

DRAFT BOARD MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2015 7:00 PM

Draft BoE Minutes - September 14, 2015, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2015

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 Vision Boulevard

Somers, CT 06071

www.somers.k12.ct.us

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Members Present: B. Devlin, S. Moynihan Bollinger, J. Formeister, A. Kirkpatrick, M. Marquardt (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), K. McLellan, M. Rockett

Members Absent: D. Palmer, R. Lees, Jr.

Administrators Present: Dr. M. Suffredini, B. Boutwell, Dr. D. Messina, J. Oliver, M. Mucci, D. Carroll

Staff Present: C. Gustafson, A. Phillips

Citizens Present: D. Shewokis, B. Childs, C. G. Knorr, Jr., M. Peacock, D. Robidoux, J. Robidoux, S. Robidoux, L. Morton, R. Hafford, E. Hafford, M. Splain, B. Capuano, J. Morton, B. Schmidt

Students Present: J. Robidoux

Others: W. Healey (J.I.)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Devlin in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Board of Education meeting room.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 24, 2015 – It was **MOVED** (A. Kirkpatrick), **SECONDED** (M. Rockett) to approve the August 24, 2015 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented. **PASSED 6-0.**

4.0 AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

- J. Morton distributed a letter to Board members and addressed the Board regarding the canceled bus route on County Road. J. Morton, J. Robidoux, and B. Childs recommended that the Board consider a small bus or school minivan to transfer the students on County Road rather than having the students walk to one bus stop.
- D. Shewokis addressed the Board citing DBS Codes 1110.1 and 1212 in regards to a parent volunteer for Cross Country.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received correspondence from a citizen.

6.0 OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Approval of Bills

It was **MOVED** (J. Formeister), **SECONDED** (S. Bollinger) to approve the 9/14/15 bills in the amount of \$397,294.78 as presented. **PASSED 7-0.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.1. Capital Projects Update

Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, updated the Board on past and current capital projects in our district. The only project currently funded is the ongoing cost of the roof membrane. The campus-wide security and two roof replacements involved local and state funding. CIP is recommending a number of projects to the BOF including allocation of funds for discretionary purposes for the Board and town to meet capital needs.

10.2. District Performance on Federal Indicators

Dr. Denise Messina, Director of Pupil Services, briefed the Board on the district's performance on Federal Indicators. She explained that the State collects data and applications from Pupil Services to report to the Federal Government. The districts are divided into three categories. Somers is in the category of meeting requirements. This year the district will be participating in an auditing process that will specifically target certain data, IEP's, and include a parent survey that will take place in June. A report will be provided regarding the audit.

10.3. Summer School Update

- **D. Carroll, Assistant Principal at Somers High School, updated the Board on the Summer School program. SHS utilized Odysseyware, an online learning program that meets the needs of struggling learners. Students were offered two time slots at the school which was supervised by a staff member. Enrollment grew to 13 students this summer. The students' success rate was a little bit less than last year due to lack of attendance and students rushing through the program. The school is going to look into better communication with families and students to discuss expectations and what they will encounter when utilizing the software.**
- **Dr. D. Messina, Director of Pupil Services, and M. Mucci, Interim Assistant Principal at Somers Elementary School, updated the Board on the Summer School program. The SLAM (Supporting Language Arts and Math) program was relocated to MBA this summer due to the roof construction at SES. There were 49 students who participated in the program this summer which consisted of two two-week sessions that were supervised by staff members. Theme-based Summer Success Kits were utilized in reading and math. The program is offered to students who have significant regression from the educational program over the summer. The students may or may not be on an IEP. The increase in student attendance this summer may be related to flyers that were passed out to families during the March conferences and later in the school year. The increase in students allowed the program to be extended an extra half-hour.**

10.4. Transportation Update

Dr. Suffredini, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Bill Boutwell, Director of Business Services, updated the Board on district transportation. Dr. Suffredini reported that the school received the bus routes later than usual this year due to the bus company utilizing new software that establishes the bus routes. The administration received the routes on 8/24/15 which was then placed on the school website on 8/25/15. One of the concerns was an overly crowded bus with a long route which was resolved with the bus company. The administrators received notification from the bus company in late August of their concern with County Road. The bus company was adamant not to transport a bus through County Road. Dr. Suffredini and Mr. Boutwell met with L. Pellegrini, T. Rolland, and Lt. J. Claudio to discuss this issue. The road is defined as a scenic road. Dr. Suffredini had suggested a school minivan or small bus to transport students on County Road. Lt. Claudio did not recommend multiple bus stops because it presented safety concerns. He recommended one bus stop to pick up/drop off the children. Dr. Suffredini had questioned the use of guardrails for the road; however, the residents would have to petition the town. The residents would have to go through the Town Hall, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, etc. to improve the safety of the road. The Board is requesting input from the attorney to reference each of the laws and will look at the policy for the next meeting. The Board is also requesting a statement from the town listing the road's conditions.

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 committee met on 9/14/15 prior to the Board meeting and may tentatively meet on Monday, 10/5/15 at 6:30 p.m.

11.4. Salary & Negotiations – No report.

11.5. Planning – No report.

11.6. Other Committees – None.

12.0 OTHER

- S. Bollinger requested more information on the new SRO (School Resource Officer) position. Dr. Suffredini explained that the position is a full-time position during the school year. Trooper Hevey was introduced to the staff on Convocation Day. He rotates between the schools throughout the day but will still respond to State Police officials.**
- It was MOVED (A. Kirkpatrick), SECONDED (K. McLellan) to suspend DBS Code 4112 in order to expedite the process of hiring a Director of Curriculum. Dr. Suffredini, Superintendent of Schools, notified the Board that he would hire the candidate and invite the candidate to meet the Board. PASSED 7-0.**

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** (M. Marquardt), **SECONDED** (S. Bollinger) to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:30 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.