Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2026 7:00 PM
Somers Board of Education Chambers, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
    1. Approval of the June 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes 2
       The Board to review and approve the minutes from the June 8, 2026 Board meeting.
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
    1. Superintendent Update
5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
    1. Warrant of June 17, 2026 10
       The Board to review and consent to the warrant of June 17, 2026.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
    1. 1st Posting DBS Code 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect 13
    2. 1st Posting DBS Code 9321 - Time, Place, and Notice of Meeting 17
    3. 1st Posting DBS Code 9120 - Officers 20
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
    1. Curriculum
    2. Policy
    3. Planning/Finance
    4. Salary & Negotiations
    5. Building
10. **CIP/CREC/SEF**
11. **ADVANCE CALENDAR**
12. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**
13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
    The Board to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session to discuss the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation and contract.
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, June 8, 2026
7:00 PM

(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway (via phone), Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Margot Martello, Melissa Mucci, Stephanie Levin, Kevin Nichols, Lisa Horan, Aja Drammeh, Chris Mangini, Kevin Gridley, Brandy Gridley, Alyssa Gridley, Dr. Michael Dietter, Kyanalis Torres, Tatiana Errar, Chris Cromwell, Maria Peterson, Michelle Nowakowski, Paul Hart

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Briggs at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Certificate of Excellence Awards

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will present the CAPSS Certificate of Excellence Awards to Alyssa Gridley from SES, Kyanalis Torres from MBA, and Aja Drammeh from SHS.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway introduced the CAPSS Certificate of Excellence Award. He explained that the award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding service, academic commitment, leadership, and dedication to their school communities.

Principal Mucci recognized Alyssa Gridley as a role model who consistently supports others, demonstrates empathy, takes responsibility for her learning, and contributes positively to the SES community. Alyssa was joined by her family and teachers and received her certificate, flowers, a yard sign, and the first Somers Challenge Coin.

Superintendent Galloway introduced the Somers Challenge Coins, which will be used to recognize students and staff for outstanding work, perseverance, and contributions to the school community.

Principal Martello recognized Kyanalis Torres as a dedicated student and quiet leader who holds herself to high standards, demonstrates kindness and inclusivity,

and is involved as a peer mentor, book club member, and volleyball club member. Kyanalis received her award and challenge coin.

Dr. Rechenberg recognized Aja Drammeh for her leadership, determination, advocacy, and commitment to improving the school community. She highlighted Aja's positive energy, willingness to speak up for others, and role in advocating for the SHS culinary program. Aja received her award and challenge coin.

Board Recognition of Ashley Guerra

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will introduce Ashley Guerra, MBA's Administrative Assistant, to the Board for her Westover Airlift Wing 2025 Key Support Liaison of the Year Award, which recognizes a volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the Commander's Key Support Program. Ashley acted as a vital link between the squadron leadership and military families, specifically ensuring families are supported during deployments and separations, allowing service members to focus on the mission.

Discussion: The Board recognized Ashley Guerra, MBA Administrative Assistant, for her outstanding service to the district, students, and community. Ashley is a vital part of the MBA community, consistently going above and beyond to support students and staff. Ashley was recognized by the Westover Airlift Wing as the 2025 Key Support Liaison of the Year, serving as an important link between squadron leadership and military families. As a proud military wife from a family dedicated to service, Ashley brings that same dedication to Somers Public Schools. Superintendent Galloway presented Ashley with a Somers Challenge Coin in recognition of her service.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the May 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the May 26, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from May 26, 2026 Regular Meeting. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

4.2. Approval of the May 28, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the Special Meeting minutes from May 28, 2026.

Motion to approve minutes from May 28, 2026 Special Meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Ed DePeau)**

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway shared that the budget did not pass at the most recent referendum. The Central Office team has developed a plan for reductions. The team has met multiple times, including with building leaders, to respond in a thoughtful and meaningful way. Details will be discussed later in the meeting.

SHS Graduation will be held on 6/10/26 at 6:00 p.m. on the SHS turf.

5.2. Morgan Stanley Update

Rationale: Kevin Nichols from Morgan Stanley will update the Board.

Discussion: Kevin Nichols from Morgan Stanley provided the Board with an update on the district's pension portfolio. He shared that the market has been unusual and unpredictable this year, with frequent shifts in which types of investments are performing well. He noted that higher-risk, more volatile stocks have recently outperformed, while broader economic expectations, including GDP growth, have been lowered. Mr. Nichols explained that this has created a challenging environment for active investment managers. He also noted that emerging markets continue to look attractive and that recent portfolio changes have had a positive impact. In response to a question about rising interest rates, Mr. Nichols explained that the portfolio is positioned to limit exposure to interest rate changes. The average bond maturity is less than two years, meaning the portfolio is less vulnerable to shifts in interest rates than it would be with longer-term bonds. Mr. Nichols reviewed the past three years of performance and discussed potential manager changes. The goal of these changes is to reduce volatility within the portfolio. Mr. Nichols also noted that the OPEB portfolio has performed above the assumed rate of return.

5.3. Monthly Budget Report

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget report.

Discussion: Stephanie Levin presented the May monthly financial report. As of 5/31/26, the balance was approximately $241,000, which includes the excess cost reimbursement. She noted that the district has begun using some of these funds due to the budget situation, but plans to freeze and not spend approximately $100,000. During June, the district will continue closing out purchase orders and final bills. As that process is completed, the projected year-end balance will become more precise. The final number will be confirmed through the audit in December, but is currently expected to be around $100,000.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

7.1. Warrant of June 8, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of June 8, 2026.

7.2. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5112.01 - Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver (2026-2027)

7.3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5131.81 - Use of Electronic Devices

7.4. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9120.1 - Officers - Election

7.5. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9231.4 - Minor Matters

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Puerto Rico Field Trip

Rationale: Chris Mangini, SHS Spanish Teacher, will present the Puerto Rico Trip to the Board for their approval.

Motion to approve Puerto Rico Field Trip. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Gina Olearczyk, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: Chris Mangini, SHS Spanish teacher, presented a proposal for a Somers High School World Languages field trip to Puerto Rico from 1/27/27-1/31/27. The timing was selected to fall at the end of semester one and beginning of semester two, minimizing the impact on exams, half-year courses, and extracurricular activities. The trip will provide students with a meaningful cultural and language-learning experience while remaining within the United States. Students will explore Puerto Rico's culture, history, geography, geopolitics, ecological tourism, and environmental impact, helping them better understand their role as global citizens.

The trip will be organized by EF Tours, the same company used for the Spain trip. EF has more than 50 years of experience, provides 24/7 security and medical support, and includes travel insurance. Students will depart from Bradley International Airport and fly directly to San Juan, where they will be met by a tour director who will remain with the group throughout the trip. Hotels are expected to have four-star accommodations or higher.

The estimated cost is approximately $2,600-$2,800 for 20-24 students. Payment plans are available, and EF offers some financial assistance options. Fundraising opportunities may also be explored if the trip is approved.

Board members asked about weather contingencies, chaperones, and parent participation. Mr. Mangini explained that EF's travel insurance would assist with accommodations and related issues if weather causes disruptions. The trip would include one chaperon for every eight students, with at least three certified staff members. Parents of participating students may also choose to pay to attend as chaperones.

Board members thanked Mr. Mangini for the organization and thoughtfulness of the proposal. Members noted the thoughtful timing of the trip and appreciated that it was presented early to allow families time to plan.

9.2. FY27 Budget Discussion

Rationale: Discussion and possible action regarding the FY27 budget.

Motion to approve FY27 Budget Reduction. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

Discussion: The Board discussed the latest budget reductions following direction from the Board of Finance to reduce the proposed budget by $474,510. Superintendent Galloway, Stephanie Levin, the Central Office team, and building leaders reviewed the budget and identified areas that would have the least direct impact on students.

Reductions include savings from unfilled or reduced positions, including retirements, resignations, and hiring at lower salary levels. The district also reduced funding for some stipends, clubs that have not been running, professional development wages and registration fees, building and maintenance repairs, supplies, textbooks, educational software, technology hardware, and capital outlay items. Some planned purchases, such as science lab furniture, furniture replacements, emergency preparedness directories, and technology refresh cycles, will be delayed or eliminated.

These reductions remove much of the district's remaining cushion. Cuts to areas such as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment, and benefits could create shortfalls if actual costs come in higher than projected. Additional budget freezes may be needed during the year, which would mean limiting purchases to essential expenses such as payroll and utilities, while deferring supplies, non-emergency repairs, and other needs.

Board members expressed concern about the long-term impact of repeated reductions, noting that this is the third budget reduction. Ms. Levin later noted the total amount of three reductions totals $894,164. While the district has worked hard to protect daily student learning, many of the removed items may need to be added back to future budgets as new costs. Concerns were also raised about reductions to paraeducator positions, especially given the district's efforts to support students in-district and avoid more costly outplacements.

Superintendent Galloway stated that the district has operated responsibly and has already made significant reductions in recent years, including positions and programs at multiple levels. He noted that the district has continued to improve performance while reducing costs, but warned that there will eventually be a tipping point.

If no budget is adopted by 7/1/26, the current year's budget will continue while the town proceeds to another referendum. Stephanie Levin noted that,

based on current conversations, the district may not be asked for additional cuts, but a legal opinion may be needed if further reductions are requested.

Several Board members emphasized the importance of community engagement and accurate information. They noted that taxes may increase regardless due to revaluation, and expressed concern that the broader budget conversation has been affected by confusion and misinformation. Members encouraged residents to follow Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Selectmen meetings directly rather than relying only on social media. The next referendum is scheduled for 6/16/26 before the end of the school year.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Curriculum

The next meeting will be held at the start of next school year.

10.2. Policy

This committee met on 6/8/26. The next meeting will be held on 8/24/26 at 6 p.m.

10.3. Planning/Finance

There is no report for this committee.

10.4. Salary & Negotiations

The Nurses' contract is completed. A meeting with the Maintenance unit will be held on 6/17/26.

10.5. Building

There are no updates. The next meeting will be held on 6/10/26.

11. CIP/CREC/SEF

There are no CIP, CREC or SEF reports.

12. ADVANCE CALENDAR

Upcoming district and community events include:

SHS Graduation will be held on 6/10/26 at 6:00 p.m. on the SHS turf. A decision about moving the ceremony indoors will be made by noon that day.

The 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on 6/16/26 at 9:00 a.m. on the SHS turf.

The Budget Referendum will take place on 6/16/26 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

The last day of school for students is 6/17/26. The 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony will also be held that day at 9:30 a.m. on the SHS turf.

Teachers will have a full professional development day on 6/18/26.

National Night Out, a free community event presented by Somers Police and Prevention Services, will be held on 8/4/26 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Field Road.

13. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Community member Lisa Horan spoke in support of the school budget, stating that the proposed reductions are "penny wise and pound foolish." Although she does not currently have students in Somers Public Schools, she expressed concern that continued cuts could lead to long-term costs, reduced educational quality, and negative impacts on students, the community, and property values. Ms. Horan also raised concerns about misinformation and the need for clear, easily accessible budget information. She suggested providing an accurate public explanation, including FAQs, budget history, trends, and calculations.

Superintendent Galloway explained that, based on legal guidance, the district cannot use public funds or school communication platforms to advocate for the budget. Staff may speak as private citizens but may not use district email or resources. Board members noted their own efforts to share information with the community.

Ms. Horan asked whether deferred maintenance could become more costly later. The district noted that DRIP funds have been used for repairs, with some funds carrying over for future needs.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rationale: The Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Non-Union staff wage adjustments for the 2026-2027 school year and to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. The Board will invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session.

Motion to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway to discuss Non-Union staff wage adjustments and the Superintendent Evaluation at 8:29 p.m. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:14 p.m.

Motion to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent on the proposed salary adjustments for non-union staff for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 9, Nay: 0**

_____

Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1377 **Voucher Date:** 06/17/2026 Prepared By:

Printed: 06/17/2026 08:52:21 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of $255,331.46 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Stephanie Levin Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund		Amount
10	GENERAL FUND	$255,331.46
		$255,331.46

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date:	6/17/2026	**To Date:**	6/17/2026
From Check:	27636	**To Check:**	27676
From Voucher:	1377	**To Voucher:**	1377

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27636	06/17/2026	A&D Portable Rentals	$285.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27637	06/17/2026	Adelbrook Inc	$35,808.50	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27638	06/17/2026	Alternative Access Assistive Techology	$2,040.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27639	06/17/2026	Amazon Capital Services	$1,433.80	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27640	06/17/2026	Blaine Window & Door	$188.42	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27641	06/17/2026	Caitlin Hoffman	$97.14	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27642	06/17/2026	CDW Government, Inc.	$2,029.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27643	06/17/2026	Cleaning Stuff	$638.40	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27644	06/17/2026	Creative Interventions, LLC	$1,300.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27645	06/17/2026	DG Graphics	$393.75	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27646	06/17/2026	EdAdvance	$129.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27647	06/17/2026	First Student, Inc	$123,442.34	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27648	06/17/2026	Flores & Associates	$210.90	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27649	06/17/2026	Gengras Center	$4,332.89	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27650	06/17/2026	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	$231.86	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27651	06/17/2026	Grainger	$629.02	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27652	06/17/2026	Hartford Sprinkler Co., Inc	$5,300.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27653	06/17/2026	Joseph Migliore	$550.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27654	06/17/2026	Kelly Bartlett	$65.98	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27655	06/17/2026	Lewes AP Summer Institute	$700.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27656	06/17/2026	MagnaKleen Services	$108.61	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27657	06/17/2026	Michael Savage	$112.50	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27658	06/17/2026	OMNI Group	$20.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 6/17/2026 **To Date:** 6/17/2026
From Check: 27636 **To Check:** 27676
From Voucher: 1377 **To Voucher:** 1377

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27659	06/17/2026	Opticom, Inc	$540.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27660	06/17/2026	OTIS Elevator Company	$275.60	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27661	06/17/2026	Sarah Martin	$60.32	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27662	06/17/2026	Scott Czerwinski	$501.70	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27663	06/17/2026	Sherwin-Williams Co., The	$138.10	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27664	06/17/2026	Shipman & Goodwin, LLP	$645.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27665	06/17/2026	Silktown Roofing	$4,727.91	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27666	06/17/2026	Social Studies School Services	$417.65	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27667	06/17/2026	Somers Star Hardware	$61.15	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27668	06/17/2026	Sonitrol New England	$859.55	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27669	06/17/2026	State of Connecticut	$240.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27670	06/17/2026	Sullivan Tire and Auto Service	$812.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27671	06/17/2026	The Growth Company	$360.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27672	06/17/2026	TNT Tent and Table Rentals	$2,022.49	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27673	06/17/2026	USA Waste and Recycling	$2,455.20	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27674	06/17/2026	Van Pool Transportation LLC	$54,172.98	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27675	06/17/2026	Willie Ross School of the Deaf	$6,867.00	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
27676	06/17/2026	Zoro Tools Inc	$127.70	1377	Printed	Expense	☐		
		Total Amount:	$255,331.46						

End of Report

DBS CODE: 5141.4

Students

Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's mental and physical health will have an effect on the student's ability to obtain the most benefit from attending school. In order to increase the student's ability to learn while in school, the Board of Education realizes the importance of identifying students who may be suffering from abuse, neglect, or placed in imminent danger of serious harm or sexually assaulted. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 17a-101, as amended, all school employees, including the Superintendent of Schools, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, guidance counselors, school counselors, paraprofessionals, psychologists and social workers licensed behavior analysts, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics, as well as school nurses, physicians, working in the school system, or any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in District schools, who suspects child abuse, neglect or sexual assault by a school employee must first report it to the Department of Children and Families or to a law enforcement agency. When a school employee suspects child abuse, neglect or that a child has been placed in imminent risk of serious harm or has been sexually assaulted, he/she shall within twelve (12) hours make an oral report by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families, or a law enforcement agency, followed within 48 hours with a written report. The Building Principal shall be notified immediately after the oral report has been made and the Principal in turn will notify the Superintendent of Schools and the child's parents. The written report prepared and submitted by the mandated reporter shall also be submitted to the Principal.
Any school personnel who has reasonable cause to suspect that a district employee is abusing, neglecting, or sexually assaulting a student shall orally report that suspicion as soon as possible but no later than twelve (12) hours by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families followed no later than 48 hours of making the oral report with a written report to the Department of Children and Families. The Superintendent of Schools or supervising agent may be notified immediately after the oral report has been made. The Commissioner of Children and Families or his/her designee, is required to notify the school employee and the head of a school, except when that person is the alleged perpetrator. The Superintendent or supervising agent must: 1) immediately notify parent(s) of the alleged abuse that a report has been made; and 2) immediately notify the Police Department of the alleged abuse.

In addition, the Superintendent or supervising agent must submit a written report of suspected child abuse, neglect or sexual abuse by a school employee who has been entrusted with the care of a child to the Commissioner of Education or his/her representative. The Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families has a similar obligation. The Superintendent shall suspend a District employee when the DCF investigation results in a finding of reasonable cause that the employee abused, neglected, or sexually assaulted a child and recommends the employee be placed on the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. The Department of Children and Families is required to send to the State Department of Education a copy of the report. Within seventy two (72) hours after such suspension the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education and the

Commissioner of Education or his/her representative of the reasons for and conditions of the suspension.

If the contract of employment of a school employee who possesses a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education is terminated, of if such certified school employee resigns his/her employment, as a result of an investigation which reveals that child abuse, neglect or sexual assault has occurred, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education within 72 hours of such termination or resignation.

If the report of abuse or neglect involves an employee of the District as the perpetrator, the District may conduct its own investigation into the allegation, provided that such investigation shall not interfere with or impede any investigation conducted by the Department of Children and Families or of law enforcement agencies.

The Board recognizes that the Department of Children and Families is required to disclose records to the Superintendent of Schools in response to a mandated reporter's written or oral report of abuse or neglect or if the Commissioner of Children and Families has reasonable belief that a school employee abused or neglected a student. Not later than five (5) working days after an investigation of child abuse or neglect by a school employee has been completed, DCF is required to notify the school employee and the Superintendent and the State Department of Education of the investigation's results. If DCF has reasonable cause, and recommends the employee be placed on DCF's Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, the Superintendent shall suspend such employee.

The Superintendent shall maintain records of allegations, investigations and reports that a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee. Such records will be maintained in the District's Central Office. The records shall include any reports made to the Department of Children and Families. Such Department is to have access to all such records.

The Board, recognizing its responsibilities to protect children and in compliance with its statutory obligations shall provide in-service regarding the requirements and obligations of mandated reporters. In addition, all District employees shall complete a training program pertaining to the accurate and prompt reporting of abuse, neglect and sexual assault made available by the Commissioner of Children and Families. Also, all employees must complete a refresher program at least once every three years.

The Board, recognizing its responsibilities to protect children and in compliance with its statutory obligations, shall provide to each employee in-service training regarding the requirements and obligations of mandated reporters. District employees shall also participate in training offered by the Department of Children and Families. Each school employee is required to complete a refresher training program annually.

The Board shall annually distribute the mandated reporter policy electronically to all school employees **and contractors employed by the Board of Education in regular contact with children.** The Board shall annually distribute electronically, to all school employees **and relevant contractors.** Board members, and parents and guardians of enrolled students, (1) guidelines on identifying and reporting child sexual abuse, starting in the 2022-23 school year, and (2) information on DCF's sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program.

Documentation shall be maintained by the Principal of each school and reported to the Superintendent that all employees have, in fact, received the written policy and completed initial training and refresher training related to mandated reporting of child abuse, neglect and sexual assault as required by law.

The Board shall not retaliate against any mandated reporter for his/her compliance with the law and Board policy pertaining to the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

The Board of Education will post the telephone number of the Department of Children and Families' child abuse hotline, Careline, and the Internet web address that provides information about the Careline in each District school in a conspicuous location frequented by students. Such posting shall be in various languages most appropriate for the students enrolled in the school.

Establishment of the Confidential Rapid Response Team

The Board of Education shall establish a confidential rapid response team to coordinate with DCF to (1) ensure prompt reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect; or 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th degree sexual assault; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; or 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm of a student not enrolled in adult education by a school employee and (2) provide immediate access to information and individuals relevant to DCF's investigation of such cases.

The confidential rapid response team shall consist of (1) a local teacher and the Superintendent, (2) a local police officer, and (3) any other person the Board of Education deems appropriate.

DCF, along with a multidisciplinary team, is required to take immediate action to investigate and address each report of child abuse, neglect or sexual abuse in any school.

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6 - Personnel Records)
(cf. 5141.511 - Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220a In service training. Professional development committees. Institutes for educators. Cooperating teacher program, regulations

10-221d Criminal history records check of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissal

10-221s Investigations of child abuse and neglect. Disciplinary action.

17a-28 Definitions. Confidentiality of and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons. Regulations 17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surroundings without court order

17a-101a Report of abuse or neglect by mandated reporters.

17a-102 Report of danger of abuse. (as amended by PA 02-106)

17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse/neglect

10-151 Teacher Tenure Act

PA 11-93 An Act Concerning the Response of School Districts and the Departments of Education and Children and Families to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect and the Identification of Foster Children in a School District

PA 14-186 An Act Concerning the Department of Children and Families and the Protection of Children

PA 15-205 An Act Protecting School Children

Adopted: June 25, 1984
Revised: September 24, 1990
April 7, 1997
November 24, 2003
November 23, 2009
February 13, 2012
March 9, 2015
February 29, 2016
September 11, 2016
September 10, 2018
August 28, 2023

DBS CODE: 9321

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Time, Place, Notification of Meetings:

Regular Meetings:

The Board of Education shall file with the office of the Town Clerk, not later than December 1 of each year, the schedule of the regular meetings of the Board of Education for the following year. No meeting shall be held sooner than 30 days after such filing.

Special Meetings:

Notice of each special meeting of the Board of Education shall be filed not less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting with the Town Clerk and be posted in the Central Office and in the Town Hall, giving the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. Noother business shall be considered by the Board at that special meeting. Each member of the Board of Education shall be notified by the Superintendent not less than 24 hours prior to the time of the special meeting and shall be advised of the time, place and business to be transacted, although any Board member may waive the 24 hour notification by a written waiver of notice or a telegram to the purpose.

Electronic Participation

Recognizing the inherent responsibilities and statutory duties of Board of Education members, the Board of Education (Board) strongly encourages Board members to attend and participate in Board meetings. Though great importance is given to the physical presence of Board members at meetings, the attendance and participation of members by electronic equipment is authorized whenever physical presence is not practicable. All votes at a meeting in which members are attending by teleconference shall be taken by roll call.

Whenever possible, meeting agendas and supporting materials shall be available at all teleconference facilities used for the Board meeting.

The Board of Education recognizes that technological advances allow for broader participation in public meetings. In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, the Board authorizes the use of electronic equipment to allow Board members to participate in meetings and to provide public access to such meetings.

Any member of the Board shall be permitted to participate in a regular or special meeting of the Board by means of electronic equipment, such as telephone, video conferencing, or other technology.

Members who wish to participate in a meeting electronically shall notify the Board Chairperson and Superintendent as early as possible. The Superintendent will arrange for the

meeting to take place at a location with the appropriate equipment so that Board members participating electronically may interact, and the public may observe or hear the comments

A member participating remotely shall be considered "present for the purposes of a quorum and shall have the same rights to discuss and vote on matters as those members physically present, provided that:

- The member is able to hear and be heard by all other members in attendance.
- The member is able to hear and be heard by any members of the public in attendance.

Any member participating by electronic equipment shall make a good faith effort to state their name and title at the outset of each occasion that such member participates in oral deliberations. The Board may, at its discretion, hold meetings in any of the following formats:

- In-Person: Conducted at a physical location with members physically present.
- Fully Remote: Conducted solely by means of electronic equipment.
- Hybrid: Conducted both in person at a physical location and via electronic equipment.

For any "regular" meeting held remotely or in a hybrid format, the Board shall provide the public with the ability to view or listen to the meeting in real-time, and the recording or transcript of such meeting shall be posted on the Board's website within seven (7) days.

For any "regular" meeting held remotely or as hybrid, the Board shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice to each Board member and the public. The meeting agenda shall include clear instructions on how the public may access the meeting via electronic equipment. If the meeting is hybrid, the agenda shall state the physical location where the public may attend to observe the meeting or use equipment to participate.

In any meeting where at least one member participates by electronic means, all votes shall be taken by roll call, unless the vote is unanimous. The minutes shall reflect which members were physically present and which participated via electronic means.

If a member participating remotely is necessary to maintain a quorum and that member's connection is lost, the Board shall:

- Suspend the meeting for a period of no less than thirty (30) minutes and no more than two (2) hours to allow the member to reconnect.
- If a quorum cannot be restored after this period, the meeting shall be adjourned or postponed.
- Any such interruption or adjournment shall be noted in the meeting minutes.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1-200 (2) Definitions. "Meeting"
1-206 Denial of access to public records or meetings.
1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public, as amended by June 11 Special Session, PA 08-3
1-225a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

1-227 Mailing of notice of meetings to persons filing written request.

1-228 Adjournment of meetings. Notice.

1-229 Continued hearings. Notice.

1-230 Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or resolution.

10-218 Officers. Meetings

~~Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes~~

~~1-21 Meetings of government agencies to be public.~~

~~Recording of votes. Schedule of meetings to be filed.~~

~~Notice of special meetings. Executive session exempt.~~

Adopted: January 26, 1981

Revised: February 24, 1992

Reviewed: May 10, 2000

DBS CODE: 9120

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Officers:

The Board shall organize at the meeting held on the second Monday in September in ~~non-election~~ even numbered years, and the second meeting in November in odd numbered years ~~or, in election years, at the first meeting no sooner than 15 days after the town biennial election.~~

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings

Adopted: August 25, 1980

Revised: February 24, 1992

Reviewed: October 19, 1998

Revised: October 14, 2009