

DRAFT BOE Meeting Minutes 4-7-14

Monday, April 7, 2014 7:00 PM

MABELLE B. AVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ROOM, 4 Vision
Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. DRAFT BOE Meeting Minutes 4-7-14

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – April 7, 2014

Members Present: D. Palmer, B. Devlin, R. Lees, Jr., S. Moynihan Bollinger
(arrived at 7:08 p.m.), A. Kirkpatrick, K. McLellan, M. Rockett
Members Absent: J. Formeister, M. Marquardt
Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, K. Pezza,
Staff Present: C. Meagher
Citizens Present:
Students Present: N. Shimuzu, T. Sanchez, U. Cormier, A. Wassmuth, A. Duarte,
P. Kennedy, M. Morgan, J. Galinski, K. Trescott, B. Turley, S.
Savage, J. Yarrows

Others:

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:04 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

March 24, 2014 – It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (K. McLellan) to approve the March 24, 2014 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 6-0** (S. Bollinger was absent at the time of the vote).

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

4.1. Curriculum Presentations

Kathleen Pezza, Director of Curriculum, gave PowerPoint presentations on Social Studies, Virtual High School, and Gifted and Talented.

- The Social Studies curriculum has not recently been modified because the State has not made its final decision incorporating the Common Core. SES focuses on the local community, CT history, geography/immigration, famous people from CT, and colonization. MBA focuses on ancient civilization, contemporary cultures, world religion, a mock cave exploration, the Silk Road, and Louis and Clark along with a trip to the Boston Museum. SHS focuses on world history/international studies, WWII with a half year in Civics along with a variety of electives in the 11th and 12th grades.
- The Virtual High School is an online learning option with some courses offered in the high school during the fall, spring, and summer. It provides courses that would not otherwise be offered in the schools. There are “20 free seats” allotted each year under the direction of an onsite coordinator.
- Quest is a program at the SES for those students who are identified through specific entrance criteria as gifted. The top 20% of each third grade class is chosen and sent out weekly while the top 10% of the 20% is sent out twice a

week. The State is interested in the top 5%. There are specific projects that the students focus on in each grade. Enrichment opportunities (i.e. Invention Convention) are offered to students outside of Quest.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Board received an email.
- Chairman Palmer received an email from Dr. Suffredini.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (M. Rockett) to approve the 4/7/14 bills in the amount of \$510,687.91 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Approval of Job-Sharing Agreements

It was **MOVED** (R. Lees), **SECONDED** (A. Kirkpatrick) to approve the continuation of three SES job-sharing agreements in the 2014-2015 school year under the recommendation of Dr. Suffredini. These requests were submitted by P. Clark/R. Leiphart for Information Literacy and Technology Integration, N. Dzicek/M. Shannon for Grade 3, and M. Staunton/K. Doran for Grade 1. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.2. District Wellness Committee Report

Carol Meagher, Head Nurse, provided an update for the Board regarding the district Wellness Committee. A major focus of the committee is meeting with parents of children with food allergies. Three meetings are held with the parents during the school year to discuss issues and obtain feedback. Other issues continue to be bringing school lunches in line with the USDA as well as discussing ways to incorporate physical activity into daily life.

8.3. First Warning of Adoption of New Textbook – Geometry Textbook

The Curriculum Committee presented the first warning of adoption of the new textbook – Geometry.

8.4. First Warning of DBS Code 3516: Safety

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for this policy and is presenting as a first warning to the Board. The older version of Somers' policy is included as well to review the recommended changes. The current policy will be in the packet for the next meeting.

8.5. First Warning of DBS Code 3231: Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students

The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CABE for this policy and is presenting as a first warning to the Board. The policy was amended to state that "The Board of Education may seek Medicaid reimbursement..." as stated in the first sentence of the policy.

- 8.6. First Warning of DBS Code 4118.231: Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco**
This is a required policy to meet the requirement of the Drug-Free Workplace/Schools and Community Act and is being presented as a first warning to the Board.
- 8.7. First Warning of DBS Code 9273: Conflict of Interest**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for this policy and is presenting as a first warning to the Board.
- 8.8. First Warning of DBS Code 1316.2: Civility**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for this policy and is presenting for the first warning to the Board. A new policy was received this past week encouraging all Boards to adopt a new policy pertaining to civility not only within the district but also with staff and students outside of the district.
- 8.9. First Warning of DBS Code 4118.24/4218.24: Staff/Student Relationships**
The Policy Committee has reviewed recommendations by CAFE for this policy and is presenting for the first warning to the Board.
- 8.10. Long-Range Plan**
It was **MOVED** (B. Devlin), **SECONDED** (R. Lees) to approve the current, modified long-range plan for the district as presented. **PASSED 6-1, OPPOSED 1** (A. Kirkpatrick).

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1. Second Warning/Adoption of DBS Code 6146: Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency**
It was **MOVED** (R. Lees), **SECONDED** (A. Kirkpatrick) to approve DBS Code 6146 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- **Dr. Suffredini reported that the tough winter put a toll on the high school track and suggested the Long-Range Planning Committee become involved in this project. The track's current state will be assessed so as to make sure it is not a hazard for future events.**
- **Dr. Suffredini reported that due to the restructuring of the State Police and Town Police, Lt. Claudio will now head up the Constables.**
- **Dr. Suffredini reported that the pros and cons of the Common Core continue to be discussed. He reported that for now the schools are complying with what the State has mandated.**
- **Dr. Suffredini reported that the SEA had a concern regarding the HSA insurance plan and that letters of clarification have been drafted between the SEA and administration.**
- **Dr. Suffredini reported that on Thursday, 4/10/14, Friendly's Restaurant in Enfield will donate 20% of each check to the Somers PTA towards the Safe Grad event to be held at Sonny's Place. Coupons were made available.**

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes will be taken at all subcommittee meetings.

11.1. Budget – Chairman Palmer reported that there has been no input from the BOF since the last meeting but that another meeting needs to be held prior to the town meeting on 4/21/14.

11.2. Curriculum – Chairman Palmer stated that the textbook will be reviewed at the next meeting.

11.3. Policy – A. Kirkpatrick stated that the next meeting will be held on 4/14/14 at 6:00 p.m.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – B. Devlin reported that the custodians' meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4/9/14 and the nurses' meeting will be held on Thursday, 4/15/14.

11.5. Planning Committee – No report.

11.6. Other Committees – No report.

12.0 OTHER

- **The status of the roofing project was discussed. B. Boutwell reported that a bid is still needed as well as specifications from the electrical engineer.**
- **A. Kirkpatrick reported on the set calendar for CREC: school is to begin on Wednesday in the fourth week of August with two flex days either before or after this day; spring vacation will be held on the second full week of April; February vacation will just include the Monday and Tuesday with Tuesday being a Professional Development Day; school will technically be closed on Election Day; school will be open on Good Friday; no Professional Development Days to be held within the last twelve weeks of school; and five flex days. Changes are tentatively to go into effect for the 2015-2016 school year.**

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (B. Devlin), SECONDED (R. Lees) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:32 p.m. PASSED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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