

BOE Meeting Template
Monday, March 24, 2014 6:00 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 2
4. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA 5
 1. Approval of Bills
8. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Approval of Job Request - Stephanie Jodice 11
Ms. Stephanie Jodice, SLP for grades K-2 at Somers Elementary School, is requesting approval from the Board to continue to work part-time for the 2014-2015 school year.
 2. Letter of Resignation - D. Brownell 12
Daniel Brownell, Music Teacher at MBA/SHS, has submitted his letter of resignation for the end of the 2013-2014 school year.
9. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 5145 - Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities 13
 2. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 5145.52 - Harassment 17
 3. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 6146: Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency 21
 4. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 6141.321 - Student Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy 23
10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Budget
 2. Curriculum
 3. Policy
 4. Salary & Negotiations
 5. Planning
 6. Other Committees
12. OTHER
 1. Presentation by Nick Caruso from CABA
Mr. Nick Caruso will give a presentation to the Board on CABA information, and roles and responsibilities of boards of education.
13. ADJOURNMENT

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – March 10, 2014

Members Present: D. Palmer, B. Devlin, R. Lees, Jr., J. Formeister, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt, K. McLellan, M. Rockett
Members Absent: S. Moynihan Bollinger
Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, K. Pezza, D. Messina
Staff Present:
Citizens Present: B. Capuano, B. Chlebowski, L. LaCasse
Students Present: N. Devlin, J. Reed
Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Palmer in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Board of Education meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 24, 2014 – It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (J. Formeister) to approve the February 24, 2014 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 8-0.**

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Emails were received by the Board of Education members.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (R. Lees) to approve the 3/10/14 bills in the amount of \$459,043.02 as presented. **PASSED 8-0.**

7.2 Retirement of B. Polek

It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (R. Lees) to accept with regret the retirement of B. Polek effective June 30, 2014. **PASSED 8-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. First Warning of DBS Code 5145 – Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for this policy and is presenting as is for the first warning to the Board. The second warning/adoption will be included in the 3/24/14 BOE agenda.

- 8.2. First Warning of DBS Code 5145.52 – Harassment**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for this policy and is presenting as is for the first warning to the Board. The second warning/adoption will be included in the 3/24/14 BOE agenda.
- 8.3 First Warning of DBS Code 6146 – Graduation**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for this policy and is presenting as is for the first warning to the Board. The second warning/adoption will be included in the 3/24/14 BOE agenda.
- 8.4 First Warning of DBS Code 6141.321 – Student Telecommunication Acceptable Use Policy**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for this policy and is presenting as is for the first warning to the Board. The second warning/adoption will be included in the 3/24/14 BOE agenda.
- 8.5 Open Choice Program**
It was MOVED (B. Devlin), SECONDED (R. Lees) to maintain the current allotment of 24 seats for Choice students for the 2014-2015 school year. PASSED 8-0
- 8.6 Connecticut’s Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-2014 Flexibility Request**
It was MOVED (B. Devlin), SECONDED (A. Kirkpatrick) to allow the Somers Public School District to apply for flexibility on the 2013-2014 SEED system requirements. PASSED 8-0

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 3432 – Budget & Expense Report/ Annual Financial Statement**
It was MOVED (A. Kirkpatrick), SECONDED (R. Lees) to approve DBS Code 3432 as presented. PASSED 8-0.
- 9.2 Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 1331 – Smoke Free Environment**
It was MOVED (A. Kirkpatrick), SECONDED (M. Rockett) to approve DBS Code 1331 as presented. PASSED 8-0.

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 10.1. Amendment to the 2014-2015 School Budget**
It was MOVED (B. Devlin), SECONDED (M. Marquardt) to amend the already approved budget by \$ 24,589.00 for a total of \$20,744,253.00 PASSED 8-0
- 10.2. The Lou Bachetti Memorial**
The Superintendent updated the Board on the Lou Bachetti Memorial. Dr. Suffredini has been working with the family on the monument and on the location. The cost will be approximately \$3,000.00 and will be raised privately. A large portion of the funds have been raised already.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

- 11.1. Budget - No report.**
- 11.2. Curriculum – No report.**

11.3. Policy – A. Kirkpatrick reported that the Policy Committee met on 2/24/14. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7 p.m.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – No report.

11.5. Planning – Chairman Palmer reported that the Planning Committee met on 2/24/14. The next meeting will be in March.

11.6. Other Committees - No report.

12.0 OTHER

- **Nick Caruso from CAFE will be at the next BOE meeting.**

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (B. Devlin), SECONDED (M. Marquardt) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 7:34 p.m. PASSED 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rick Lees, Jr., Secretary
Shannin Burns, Recording Secretary**


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

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Report # 27705

Check Batch: 9910
 Check Header: (N / A)
 Check Numbers: (First) - (Last)
 Check Dates: (Earliest) - (Latest)
 Cash Account Numbers: (First) - (Last)
 Bank Account Code: (N/A)
 Check Authorization Code: AP GB
 Minimum Check Amount: \$0.00
 Sorted By:
 Include Payable Information: No
 Include Payable Dist Information: No
 Include Authorization Information: Yes

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
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Approved by:  **Date:** 3/18/14

 William B. Boutwell, Director of Business Services

9910	8074	03/24/2014	V60849	Acres Power Equipment Co	0.00	171.00
	8075	03/24/2014	V58674	Administrator, Unemployment Compensation	0.00	30.00
	8076	03/24/2014	V60028	Airex Filter Corporation	0.00	199.49
	8077	03/24/2014	V02129	Alarm New England LLC	0.00	521.19
	8078	03/24/2014	V52670	Amazon	0.00	362.27
	8079	03/24/2014	V02141	Apple Inc.	0.00	350.00
	8080	03/24/2014	V00555	AT&T	0.00	936.45
	8081	03/24/2014	V00884	Avery Septic Service	0.00	200.00
	8082	03/24/2014	V60123	B&H Photo-Video	0.00	218.51
	8083	03/24/2014	V52478	Bart Truck Equipment LLC.	0.00	225.14
	8084	03/24/2014	V60401	Brooks Environmental	0.00	2,510.00
	8085	03/24/2014	M54301	C&A Distributors, Inc.	0.00	300.00
	8086	03/24/2014	V60892	Cables for Less LLC	0.00	65.80
	8087	03/24/2014	V53390	CIRMA	0.00	18,604.00
	8088	03/24/2014	V60574	CLG Electric LLC	0.00	1,605.00
	8089	03/24/2014	E00076	Cotzin, Gary	0.00	42.38
	8090	03/24/2014	V00204	CREC	0.00	18,300.35
	8091	03/24/2014	V00204	CREC	0.00	49,095.00
	8092	03/24/2014	V60550	Devereux Glenholme	0.00	9,492.00
	8093	03/24/2014	V60089	Dime Oil Company LLC	0.00	44,061.09

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	8094	03/24/2014	V60483	Dream Bat Company, LLC	0.00	110.00
	8095	03/24/2014	E00096	Duffy, Margaret	0.00	30.51
	8096	03/24/2014	V00605	Electrical Wholesalers	0.00	71.31
	8097	03/24/2014	V54191	Electrified Discounters, Inc.	0.00	520.01
	8098	03/24/2014	V00290	Town of Enfield	0.00	8,643.00
	8099	03/24/2014	V54168	First Student, Inc	0.00	60,146.36
	8100	03/24/2014	V60035	Google, Inc.	0.00	27.05
	8101	03/24/2014	V54081	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	0.00	158.00
	8102	03/24/2014	V00511	Grainger	0.00	565.37
	8103	03/24/2014	V53439	Group Dynamic	0.00	66.60
	8104	03/24/2014	V51979	Integrated Systems Services, LLC	0.00	292.70
	8105	03/24/2014	V00048	Johnson Controls	0.00	1,872.09
	8106	03/24/2014	V02625	K & S Distributors	0.00	1,179.28
	8107	03/24/2014	V00665	Kelly-Fradet Lumber	0.00	30.40
	8108	03/24/2014	E00172	Kimball, Kelly	0.00	19.95
	8109	03/24/2014	V00691	LOMAC, LTD.	0.00	416.55
	8110	03/24/2014	V02898	MagnaKleen Services	0.00	203.90
	8111	03/24/2014	E00690	Messina, Denise	0.00	246.15
	8112	03/24/2014	V54159	Vernon Printing Co, Inc.	0.00	2,602.00
	8113	03/24/2014	V00827	Moore Medical Corp.	0.00	1,368.00
	8114	03/24/2014	E00241	Norton, Karen	0.00	8.05
	8115	03/24/2014	V53849	NCS Pearson, Inc.	0.00	409.43
	8116	03/24/2014	V60568	Pediatric Services of America Inc	0.00	2,970.00
	8117	03/24/2014	V53914	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	0.00	39.09
	8118	03/24/2014	V53356	ProCom Telecommunications Corp	0.00	499.50
	8119	03/24/2014	V51134	Richco Products, Inc.	0.00	196.90
	8120	03/24/2014	E00288	Roberts, Steven	0.00	26.56
	8121	03/24/2014	V60851	Rushford Center Inc.	0.00	10,193.36
	8122	03/24/2014	V60948	Scitico Equipment Repair	0.00	111.90
	8123	03/24/2014	V60946	ServPro	0.00	685.93
	8124	03/24/2014	V60031	SNE Building Systems	0.00	557.50
	8125	03/24/2014	V02404	Somers Ace Hardware	0.00	515.74
	8126	03/24/2014	V00486	Somers High School	0.00	535.37
	8127	03/24/2014	V60809	Somers Mechanical Services, LLC	0.00	250.41
	8128	03/24/2014	V60616	Somers Public Schools	0.00	9,116.03
	8129	03/24/2014	V60902	Suffield High School	0.00	575.00
	8130	03/24/2014	V60394	SWAN Associates Inc	0.00	763.00

Somers Board of Education General Budget Treasury Warrant

Batch #	Check #	Check Date	Vendor Code	Vendor Name	Electronic Amount	Check Amount
	8131	03/24/2014	M02015	T. J. Conway Company	0.00	118.00
	8132	03/24/2014	V60374	Tecta America New England LLC	0.00	1,409.98
	8133	03/24/2014	V01638	Tree House, The	0.00	804.00
	8134	03/24/2014	M53099	Tull Brothers, Inc.	0.00	805.50
	8135	03/24/2014	V53987	U.S. Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc	0.00	4,101.08
	8136	03/24/2014	V60949	USSC	0.00	184.00
Totals:					0.00	\$260,735.23

63 Checks Listed.

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 27704
Batch: 9890
Transaction: N/A
Show Summary Only: Yes

Batch # 9890	Control Total \$260,735.23	Status Posted	Created By lbergamini	Created On 03/17/2014	Last Updated By lbergamini	Last Updated On 03/18/2014
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General Ledger Distribution Summary						
Period, Fiscal Year	Account Number	Account Description	DTF Base	Over Budget	Debits	Credits
March, 2014						
Generated Distributions						
	10-000-0-0-00-000-710-00-0-00000	ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL			252,188.55	0.00
	10-000-0-0-00-000-720-00-0-00000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCE			0.00	252,188.55
Total Generated Distributions					\$252,188.55	\$252,188.55
User-Entered Distributions						
	10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			13.50	0.00
	10-000-0-0-00-000-241-00-0-00000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			0.00	260,748.73
	10-100-2-3-12-242-611-01-5-00182	MA - TECHNOLOGY ED SUPPLIES			40.33	0.00
	10-100-2-4-46-242-611-01-5-00229	HS - SCHOOL TO CAREER SUPPLIES			350.00	0.00
	10-100-2-5-14-241-611-01-5-00873	SW - GENERAL COMPUTER SUPPLIES			882.28	0.00
	10-120-9-9-98-243-611-01-5-01002	SP ED - TESTING			409.43	0.00
	10-120-9-9-98-251-580-05-5-00273	SP ED - DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL			246.15	0.00
	10-120-9-9-98-955-330-02-5-01674	SP ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES		Yes	2,970.00	0.00
	10-213-3-4-48-421-323-02-5-01146	SW HEALTH SUPPLIES			1,368.00	0.00
	10-221-1-4-50-251-580-05-5-00267	HS - TRAVEL/IN-SERVICE			57.07	0.00
	10-221-1-4-50-251-580-05-5-00269	HS - PRINCIPAL'S TRAVEL			42.38	0.00
	10-222-2-5-14-233-611-03-5-00150	SW - COMPUTER SOFTWARE			28.00	0.00
	10-231-1-5-74-134-590-10-5-00049	B.O.E. - PRINTING		Yes	2,602.00	0.00
	10-231-6-5-82-820-529-13-5-00521	SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL			2,048.00	0.00
	10-232-6-5-66-830-440-04-5-00525	CO - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	1,025.26	0.00
	10-232-6-5-66-830-440-04-5-00526	CO - POSTAGE METER			39.09	0.00
	10-240-6-2-66-830-440-04-5-00523	K-5 - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	1,025.26	0.00
	10-240-6-3-66-830-440-03-5-00527	MA - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	1,025.28	0.00
	10-240-6-4-66-830-440-04-5-00763	HS - COPIER RENTAL		Yes	1,025.28	0.00
	10-260-1-5-64-642-530-04-5-01217	SW - COMMUNICATION SUPPLIES		Yes	499.50	0.00
	10-260-5-2-62-722-430-08-5-01141	K-5 BUILDING REPAIRS		Yes	361.29	0.00
	10-260-5-2-64-642-530-04-5-00363	K-5 - TELEPHONE		Yes	275.93	0.00
	10-260-5-3-64-642-530-04-5-00365	MA - TELEPHONE		Yes	112.01	0.00
	10-260-5-4-64-642-530-04-5-00366	HS - TELEPHONE			291.87	0.00
	10-260-5-5-64-642-530-04-5-00367	CO - TELEPHONE			256.64	0.00
	10-260-5-6-44-722-430-03-5-00404	SW - A.V. MAINTENANCE			284.31	0.00

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 27704

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
9890	\$260,735.23	Posted	lbergamini	03/17/2014	lbergamini	03/18/2014
					720.70	0.00
					0.00	13.50
					804.00	0.00
				Yes	3,828.90	0.00
				Yes	6,265.20	0.00
				Yes	1,797.47	0.00
				Yes	184.00	0.00
				Yes	1,409.98	0.00
				Yes	468.22	0.00
					7.19	0.00
				Yes	158.00	0.00
					71.31	0.00
				Yes	0.00	0.00
					21,508.20	0.00
					22,552.89	0.00
					521.19	0.00
					13,768.00	0.00
					27.05	0.00
					19,768.00	0.00
					23,746.36	0.00
				Yes	6,045.00	0.00
					15,850.00	0.00
					506.00	0.00
					276.00	0.00
					66.60	0.00
					30.00	0.00
				Yes	2,788.00	0.00
					9,116.03	0.00
					1,220.37	0.00
					49,095.00	0.00
					8,643.00	0.00
				Yes	31,940.71	0.00
					<u>\$260,762.23</u>	<u>\$260,762.23</u>
					<u>\$512,950.78</u>	<u>\$512,950.78</u>
					<u>\$512,950.78</u>	<u>\$512,950.78</u>

Somers Board of Education General Journal Register

Report # 27704

Batch #	Control Total	Status	Created By	Created On	Last Updated By	Last Updated On
9890	\$260,735.23	Posted	lbergamini	03/17/2014	lbergamini	03/18/2014

236 Transactions Listed.

SOMERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4 Vision Blvd., Somers, CT 06071-1937

Jennifer W. Oliver - Principal

Dina M. Senecal - Assistant Principal

February 27, 2014

Dear Dr. Suffredini:

Thank you for the opportunity to work part-time as a .5 Speech-Language Pathologist. It has been a pleasure working at Somers Elementary School and it has been a great balance for my family.

I am requesting the opportunity to work part-time (.5) in the 2014-2015 school year. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to follow a similar schedule to the schedule that I successfully followed in the 2013-2014 school year.

I look forward to hearing your response and to hopefully participating in another wonderful school year with the Somers Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Jodice, M.S., SLP-CCC

Daniel Brownell
HS and MS Choral Music Director
Somers Public Schools
1 Vision Blvd.
Somers, CT 06071

Dr. Maynard Suffredini
Superintendent of Schools
Somers Public Schools
1 Vision Blvd.
Somers, CT 06071

Dear Dr. Suffredini,

I am writing to you at this time to inform you that I will be resigning from my position effective at the end of my current contract on June 30, 2014. My experience as Choral Music Director has provided me the opportunity to grow and develop as a teacher and will serve me well in the next chapter of my career.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Brownell

Students

Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

The District recognizes its responsibility to provide a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Accordingly, no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any District program or activity **including extra-curricular athletics or other non-academic activities**, or those provided by the District through contractual or other arrangements. District aids, benefits and services will afford qualified students with disabilities equal opportunity to obtain the same result gain the same benefit or reach the same level of achievement as students without disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the student's needs. Programs and activities shall be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law.

A qualified individual with disabilities under Section 504 is an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment.

Major life activities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, include caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, learning, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating; and major bodily functions, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

In compliance with the provisions of Section 504, the District will:

1. Provide written assurance of nondiscrimination in accordance with application procedures whenever the District receives federal money;
2. Designate an employee to coordinate compliance with Section 504;
3. Provide procedures to resolve complaints of discrimination under Section 504;
4. Provide notice to students, parents, employees, including those with vision or hearing impairments, of the District's policy and compliance with law assuring nondiscrimination in admission or access to, or treatment, in District programs, activities or employment. Notice will be included in student/parent and staff handbooks and other materials as appropriate;
5. Annually identify and locate all Section 504 qualified students with disabilities in the District who are not receiving a free appropriate, public education;

Students

Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities (continued)

6. Ensure that tests and other evaluation materials have been validated, are administered by trained personnel, are tailored to assess educational need and are not based on IQ scores, and reflect what the tests purport to measure;
7. Provide nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as to afford qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities; by making reasonable modifications* and provide those aids and services that are necessary to ensure an equal opportunity to participate, unless the District can show that doing so would be a fundamental alteration to its programs;

*If a modification is necessary, the District must allow it unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration of the extracurricular-athletic activity. A modification might constitute a fundamental alteration if it alters such an essential aspect of the activity or game that it would be unacceptable even if it affected all competitors equally (such as adding an extra base in baseball.) Alternatively, a change that has only a peripheral impact on the activity or game might nevertheless give a particular player with a disability an unfair advantage over others and, for that reason, fundamentally alter the character of the competition.

Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include, but are not limited to, counseling services, transportation, health services, athletics, intramurals, clubs or organization activities, referrals to agencies which provide assistance to persons with disabilities and employment of students, including both employment by the district and assistance by the district in making available outside employment.

8. Annually notify students with disabilities and their parents or guardians of the District's responsibilities under Section 504, including those with limited proficiency in English and those with vision or hearing impairments;
9. Provide parents or guardians with procedural safeguards, including notification of their right:
 - a. To be notified in writing of any decisions made by the District concerning the identification, evaluation or educational placement of their student pursuant to Section 504. (The District will request parental consent prior to conducting an evaluation of the student);
 - b. To examine, copy and request amendments of the student's educational records;
 - c. To request an impartial hearing, with opportunity for participation by the student's parents or guardian and representation by counsel regarding District

decisions concerning identification, evaluation or educational placement of their student. A review procedure will be provided.

10. Students with disabilities who cannot participate in the school's existing extracurricular athletics program, even with reasonable modifications or aids and services, still have an equal opportunity to receive the benefits of extracurricular athletics. The District therefore should/may (TBD) create additional opportunities for such students, such as creating disability-specific teams for sports such as wheelchair tennis or basketball. (If numbers are insufficient, districts can develop regional teams, mix male and female students with disabilities on teams together, offer "allied" or "unified" sports teams mixing disabled and non-disabled students.)

Students identified as qualified individuals with disabilities under Section 504 shall be placed in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated by the District that the education of the student with the use of related aids and services in such a placement cannot be achieved satisfactorily. All placement decisions will be made by an evaluation team comprised of persons designated by the Superintendent or designee, knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data and placement options.

Students will be reevaluated periodically, but no less than every three years. Additionally, before implementing discipline that constitutes a significant change in the placement (i.e., expulsion, serial suspensions which exceed 10 school days in a school year, a series of suspensions each of which is 10 or fewer school days in duration but that creates a pattern of exclusion), the District shall conduct a manifestation determination to ascertain whether the misconduct in question is caused by the student's disability and, if so, whether the student's current educational placement is appropriate.

If it is determined that the misconduct of the student is caused by the disability, the District's team will continue the evaluation, following the requirements of Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA) for evaluation and placement to determine whether the student's current educational placement is appropriate. Due process procedures that meet the requirements of the IDEA may be used to meet the procedural safeguards of law.

If it is determined that the misconduct is not caused by the student's disability, the student may be excluded from school in the same manner as are similarly situated students who do not have disabilities.

A student identified as a qualified individual with disabilities under Section 504, who is also covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, will be disciplined in accordance with Board policy #5144.2, "Discipline of Students with Disabilities."

A reevaluation will also be required before any other significant change in placement (i.e., transferring a student to alternative education, significantly changing the composition of the student's class schedule, such as from regular education to the resource room, etc.).

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§791, 793-794 (2006), (34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006)

Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, "Dear Colleague Letter", 113 LRP 3326 (OCR 1/25/13)

Policy adopted: October 12, 2010

Students

Harassment

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning environment in the schools. Therefore, harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated. This policy applies to all students, staff members, Board members, parents, vendors, contracted individuals, volunteers, other employees and other visitors – who are on District grounds or property or on property within the jurisdiction of the District; on buses operated by or for the District; while attending or engaged in District activities; and while away from District grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the District.

Employees, students, and others are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful and courteous to all. The principle of freedom of expression that might otherwise protect the most offensive public speech does not protect or encompass a right to threaten the dignity and privacy of an individual. Such personally directed behavior will not be tolerated. It is contrary to academic values, debilitates its victims, compromises the offenders, and undermines the District's fundamental commitment to individual freedom and respect for all its members. Furthermore, acts of intolerance may destroy the very atmosphere in which freedom of expression is otherwise tolerated and cherished.

For purposes of this policy, harassment consists of verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, religion, sex, (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), national origin/ethnicity, physical attributes or disability, (including, but not limited to, mental retardation, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), parental or marital status, sexual orientation, including gender identity/expression or age when such conduct/harassment:

1. is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment;
2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance; and
3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities.

Harassment as set forth above may include, but is not limited to:

- verbal, physical, or written intimidation or abuse;
- repeated remarks of a demeaning or condescending nature;
- repeated demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the individual.

The Board strictly prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint, for aiding or encouraging the filing of a report or complaint, or for cooperating in an investigation of discrimination or harassment. The Board considers/treats retaliation as a form of discrimination.

For purposes of this policy, **sexual harassment** shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; and other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a student's academic status;
2. submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or work decisions affecting the individual;
3. such conduct deprives a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment;
4. such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to sexual flirtations, advances, touching or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; jokes; pin-ups; calendars; objects; graffiti; vulgar statements; abusive language; innuendoes; references to sexual activities; overt sexual conduct; or any conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to work or learn or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment.

For purposes of this policy **teen dating violence**, also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse, includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 inclusive in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship. **Stalking** can be defined as a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. **Sexual assault** is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

Dating violence occurs when one partner is in a dating relationship, either past or present, intentionally uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other partner.

Teen dating violence is unacceptable behavior and prohibited/will not be tolerated.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults, name-calling, put-downs, threats to hurt the student or the student's family members, destroying property belonging to the student, threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

For purposes of this policy, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or

3. Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Any student who is a victim of teen dating violence in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the District's Compliance Officer.

The District shall incorporate age-appropriate education about teen dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in grades 6 (7) through 12. In addition, the District shall incorporate into existing professional development program for staff information related to the prevention of and appropriate response to teen dating violence

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of their fellow students and district employees and to ensure an environment free from all forms of unlawful harassment.

Should harassment be alleged, it is the policy of this Board that it shall be thoroughly investigated, that there shall be no retaliation against the victim of the alleged harassment, and that the problem/concern shall be appropriately addressed.

In order to maintain an educational environment that discourages and prohibits unlawful harassment, the Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to designate a District Compliance Officer.

cf. 0521 – Nondiscrimination)
(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)
(cf. 4118.113/4218.113 – Harassment)
(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)
(cf. 5131.912 – Aggressive Behavior)
(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)
(cf. 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect)
(cf. 5145 – Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)
(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Students

Harassment (continued)

Legal Reference: Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq.

29 CFR 1604.11, EEOC Guidelines on Sex Discrimination.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

34 CFR Section 106.8(b), OCR Guidelines for Title IX.

Definitions, OCR Guidelines on Sexual Harassment, Fed. Reg. Vol 62, #49, 29 CFR Sec. 1606.8 (a0 62 Fed Reg. 12033 (March 13, 1997) and 66 Fed. Reg. 5512 (January 19, 2001)

Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, No. 97-282 (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, No. 97-569, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Gebbser v. Lago Vista Indiana School District, No. 99-1866, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Davis v. Monro County Board of Education, No. 97-843, (U.S. Supreme Court, May 24, 1999.)

Connecticut General Statutes

46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds. (Amended by P.A. 97-247 to include “sexual orientation)

10-153 Discrimination on account of marital status.

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse.

Policy adopted:

Revised: 11/01

4/02

6/10

1/11

10/11/11

INSTRUCTION:

Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency:

The Administration shall submit to the Board of Education through the Superintendent their detailed requirements and standards of proficiency. The faculty will apply both objective and subjective measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant graduation. Such requirements and standards shall be approved by the Board of Education.

Graduation requirements shall be established by the Board of Education. Any change of the requirements shall be submitted to the Board of Education by the Superintendent or his designee for approval.

Graduation may involve awarding to students a Somers High School Diploma or a Certificate of Completion of a Program of Special Studies. The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any World War II veteran, ~~or~~ veteran of the Korean hostilities, or Vietnam era requesting such diploma who left high school for military service as defined in the statutes.

Graduation shall not be held until 180 days (minimum 900 hours) of actual school work are completed. (CGS 10-16).

Cross Reference: Policy # 5127

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results.

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut and P.A. 11-17, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas to Korean Veterans, P.A. 13-

57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans,
P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education
Statutes

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA
01-166)

Adopted: September 28, 1981
Revised: June 26, 1989
May 28, 2002
March 5, 2007
July 9, 2009
January 23, 2012

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, **tablets**, 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.~~ Such monitoring or review will be limited and done, as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for District-related educational purposes. 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. The use of district telecommunication services and equipment for cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Any such cases must be reported to the building administration for disciplinary action.
10. 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: 4118.5 - 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
 November 23, 2009