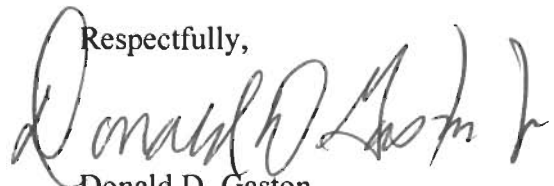
May 20, 2009

Somers Board of Education
Somers Public Schools
Ninth District Road
Somers, Connecticut 06071

Dear Members,

It is after much reflection and sadness that I am offering my letter of intent to retire. After 38 years, I have decided to end my teaching career at Somers High School. There are several reasons that have lead me to my decision including my health issues, my wife's health issues and perhaps the most important, philosophical differences. It has been a rewarding and satisfying career, but it is time to go. I wish you the best and hope you will support your staff and the children of Somers on their path to the future of American public education.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Gaston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Donald D. Gaston
Social Studies
Somers High School

cc: Dr. Suffredini
Mr. Cotzin

STUDENTS

Elementary and Secondary – Attendance:

Attendance and Excuses – Truancy:

Regular student attendance in school is essential to the educational process. Responsibility for assuring that students attend rests by statute with the student's parent or other person having control of the child. To assist parents and others in meeting this responsibility, the Somers Board of Education, through its superintendent, will adopt and maintain procedures to:

1. Notify parents or others who have control of school age children annually of their obligation to assure that such children attend school or show that they are elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction.
2. ~~Provide for obtaining~~ Obtain a telephone number or other means of contact during the school day from each parent or other person having control of an enrolled child ~~a telephone number or other means of contacting such parent or other person during the school~~ day.
3. Establish a system for monitoring individual unexcused student absences and for making a reasonable effort to notify parents or other person by telephone when an enrolled student fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day, if school personnel have not otherwise received indication that the parent or other person is aware of the absence.
4. Identify a student as a "truant" when he or she has four unexcused absences in any one month or ten unexcused absences from school in any school year.
5. Hold a meeting with the parent or other person having control of a child who is a "truant" and appropriate school personnel within ten school days of designation as a "truant" to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.
6. ~~Identify a student grades kindergarten through twelve as an "habitual truant" when he or she has twenty unexcused absences within a school year.~~
7. Require that the superintendent file a written complaint with the Superior Court alleging that the acts or omissions (i.e. failure to attend school) of any child designated as a "~~habitual~~ truant" are such that his or her family is a family with service needs, if the parent or other person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child's truancy problem.

8. Require that the superintendent ~~annually~~ file, as may be required, with the State Department of Education a. report indicating the number of ~~habitual~~ “truants” enrolled in grades K-8 on a school-by-school basis.

9. Provide coordination of services and refer “truants” to community agencies which provide family services.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents. (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)

10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157)

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised, 1995, PA 95-304)

10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.

10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules. *Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).

Cross Reference: DBS CODE: 5113

Adopted: July 1, 1991

Revised:

STUDENTS:Promotion/Acceleration/Retention:

~~Because the public schools of our district are dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled,~~ The District will establish and maintain the highest standards required for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The administration and faculty shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents and guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on demonstrated and assessed successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on the CMT and CAPT statewide assessments and other testing instruments. Any necessary retention should take place as early in a student's educational career as possible. ~~The~~ the certificated staff is expected to place students at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally.

~~Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade or level to level.~~ The Board desires to minimize/eliminate the practice of promoting students to the next grade level for social reasons even though they are failing academically. The Board expects students to progress through each grade usually within one school year. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted; those who have not will be retained.

~~Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certificated staff, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the students involved. Exceptions will only be made after prior notification and explanation to each student's parents or guardian by the building Principal. If the parent or guardian does not agree with the administrative decision for acceleration or retention, the student will be promoted only after the parent or guardian has signed a waiver taking full responsibility for their decision against the recommendation of the school administration.~~

~~At the high school level class standing is determined by accumulation of credits. To attain Sophomore status a student must have earned five (5) credits. To attain Junior status a student must have earned ten (10) credits. To attain Senior status, a student must have earned fifteen (15) credits.~~

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability

10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts. Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173 and PA 06-135)

10-2651 Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required; exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, PA 03-174 and PA 06-135)

Adopted: December 27, 1979

Reviewed: May 4, 1998

March 6, 2000

Revised:

STUDENTS:

Student Vehicles:

The student use of automobiles on school grounds whether to drive or to park is a privilege and governed by Board of Education policy and motor vehicle laws.

The principal may grant ~~special~~ permission for student parking of motor vehicles. He/she will establish guidelines and rules for driving on school property and parking privileges.

Any infraction of these rules may result in that student's loss of parking privileges. The Board of Education may charge students for parking privileges.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

Cross Reference: Parking - 3515.2

Adopted: April 14, 1980

Revised:

STUDENTS:

Out of School Misconduct:

Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct which is seriously disruptive ~~of~~to the educational process and is a violation of a publicized board policy, even if such misconduct occurs off of school property and during non-school time.

In compliance with judicial decisions, the Board considers conduct which is “severely disruptive of the educational process” to mean conduct that “markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school” in addition to such conduct also being violative of publicized school policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, phoning in a bomb threat, or making a threat, off school grounds, to kill or hurt a teacher or student.

In addition, in making the determination as to whether conduct is “seriously disruptive of the educational process,” the administration may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in Section 29-38 and whether any injuries occurred; and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol. The Board of Education or impartial hearing board, in matters of expulsion for out of school misconduct, in making a determination as to whether conduct is “seriously disruptive of the educational process,” may consider, but consideration is not limited to the same items listed previously.

Such discipline may result whether: 1) the incident was initiated in the school or on school grounds, or 2) if the incident occurred or was initiated off-school grounds and non-school time; if after the occurrence there was a reasonable likelihood that return of the student would contribute to a disruptive effect on the school education or its process, **markedly interrupting or severely impeding the day-to-day operation of a school**, by threatening:

1. The school’s orderly operations;
2. The safety of the school property;
3. The welfare of the persons who study or work there.

Examples of the type of such off-school misconduct that may result in such discipline include but are not limited to:

1. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of dangerous weapons (as defined C.G.S. 53A-3, 53-206, and 29-35);
2. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs;
3. Violent conduct;
4. Making of a bomb threat;
5. Threatening to harm or kill another student or member of the staff.

Such activity must have the reasonable likelihood of threatening the health, safety or welfare of school property, individuals thereon, and/or the educational process.

For example, if it is determined that a student's use, possession, or sale of drugs in the community has a reasonable likelihood of endangering the safety of students or employees because of the possibility of such sales in the school; or if violent conduct in the community presents a reasonable likelihood of repeating itself in the school environment; or if any similar type of misconduct in the community has a reasonable likelihood of being continued or repeated in school or of bringing retaliation or revenge into the school for such off-school misconduct, the Board may impose discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. **The rationale to be applied in considering disciplinary action is whether the off-school grounds conduct will markedly interrupt or severely impede the day-to-day operation of a school.**

~~A student found to be in possession of~~ **who possessed and used** a firearm, martial arts weapon, ~~or~~ deadly weapon, ~~shall be subject to disciplinary measures set forth in policy DBS 5131.7.~~ **or dangerous instrument in the commission of a crime off-campus shall be expelled for one calendar year unless said expulsion is modified on a case by case basis.**

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 4-176e through 4-185 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act
 10-233a through 10-233f re in-school suspension, suspension, expulsion
 29-35 Carrying of pistol or revolver without permit prohibited
29-38 Weapons in vehicles
 53a-3 Firearms and deadly weapons
 53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons
 53a-217b Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds
 PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Safety
 18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions
 PL 103-382 Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (Sec. 14601-Gun Free Requirements: Gun Free School Act of 1994)
 PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety
 PA 96-244 An Act Concerning Revisions to the Education Statutes
***Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.* (SC 15862**

Adopted: June 12, 2000

Revised:

STUDENTS:

Married/Pregnant Students:

Married students shall have the same educational opportunities in this school system as unmarried students, and the Board of Education's responsibility for the education of all school-age children includes pregnant students whether married or unmarried who shall be allowed to remain in school and provided appropriate support services as a part of the school program.

~~Further, the Board of Education's responsibility for the education of all school-age children includes the pregnant teenager, married or unmarried. These girls shall be allowed to remain in school and services for them shall be made a regular part of the school system. Any variation from their continuing in regular school classes shall be based upon their assessed needs. If the girl is under 18 years of age, her parents must be consulted in developing the educational plan to fit her needs.~~

A pregnant girl may remain in her regular school program as long as her physical and emotional condition permits. Any variation from a pregnant student's continuance in regular classes shall be based upon her specific needs. In addition, per state regulations, pregnant students must be identified as eligible for special education. Homebound and hospitalized instruction shall be provided only when the Planning and Placement Team finds that it is in the best interest of the student.

A student who is under age 16 and a mother may request permission from the Board to attend adult education class in lieu of the regular school program.

(cf. 6200 - Adult Continuing Education)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents.

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance.

State Board of Education Regulations

10-76a-35 Educationally exceptional children.

10-76d-15 Homebound and hospitalized instruction (subsection b4).

10-76d(e)(2) Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.

Adopted: March 10, 1980

Revised:

INSTRUCTION:

School Day:

The instruction school day for children shall be in conformance with current State Law.

Cross Reference: Personnel School Day

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15 Towns to maintain schools.

10-16 Length of school day (as amended by PA 95-182) An Act Concerning Reduction of Education Mandates).

10-16b Prescribed courses of study.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

Adopted: October 26, 1981

Revised:

INSTRUCTION:

Fire Emergencies:

If a fire, or indications of a fire such as smoke, unusual heat, smoldering wires, etc., are discovered in any school the fire department shall be called immediately following sounding the alarm signal to evacuate the building.

The principal of each school shall hold at least one fire drill each month in which all students, teachers, and other employees shall be required to leave the school building. A crisis response drill may be substituted for one of the required monthly school fire drills every three months.

The essential element in any emergency is prevention of panic. Principals and teachers provide clarity of direction and supervision to foster appropriate staff and student behavior in emergency circumstances.

Each Building Principal shall prepare a definite fire emergency plan, and furnish to all teachers and students information as to route and manner of exit. Fire drills shall be planned in such a way as to accomplish the evacuation of school buildings in the shortest possible time and in the most efficient and orderly fashion.

Principals shall keep a record of all fire and crisis response drills held in their schools, stating the date the drill was held and the time required for evacuation of the building. They shall furnish such reports to the Superintendent or his designate as may from time to time be required.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231 Fire drills (as amended by PA 00-220)

Adopted: January 25, 1999

Revised:

INSTRUCTION:

Student Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy:

It is the policy of the Somers Public Schools to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all Internet and online network activities. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the Somers Public Schools.

The use of Somers Public Schools computer equipment, Internet accounts and commercial online accounts must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the educational objectives and goals of the Somers Public Schools. Any material transmitted must meet federal, state, local, and district regulations including, but not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying is prohibited. Any viewing or dissemination of objectionable materials from any source into the system is strictly prohibited.

The Board of Education has the right to monitor computer usage by electronic means. Staff and students will be given proper notice of the monitoring. A statement notifying staff and students will be attached or included in the telecommunications form required of all users. Other forms of notification will also be used including but not limited to school handbooks, student handbooks, employment policies, postings at computer labs.

Each district computer with Internet access shall have a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Special Responsibilities of Telecommunication Users

1. All students must sign the Somers Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy Agreement for use of the telecommunications services and equipment provided by the Somers Public Schools.
2. All telecommunications services and equipment must be used for academic related purposes.
3. Student use of personal online accounts with school equipment for non-academic purposes is not allowed.

4. Students may not use utilize school equipment or networks to participate in non-academic chat sessions.
5. Students may not use e-mail unless authorized to do so for academic related purposes.
6. Subscriptions to listservs must be reported to the Director of Technology & Information Services. Prior approval for listservs is required for students.
7. Students may not communicate their name, address, telephone number, picture or other personal information while using the Internet or an online service.
8. Students may not violate the rules of common sense or “netiquette”. They are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette: be polite; do not use vulgar or obscene language; do not reveal your address or phone number or those of others; do not disrupt the network or the data of others.
9. DBS Code: 6141.32, Curriculum: Computer Usage, is an integral part of the Student Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy and is in effect at all times.

Cross Reference: DBS Code: 6141.32 - Curriculum - Computer Usage
 DBS Code: 3514.1 - Business - Staff Telecommunication Acceptable Use Policy

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

53a-182b. Harassment in the first degree: Class D felony. (as amended by PA 95-143)

20 U.S.C. Section 6777, No Child Left Behind Act

20 U.S.C. 254 Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000

47 U.S.C. Children’s Online Protection Act of 1998

Adopted: October 15, 1996
Revised: March 17, 1997
Revised: October 25, 1999
Revised: September 11, 2000
Revised: October 23, 2006

Instructional Resource Proposal Form

Use this form to propose the purchase of new textbooks, software, or other major instructional resources for a new course, grade, or multiple grades.

Date: March 24, 2009

Person(s) submitting: Lisa Reilly

Content Area: Language Arts/Spelling Grade(s) 1-3 **Course:** n/a

Recommended Purchase:

Title or Name of Resource: Cast-a-Spell

Type of Resource: Supplemental Spelling Program ISBN# n/a

Copyright: 1993 Vendor: Edu-Care

Address: 26 Wildwood Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424

(Vendor for white boards necessary for the program: Really Good Stuff, 448 Pepper Street, Monroe, CT 06468)

Background: (Why this purchase is being proposed?)

The current spelling program, within the reading series, does not meet the needs of students in grades 1-3. The Cast-a-Spell program is a multi-sensory program that meets the needs of the diversity of our student learning styles. Teachers from grades 1-3 piloted this program during the 2008-2009 school year and found it to have more carry over into daily reading and writing skills, as well as teaching fundamental spelling patterns.

Process used to select this curriculum resource:

Teacher pilot – 1 per grade level for the 2008-2009 school year.

Is this the only curriculum resource for this course? no **If not, what other resource(s) will be used?**

Reading series spelling program and teacher-made materials are used.

How was this resource evaluated in terms of providing adequate instructional support for the curriculum?

The K-5 Language Arts Vertical Curriculum Team has reviewed the program and the research behind it. Pilot teachers have given feedback to the team and consensus has been reached to move forward. Mrs. Lisa Reilly, K-5 Language Arts CST, has also talked to other districts and has received positive feedback from them.

Attach a standard budget sheet to detail the purchase costs. (See below)

Item	Cost per unit	Number of units	Total Cost
Teacher professional development/includes teacher resource binder	\$175.00	12 teachers	\$2,100.00
Magnetic white board sets*/**	\$129.38	17sets of 24	\$2,199.46
Total Shipping (white boards sets)**			\$263.94
GRAND TOTAL			\$4563.39

*Description of the sets can be found at http://www.reallygoodstuff.com/product_details.aspx?item_guid=78f1a9f1-884c-4b00-aca1-89ad4bc20609

**See uploaded quote on costs/shipping on the Curriculum page at <http://somersilt.wikispaces.com/> (filename = Really Good Stuff.pdf)

Really Good Stuff, Inc
 448 Pepper Street
 Monroe, CT 06468

United States of America
 Phone: 2032611920
 Fax: 2032681796

Order Number
 2306658-000

Q U O T A T I O N

Date
 4/07/09

Customer: SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION
 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 NINTH DISTRICT ROAD

 SOMERS, CT 06071
 United States of America

Entered...: 4/07/09 Bid/Promo...: QUOTE1JUDITH
 Expires...: ~~3/31/09~~ Entered by...: Debra Renshaw

Order Qty	Item Description	U/M	Disc	Price	Extension
17.00	152046 Write Again 24 Magnetic Board Dry Erase Set	EA		129.3800	2,199.46

Material Total: 2,199.46
 Handling: 263.94
 Total Quote: 2,463.40

STUDENTS

Summer School Work for Credit

The Somers Board of Education encourages students who have failed one or more courses (a grade of F) to attend summer school or enroll in an approved online course in order to complete graduation requirements.

1. Permission by the principal or designee must be obtained in order to sign up for summer school.
2. ~~Students must have a minimum grade average of 50 in the course to be taken in order to attend summer school or re-take the course online unless otherwise approved by the building principal.~~ **Students having a minimum grade average of 50 in the course may re-take the course on-line or enroll in summer school. Those having an average below 50 must have their alternative program approved by the building principal.**
- 2.3. A grade of C- or better will be recorded on the student's transcript as satisfactory completion of course requirements. Any summer school grade below C- will require the student to re-take the course.
- 3.4. Summer school/online course grades will not be calculated into the GPA.
- 4.5. Tuition for summer school and/or online course(s) is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent/guardian.
- 5.6. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- 6.7. At the end of the third quarter parent(s)/guardian(s) of any student who may be at risk of failing a course for the year will be notified by the administration of the school and provided with information on summer school and online courses.

Adopted:

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ninth District Road

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – May 26, 2009

Members Present:	T.Henderson, M.Marquardt, D.Atkinson, A.Kirkpatrick, J.Formeister, D.Palmer, T.Potrikus, E.Boucher, R.Lees
Members Absent:	
Administrators Present:	M.Suffredini, B.Boutwell, J.Houle, R.Riola, R.Kapner, N.Barry, J.Oliver, P.Collin
Staff Present:	L.Reilly, D.Delany
Citizens Present:	J.Shlafstein, E.Beebe, J.Griger, J.MacLeod, C.Manning
Students Present:	J.Bailey, T.Olynein
Student Representatives:	None in attendance
Others:	N.Caruso, CABA

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Henderson in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School-BOE Board Room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 May 11, 2009 Regular Meeting – It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (A.Kirkpatrick) to approve the May 11, 2009 Board of Education regular meeting minutes as presented. PASSED 9-0

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1 CABA Communications Award Presentation

CABA representative, Nick Caruso, explained that CABA established the Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications Contest about 20 years ago to recognize school districts for outstanding parent and town communication initiatives.

Somers High School Student Handbook was recognized in the Student/Parent Handbook category and the District School Calendar was recognized in the Calendar category. Plaques were presented to the Board recognizing these communication documents. The Board congratulated all those who worked on these award-winning documents.

4.2 Alternative Ed/Differentiating Instruction Curriculum Presentations

4.2.1 Rob Kapner, Assistant Principal of Somers High School, and Donna Delany, Teacher of the Alternative Education Program, presented an overview of the first year of the Alternative Education Program.

The program currently has nine (9) students enrolled in grades 9-12. The daily schedule consists of morning classes with a focus on the core subject areas (English, math, science and history) followed by work/internship experiences in the afternoon. Ms. Delany is the program coordinator and serves as the primary instructor. She is joined

by Mr. Mike Byrnes who teaches self-help and life skills. A paraprofessional assists so there are always two adults in the room. The school counselors, social workers, and school-to-career coordinator also provide services.

The program is housed in a self-contained classroom. Instruction is individualized with most of the work being done on-line through the “Moodle” program and a proprietary math program called “Aleks”. Students each have their own dedicated workspace with a computer. Some students extend the school day to earn additional credits.

The overall impact of the program on the students and the school is apparent. Students who were not having success before are producing more work and attending school more regularly. All of the students who began the year in the program are still enrolled, with two graduating this year. The number of major disciplinary offenses and repeated infractions are down significantly from years past.

Future goals of the program include credit recovery for students who need credits to graduate, more work or volunteer opportunities, further improvement in attendance, and participation in electives.

Dr. Suffredini and the Board commended Ms. Delany for the job she has done this year.

4.2.2 Differentiated Instruction

Director of Curriculum, Dr. Judith Houle, and Director of Pupil Services, Dr. Patricia Collin, presented an overview of the new state initiative, Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI).

Dr. Houle reported that Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) is a three-tier model of instructional and behavioral support, which the district will be implementing over the next few years. Each tier provides differing kinds and degrees of support. The program provides more individualized instruction for students who need the most support.

The majority (80-90%) of students will receive instructional and behavioral supports in the regular classroom (Tier 1). The 5-15% of students needing extra help will receive support in small groups with supplemental services (Tier 2). Those students (1-7%) who require significant help in specialized or individualized programs will receive that support at a Tier 3 level.

In this model, all staff members share responsibility for all students. The SRBI model is designed to provide support and instruction to children who are struggling to learn.

Dr. Houle reported that professional development this year in Differentiated Instruction, Priority Standards, Common Formative Assessments, and Understanding by Design will help the teachers implement this program. Dr. Houle stated that what we already have been doing will work well with this model.

Dr. Collin reported that the state guidelines for identifying learning disabilities will be changing and will require the use of SRBI as part of the identification process.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Chairman Henderson reported receipt of the following:

- A renewal notice from CABE.
- A letter from the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association, Inc. regarding a donation of an automatic external defibrillator to the athletic department. This item will be added to the agenda.
- Email from Citizens for Somers Educational Excellence (CFSEE). Chairman Henderson thanked this parent group for their efforts in getting so many people out to vote on the budget referendum.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 It was MOVED (D.Atkinson) SECONDED (D.Palmer) to add automatic external defibrillator donation to the athletic department from the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association, Inc. under New Business, Item 8.13. PASSED 9-0

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of 5/26/09 Bills – \$99,286.95

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the 5/26/09 bills in the amount of \$99,286.95. PASSED 9-0

7.2 Retirement (D.Gaston)

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) SECONDED (R.Lees) to approve the retirement of D.Gaston at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year. PASSED 9-0.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Reappointments

Dr. Suffredini stated that, based upon the outcome of the budget referendum, he is submitting the following names to be reappointed for the 2009-2010 school year.

The names below include the remaining group of staff members who received notices of nonrenewal with the exception of 2 SHS teachers, 1 MBA teacher, and 3 SES teachers whose contracts will not be renewed at this time.

Sarah Burda	SHS Art
Katherine Chung	MBA .4 World Language
Mary Curran	MBA .2/SHS .6 Art)
Paul Dailey	SES .8 Art
Nicole Dzicek	SES Grade 3
Kelly Fisher	SES .5 Grade 1
James Griffin	SES .5 Gifted/Talented
Kelly Kimball	SES Grade 5
Jill Lund	SES Grade 2
Kristen Moretta	SES Grade 4
Donna Norige	SHS Information Specialist
Maria Peterson	SES Grade 4
Meredith Randall	SHS English
Shireen Rhoades	SES .5 Grade 2
Judith Schober	SES Music
Erin Scholes	MBA Social Studies
Melissa Staunton	SES .5 Grade 1
Lynn Tracy	SHS Food Service
Andrea Zanelli	SES Grade 1

It was MOVED (M.Marquardt) SECONDED (E.Boucher) to approve the superintendent's recommendation to reappoint those listed above for the 2009-2010 school year. PASSED 9-0

8.2 First Warning of DBS Code: 5113.2-Attendance & Excuses-Truancy

8.3 First Warning of DBS Code: 5123-Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

8.4. First Warning of DBS Code: 5131.3-Student Vehicles

8.5 First Warning of DBS Code: 5131.9-Out of School Misconduct

It was recommended by the Board that "email and social networking" should be added to the last sentence starting with "Such conduct includes..." in the second paragraph and the words "and drugs" be added to "the use of alcohol" to the first sentence in paragraph three.

CABE will be consulted about these recommended changes.

8.6 First Warning of DBS Code: 5134-Married/Pregnant Students

8.7 First Warning of DBS Code: 6112-School Day

8.8 First Warning of DBS Code: 6114.1-Fire Emergencies

It was recommended by the Board that the word "teachers" be changed to "staff" in the fourth paragraph, first sentence.

8.9 First Warning of DBS Code: 6141.321-Student Telecommunications

Policies listed as 8.2-8.9 are all existing policies which CABE has recommended changes to. Second Warning/Adoption will be placed on the 6/8/09 agenda.

8.10 First Warning of Supplemental Spelling Program for Grades 1-3

Director of Curriculum, Dr. Judith Houle, and Curriculum Specialist Teacher for K-5 Language Arts, Lisa Reilly, presented a supplemental spelling program, titled *Cast-A-Spell* for grades 1-3. Currently, spelling is taught through our reading series, however, the teachers in grades 1-3 have found that it is not rigorous enough to meet the needs of emerging readers and writers.

One teacher from each grade level has piloted this program this past year and they have found it to be an excellent supplement to the spelling program in the reading text.

Second Warning/Adoption will be placed on the 6/8/09 agenda.

8.11 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code: 5123.2 Summer School Work for Credit

The Policy Committee has reviewed the recommendations made by the board and has made the necessary adjustments in the summer school policy as requested.

It was MOVED (D.Atkinson) SECONDED (D.Palmer) to adopt DBS Code: 5123.2 Summer School Work for Credit Policy as adjusted. PASSED 9-0

8.12 Curriculum Reorganization

Due to the significant increase in class sizes in several sections at the high school, and due to the need to reduce these class sizes to a more reasonable level, the superintendent recommends that the board eliminate the positions of Curriculum Specialist Teachers (CST's) and reassign these individuals to full-time teaching positions commensurate with their areas of certification. Through this action class sizes will be more evenly balanced and will be at a more reasonable level.

It was MOVED (D.Palmer) SECONDED (T.Potrikus) to eliminate the positions of Curriculum Specialist Teachers (CST's) and reassign these individuals to full-time teaching positions commensurate with their areas of certification as recommended by the superintendent. PASSED 9-0

In order to coordinate the curricula at the high school and throughout the district the superintendent recommends that a decentralized curriculum model be implemented. This will require appointment of 7 team leaders at the high school as defined in the SEA contract in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Applied Arts, and Guidance. These team leaders will coordinate the curricula at the high school and will work as building-based curricula facilitators in conjunction with team leaders at the elementary and middle schools.

It was MOVED (D.Palmer) SECONDED (T.Potrikus) to approve the appointment of 7 team leaders at Somers High School from the current high school teaching staff as defined in the SEA contract in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Applied Arts, and Guidance and work in conjunction with team leaders at the elementary and middle schools. PASSED 9-0

To coordinate all curriculum work within the district, the superintendent recommends that the board reinstate a full-time Director of Curriculum with the same job description and responsibilities as defined with the current position.

It was MOVED (D.Palmer) SECONDED (T.Potrikus) to reinstate a full-time Director of Curriculum with the same job description and responsibilities as defined with the current position. PASSED 9-0

8.13 Donation of Defibrillator

It was MOVED (D.Palmer) SECONDED (E.Boucher) to accept the donation of an automatic external defibrillator for the athletic department from the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association, Inc. PASSED 9-0

The Board thanked the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association for their donation.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS – None

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1 Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Suffredini reported that he has been meeting with area superintendents and discussing ways in which the stimulus money may be used to supplement the budget. The application for applying for this grant money has just become available.
- Dr. Suffredini thanked the parent group, Citizens for Somers Educational Excellence, for their involvement in getting people out to vote on the town referendum.
- Dr. Suffredini commended and congratulated Dr. Patricia Collin, Dr. Maureen Winseck, and Dr. Michael Wald for receiving their doctorate this year.
- Dr. Suffredini reported that Somers High School Social Studies teacher, Phil Goduti, has written a book entitled *JFK and His Cabinet*. Mr. Goduti's book has been published and will be available this summer. Dr. Suffredini commended and congratulated Mr. Goduti for his book.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Budget

Mr. Boutwell reported that there have been no significant changes in the 2008-2009 Budget.

Mr. Boutwell reported that he has been notified that the state excess grant will be fully funded this year.

Tim Potrikus reported that he notified the Board of Finance of the following:

- The air quality issue in the high school technology classroom.
- Jim Morrow's status of the life expectancies of the various district computers as presented at the last Board of Education Meeting.
- That part of the ESEA money will come directly to the school district. First Selectmen, Dave Pinney, is aware of this and we will work to together to properly place the funds upon their receipt.

11.2 Curriculum

The committee met this evening and reviewed the new Physical Education and World Language Curriculum, Science Electives, and the Curriculum Development Guide. These documents will be presented as First Warnings at the 6/8/09 BOE meeting.

11.3 Policy

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 1st at 7:00 p.m.

11.4 Salary & Negotiations

Discussions are pending.

11.5 Planning – No Report

11.6 Other Committees – No Report

12.0 OTHER

- The June 22, 2009 Board of Education Meeting is cancelled.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (T.Potrikus) and SECONDED (D.Atkinson) to adjourn the regular meeting of the Somers Board of Education at 9:24 p.m. PASSED 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Atkinson, Secretary
Joan Jaquith, Recording Secretary

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.