

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

MINUTES

February 18, 2009
7:30 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Sunshine Law:

The Somerdale Board of Education Meeting is called to order. The Board of Education is in compliance with the sunshine regulations. This meeting was appropriately advertised by notifying The Record Breeze and The Courier Post, as well as posting notices in Borough Hall, the Somerdale Post Office and the Somerdale Park School.

II. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

James Abbott – present	Linda Giambri - absent
Leslie Caramiello -present	Martha Gray - present
Richard Caswell - present	Susan Lowden - present
Cheryl Cronce - present	David Reeder - present
James Walsh - absent	

Also Present:

Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent
Dawn Leary, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Kristine Height, Principal
Richard Roswell, Shared Services Building & Grounds Supervisor
John Kennedy, Solicitor

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mrs. Gray the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the January 21, 2009 regular Board of Education Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1 ABSENT 2

IV. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS

(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items were given at 7:40 p.m..

Mrs. Victoria Burckley of 614 Ardsley Avenue in Somerdale, stated she sent a letter to the State and stated everyone would be receiving funds for the pre-school program. She also stated the school district should try and make the playgrounds safer. She said the playgrounds are filled with too much mud and the district should use some of the “Dress Down” money to help make the grounds safer.

Mrs. Carol Jenkins-Mitchell stated her position on “Dress Down Days”. She said her daughters are being monitored in ISS (In-School Suspension). She said they are in school for an education. She also stated the district should find better ways to use the funds. She asked, “how many more “Dress Down Days” are scheduled for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Bruner stated, there are five “Dress Down Day” left.

Mrs. Jenkins-Mitchell stated she will look into her legal rights. She asked, “What are we teaching our kids?”

Dr. Bruner conducted a poll on the most recent “Dress Down Day” and stated 62 students dressed in uniform which equates to 15% of the student population. She also stated the district is exploring other options.

Mrs. Jenkins-Mitchell said it is wrong and that she is willing to participate in other fundraisers. She also said the parents are the ones who are being asked for the money. She asked, “Where does the money go?”

Mrs. Dow stated the money raised supports functions such as the National Honor Society and supports homeless families.

Mrs. Lowden asked Mrs. Mitchell-Jenkins if she had any ideas. She also stated that it is a reward for the students.

Mr. Abbott stated the district will do a better job of informing the parents of where the money goes and what it supports.

Mrs. Mitchell-Jenkins asked why we have a uniform policy if the students are going to be punished for not paying a dollar. She stated it should not be “Pay –to –Play”.

Mrs. Lowden stated rules are rules until they are changed.

Mr. Dave Dieterle of 120 Colgate Drive, in Somerdale asked if the policy stated that students will receive ISS if they do not comply with the “Dress Down Days”. He also stated Mrs. Mitchell-Jenkins does have a valid point.

Mrs. Laura Dieterle of 120 Colgate Drive in Somerdale stated that all kids enjoy the “Dress Down Days” and that if it supports needy families then it is ok with her. She also stated she was glad to hear that 62 students did not participate in dress down day. She said she thinks the district should continue to have “Dress Down Days; however, she does not think a student deserves ISS.

Dr. Bruner again reiterated the students are not serving I.S.S., they are being monitored in I.S.S.

Mr. Michael Coates of 5 North Warwick in Somerdale stated the district should have one large general fund in the beginning of the school year which raises money for free “Dress Down Days” for everyone.

NOTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Board President will recognize those individuals in the audience whom wish to comment on any action items on this Agenda. Please respect the following procedures:

1. Be recognized by the Board President.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Identify the resolution/item number on which you wish to comment.
4. Wait to be recognized before you make your comment
(*Just before the resolution is voted on*).
5. Limit your comments to the specific resolution/items.
6. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent gave a report at 8:05 p.m.

Dr. Bruner stated she had a conference call with Congressman Andrews from the State and he said the district would be receiving \$61,000 additional monies in Title I and \$145,000 additional monies in IDEA.

Dr. Bruner informed the public of the Board meeting in March was changed from March 18th to March 11th 2008.

Dr. Bruner stated the Finance Committee will be meeting on February 23, 2008. She also said the Public Hearing is scheduled for March 30, at 6:30 p.m. and extended, (via Councilwoman Jenkins-Mitchell) an invitation to Council members to attend in lieu of having a special meeting with Council.

Dr. Bruner stated the eighth grade auction was a success and raised \$972.00.

Mrs. Caramiello said the auction was fun and that she would like to see more Board members attend.

Dr. Bruner stated Louise Barikian and her Committee did a nice job and she (Dr. Bruner) would be providing Phillies tickets to have another raffle for the eighth grade.

Dr. Bruner stated the In-Service Workshop was held at Magnolia School District and went very well.

Dr. Bruner stated she and Mrs. Leary met with the Camden County Superintendent and the County Business Administrator to review the budget.

Dr. Bruner stated the Faculty is planning an inter-district walk to help get the vote out.

Dr. Bruner stated Mrs. Height will attend the 8th grade dialogue workshop.

Dr. Bruner thanked Mr. Reeder for his time for installing the pump in the boiler room.

B. Business Administrator gave a report at 8:25 p.m.

A meeting was held with the County Office to review the budget. Ms. Leary stated they provided suggestions regarding the budget process.

A meeting was held with the Rowan University Study Committee regarding the Feasibility Study. Ms. Leary also participated in the following:

Attended the EWEG reimbursement training at Washington Township High School.

Met with Mrs. Height and Mrs. Armstrong (Dowling food service manager) to discuss past due lunch accounts. She contacted Strauss Esmay regarding a lunch policy.

Attended her Roundtable with other business administrators.

Provided disclosure forms to all Board members.

Ms. Leary informed all candidates up for re-election, to contact her for an election packet. The deadline for filing the application is March 2, 2009.

Ms. Leary informed the Board that NJSBA will be sponsoring regional programs on March 10, 2009 at 7pm. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at Hammonton High School in Hammonton, NJ. The topics covered are: policy making, school administration, school finance & budgeting, school community relations and collective bargaining.

Ms. Leary also informed the Board that Jottan Roofing Company was in yesterday to fill the seams along the roof of the cafeteria and sealed the boiler room roof.

Ms. Leary reminded the Board there is a Building & Grounds Meeting scheduled for February 19, 2009 at 4:15 pm.

Ms. Leary also thanked Mr. Reeder for donating his time to install the pump in the boiler room.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Personnel Committee**, M. Gray, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Gray seconded by Mrs. Caramiello the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following:

1. Mrs. Melissa Durand, Neumann College student, to conduct a **clinical internship** with J. Murray and E. Coram, for the Spring, 2009 Semester.
2. Joy Guermont, Pamela Joell, Kristen Kendra-MaGuire, and Kimberly Cosenza-Accardo as **substitute teachers** for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, effective 2/19/09.
3. Louise Barikian, Betsy Botka, Sharon Kapuscinski, Jaime Mungo, Susan Ratajski and Janine Houser, as BRIDGE advisors for the Municipal Alliance's after-school **BRIDGE** Program for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year. Salary stipend fees will be paid by the Municipal Alliance.
4. Michael Butler to serve as **Baseball Coach** for the 2008-'09 school year. Salary stipend as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
5. Kelli Badey, Camden County College student, to conduct a fifteen-hour **field experience** in grades three and four, for the Spring, 2009 Semester.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

B. **Finance Committee**, C. Cronicc, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Cronicc seconded by Mr. Reeder the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following:

Financial Report

Recommend that the Board of Education certify that as of this date and after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major fund balance has been overspent in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations as of this date.

February Bill List #1 \$ 104,713.77
 February Bill List #2 \$ 140,344.22
 February Bill List #3 \$ 14,600.15
 February Bill List #4 \$ 12,938.15
 January Payroll #1 \$ 105,283.97
 January Payroll #2 \$ 100,711.72
 January Payroll #3 \$ 120,035.95
 Transfers/Adjustments as attached.
 Board Secretary's Report(s) for December 2008 & January 2009
 Treasurer's Report(s) for December 2008 & January 2009

1. The following staff members to attend **conferences**:
 - a.) Janine Houser, to attend the **2009 NJASK Assessment training** in Mt. Laurel, NJ on 3/17/'09. There is no cost to attend the training.
 - b.) Arlene Maslanka, Pre-school Teacher, Elizabeth Carroll, PSD Teacher, and Tracey Cutera, Pre-school Assistant, Tom Hayden, Karen Stewart and Linda Saun to attend the follow-up **restraint training** seminar on 3/06/'09 at Magnolia Elementary School, Magnolia, NJ. There is no cost, other than substitute coverage to attend this training.
 - c.) Dr. Debra Bruner, Superintendent, to attend the CCTS "**Technology, Teens, and Teamwork**" Countywide Meeting on 2/20/'09. There is no cost to attend this meeting.
 - d.) Edward Prendergast, Maintenance Technician, to attend the New Jersey School **IPM Training: "Making The Plan Work,"** on April 16, 2009, at Gloucester County College, Sewell NJ. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - e.) Kristine Height, Principal, to attend a "**Power School Training Institute**" at Sterling High School on 3/30/'09. Registration Cost: \$225.00
2. The proposed **Refunding Bond Issue**, as attached, as per Parker McKay, Bond Counsel, in the amount of \$2,558,000.00 to mature on 5/1/'19.
3. Receipt of approval of **FY2008 Final Report** and the amendment submission of the 2008 budget for the No Child Left Behind (**NCLB**) carryover, as per state mandates regarding same.
4. The **void and reissue** of an outstanding check dated 1/19/2007 in the amount of \$29.83.
5. A one year **contract extension** of Bid A-57, for the purchase of office supplies between Camden County Cooperative members and Office Basics.
6. **Placement** of a 3rd grade multiply-disabled student in GCSSD-Bankridge, effective 2/9/'09, for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year. Tuition will be \$31,400.00 (*pro-rated*); and transportation will be provided by CCEC. Prior to placement, same student to be placed on **Homebound Instruction**, effective 2/2 – 2/6/'09, under the direction of Mary Rose Reeder, Homebound Instructor.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN (Mr. Reeder #6 only) ABSENT 2

C. **Curriculum Committee**, C. Cronce and L. Giambri, Co-Chairpersons

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mr. Reeder the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. **March calendar events** for March, 2009 (*subject to change, pending final calendar revisions*).
2. **First graders** to visit the Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia, PA on 5/21/09, in conjunction with their social sciences unit on animal habitats.
3. **Student Council** to sponsor a “Teens For Jeans” Drive, and a Phillies Pre-Season ticket sale, to support a homelessness awareness program, and to raise monies for end-of-year activities, respectively.
4. **Second graders** to tour historical Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA on 6/5/09 as an end-of-year culminating field trip. Cost per pupil will be \$5.00 to help offset transportation costs.
5. The **2009 –’10 Academic Calendar**, as attached.
6. **Community Service students** to sponsor a “Mother’s Matter” Collection Drive for area women’s shelters, hospital pediatric wards, and day care centers.
7. Receipt of **Acknowledgement** from the NJDOE of the Somerdale School District’s status of “Meets Requirements” regarding “Special Education Requirements” for FFY2007, as per the IDEA 2004 Act.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

D. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**, D. Reeder, Chairperson

Mr. Reeder stated the boiler room pump was done and that Jottan patched the cafeteria roof. He also said Rich Roswell (Shared Service B&G caulked around the Industrial Arts Lab and there was no moisture and that this experiment could proved to be beneficial.

E. **Policy Committee**, J. Walsh, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Lowden seconded by Mr. Reeder the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. The first reading of the revised **Emergency Response Manual**, as attached.
2. To acknowledge receipt of Danaka Anderson’s **donation** of various **primary grade hardback books** for the Somerdale Park School Library; the White Horse Rotary of Lindenwold New Jersey’s donation of **dictionaries** for all third grade students for the 2008-’09 school year; and Annette Parker, Dental Hygenist’s donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and **dental items** to the students in Ms. Saun’s third grade classroom.
3. To allow a 1st and 4th grade student to remain in the Somerdale Park School on a **non-tuition** basis until 3/1/09, at which time they will be transferring to the Williamstown School District, as per BOE Policy #5118.
4. To **change** the March 18, 2009 **BOE Meeting** @7:30 p.m., to March 11, 2009 @7:30 p.m. as per 2009-’10 budgetary timelines to approve the 2009-’10 budget for submission to the Camden County NJDOE. Additionally, to schedule a special BOE Meeting on 3/30/09 @6:30 p.m. to conduct the public presentation of the 2009-’10 Budget.

5. To acknowledge the **gift and monetary donations** of the following individuals and/or organizations/businesses for the December, 2008 Somerdale Park School Holiday Toy and Food Drive:

Academy Orthopaedics, P.A.
 Cardiac Care Specialists, P.C.
 Charles L. Dietzek DO, FACOS,PC
 Mrs. Mary Dow, SPS Nurse
 Dr. Louis Haenel
 Dr. Raymond A. Adelizzi
 Gary X. Heck, Ronald L. Schiavone LLC
 James C. & Margaret L. Guidice
 Members of 1st Presbyterian Church
 M/M Charlie Granese & Clients
 Neurology Consultants, P.A.
 Richard S. & Judith I. Kresloff
 Barbara Seery, CST Director
 Pine Hil Fire Department
 Somerdale Democrat Committee
 Somerdale Park School National Jr. Honor Society
 Somerdale Park School-Community Service
 Students

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--|
| E. | Buildings and Grounds Committee, | D. Reeder, Chairperson – no report |
| F. | Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, Chairperson – no report |
| G. | CCESC Representative, | D. Reeder, Representative – no report |
| H. | NJSBA Representative, | S. Lowden – next delegate assembly meeting is scheduled in May. Any resolutions for NJSBA is due March 2, 2009. Mrs. Lowden stated there are many issues that need to be addressed. She also stated the only resolution in question was Veteran’s Day. |
| I. | CCSBA Representative, | C. Cronce – no report |
| J. | Liaison Committee, | M. Gray, Chairperson – no report |
| K. | Public Relations, | L. Giambri, Chairperson – no report |
| L. | Negotiations, | J. Walsh, Chairperson – no report |

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

Faculty Attendance January, 2009

Student Attendance January, 2009
 Fire Drill Reports January, 2009
 Health Report January, 2009

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS: **2009-'10 Budget/Calendar/Guidelines
 Dress Down Days**

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) were given at 9:00 pm.

Audience Recognition and Public Comment

The public is reminded that all public complaints against a district employee must be made through a specific grievance process.

A description of this process may be found in BOE policy (File Code 1312). This policy is available upon request in the office of the Board Secretary.

Any individual naming an employee in a complaint before the Board of Education, without the employee's permission, could be cited for violating that employee's civil and contractual rights.

Mrs. Jenkins-Mitchell stated some council members have volunteered to read to the students during the "Read Across America Program"

Michael Coates of 5 North Warwick Road in Somerdale, thanked Mr. Roswell for cleaning the school grounds. He also stated around the school perimeter should be safe and the students should not have to dodge cars. Mr. Coates also said the handicapped parking space should be used for handicapped people.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 9:10 pm.

Resolved that pursuant to Section 8 of the Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving the discussion of personnel, legal, and contractual matters. Further resolved that discussion of such subject matters discussed in Executive Session can be disclosed to public, upon official action, if any, is taken by the Board, either at the resumption of the public session, at the conclusion of the executive session, or at a public session at some later date.

XII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION at 10:00 pm.

Mr. Caswell asked if the Board could change the voting time from 4-9 p.m to 2-8 p.m.

Dr. Bruner stated, due to safety concerns, 4-9 pm. is necessary because during that time there are no students in the building.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Caswell, seconded by Mr. Reeder, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Leary

Dawn Leary
 Board Secretary