

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
following the Reorganization Meeting
(7:00 p.m.)**

MINUTES

April 27, 2009

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m.

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 – Dispense with reading.

Leslie Caramiello - present	Linda Giambri -present
Richard Caswell - present	Martha Gray - present
Cheryl Cronce - present	Susan Lowden - present
Michelle Frontera - present	David Reeder - present
James Walsh -present	

Also Present:

Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent
Dawn Leary, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Kristine Height, Principal
John Kennedy, Solicitor

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular and executive session minutes of the March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting, and the March 30, 2009 Special Public Hearing of the Presentation of the 2009-'10 Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 2 (Mrs. Frontera, Mr. Walsh) ABSENT 0

IV. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS
(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items.

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. The Superintendent gave a report at 7:35 p.m.

Dr. Bruner discussed the budget passing; May's busy calendar; NJASK testing; and commented on Mrs. Dow and how she did a great job with "Pennies for Patient". The amount raised was \$1,176.00 and was dedicated to a former teacher.

She also informed the Board that in-house evacuations had been conducted that day, and that more are to come before the end of the year.

Dr. Bruner also discussed Spring Conferences, and invited the Board to the Art Show.

Lastly, Dr. Bruner also discussed the upcoming Dance-a-Thon and that Mrs. Height would have more details.

B. The Business Administrator gave a report at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Leary stated the budget presentation went well and that she was very pleased with the budget results. She credited the SEA, entire staff, students and parents for making her first budget a success.

Ms. Leary stated she held a conference call with Roosevelt & Cross (Underwriters), Phil Norcross of Parker McCay (Bond Council) and Anthony Inverso of Phoenix Advisors (Financial advisors) regarding the final steps to complete the refinancing of the bond.

Ms. Leary met with Jeffrey Clark of the Gibson Tarquini Group to discuss architectural needs of the district. She stated his company was interested in submitting a RFP and that they found the advertisement on the school website. She stated she also received a RFP from Frank Radey and Associates who is currently the school's architect-of-record. She informed the Board, once she made the comparison; there was no significant difference in the fee schedule.

Mrs. Leary stated she attended her monthly Roundtable with other BA's.

Mrs. Leary informed the Board that AFLAC and AXA Equitable (403B) were in that day to speak to the faculty regarding disability and tax shelters.

Mrs. Leary stated she submitted paperwork for a Food Service Equipment Grant. She stated it applies mainly to school districts with a 50% free and reduced population. She stated all applications will be looked at and if awarded, the cafeteria will receive a new stove.

Mrs. Leary shared some important information with the Board regarding the Bond. She stated the school district will save approximately \$151,915.28 over a ten year period. She also stated the average coupon rate is 3.6%.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Personnel Committee**, M. Gray, 2008-'09 Chairperson

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

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

1. Katrina Gabriel as a **substitute teacher** for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, effective 4/1/'09, pending receipt of all clearances, transcripts, medical verifications, etcetera.
2. The **reappointment** of all tenured professional staff for the 2009-'10 school year, as per the attached sheets. Salaries as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
3. The **reappointment** of para-professional instructional staff for the 2009-'10 school year, as per the attached list. Salaries as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
4. To **reappoint** Edward Prendergast, Maintenance Technician, for the 2009-'10 school year, and to submit for approval, salary increase as per the approved 2009-'10 budget, effective 7/1/'09.
5. To **reappoint** tenured and non-tenured clerical and confidential staff for the 2009-'10 school year, as per the attached list. Salaries as attached.
6. To **initiate** a "Reduction in Force" (RIF) of all non-tenured professional staff, with the exception of English as a Second Language (ESL) for the 2009-'10 school year.
7. To **eliminate/terminate** the long-term substitute (*elementary teaching*) position for the 2009-'10 school year, effective 6/30/'09.
8. To **submit** for approval at the 5/27/'09 regular Board of Education meeting, salary increases as per the approved 2009-'10 budget and contractual agreements for Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent; and Ms. Dawn Leary, Business Administrator, pending a possible shared services agreement, Kristine Height, Principal, and Ms. Barbara Seery, CST Director/Social Worker, effective 7/1/'09.
9. Mr. Rob Masso to serve as a **volunteer baseball coach/advisor** for the remainder of the 2008-'09 Baseball Season.
10. Barbara Maddonni, Holy Family University student, to conduct an **administrative internship** for a total of 150 hours during the 2009-'10 school year, under the mentorship of Kristine Height, Principal.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 9 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

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

On a motion by Mrs. Cronic seconded by Mrs. Giambri 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.

April Bill List #1 \$ 366.10

April Bill List #2 \$ 35,951.00

April Bill List #3 \$ 242,189.19

April Bill List #4 \$ 13,395.48

April Bill List #5 \$ 109.90

March Payroll #1 \$ 100,116.53

March Payroll #2 \$ 102,059.81

Transfers/Adjustments as attached.

Board Secretary's Report(s) for March, 2009

Treasurer's Report(s) for March, 2009

1. The following staff members to attend **conferences**:
 - a). Ken Bond, ESL Teacher, to attend the "**Fundations Workshop**" (*Wilson Reading*) on 5/21/'09 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Registration Cost: \$175.00. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - b). Dawn Leary, Business Administrator to attend "**Legal/Employment Issues**" Workshop in Mt. Laurel, NJ on 4/30/'09. Registration Cost: \$100.00. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - c). Dawn Leary, Business Administrator to attend "**The Conference For Women,**" Seminar in Cherry Hill, NJ on 5/19/'09. Registration Cost: \$149.00. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - d). Dawn Leary, Business Administrator, Nancy Strassle, and Dawn Ramos to attend "**Personnel Training**" in Eatontown, NJ on 4/28/'09. There is no cost to attend this workshop. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - e). Dawn Leary, Business Administrator and Dawn Ramos to attend "**Year End Procedures Training**" in Eatontown, NJ on 5/27/09. There is no cost to attend this workshop. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - f). Susan Ratajski to attend the **Camden County Academy of Teaching and Learning Workshop** in Berlin, NJ on 5/28/'09. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - g). Kristine Height to attend the "**Power School Premier Workshop,**" Deptford, NJ on 5/14/'09. There is no cost to attend this workshop. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - h). Sharon Denafio and Mandy Seligman to attend the "**Strategies for Working with the Unmotivated, Non-Compliant, Disorganized, Struggling Student**" Workshop, on 5/1/'09, in Jamesburg, NJ. Registration Cost: \$165.00 per person. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - i). Dr. D. Bruner, Superintendent, and B. Seery, CST Director, to attend the "**NJQSAC Training Seminar**" on 4/28/'09 at Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ. There is no cost to attend this seminar. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - j). K. Noonan and S. Kapuscinski, Special Ed. & Basic Skills Teachers, respectively, to attend the seminar, "**Designing Interactive Smart Board Lessons,**" on 6/10'09, at

ETTC, Berlin, NJ. Registration Cost: \$115.00 per person. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.

2. To enter into an agreement with the **Educational Services Commission** to provide **transportation services** for special education students for the 2009-'10 school year.
3. Receipt of approval of **State Project #: 4790-020-09-1001** of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act Project for the ROD Grants in the following amounts Preliminary eligible cost (PEC) of \$390,219.00 State share 213,326.00 and **Local share \$176,893.00** for the roof and site drainage project at Somerdale Park School for the 2009-'10 school year.
4. 2008-'09 **Behavioral Disabilities Contracts** for four students at the Gloucester County Special Services School District, located in Sewell, NJ. All four students attend Bankbridge Elementary School, located in Sewell, NJ.
5. To enter into an agreement with **The Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES)** energy aggregation program of NJASBO/NJASA/NJSBA for the 2009-'10 school year.
6. The submission of a grant application in the amount of \$4,333.00 for **NJSBAIG's 2009 Safety Grant Program**.
7. Renewal of the **Property Insurance** application with **NJSBAIG** for the 2009-'10 school year, in the amount of \$12,870.00.
8. To accept receipt of approval for the 2008-09 **amendment** for the **IDEA** grant.
9. To initiate payment in full for the **New Jersey Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)** 2009 pension obligation due April 30, 2009, in the amount of \$35,951.00.
10. To accept receipt of approval of the **NCLB Final Report Application** for the 2007-08 school year.
11. To approve the opening of **advertised bids** for the roofing and storm drainage project (*A & B Building Wings and the storm drainage*).
12. The submission of a Food Service **Equipment Assistance Grant** in the amount of \$2,760 for the 2009-'10 school year.
13. Jeff Murray, Second Grade Teacher, to provide **tutoring services** for a homebound second grade student, effective 4/9/'09.
14. To **purchase** two \$500.00 bonds for two Somerdale senior class members (*one male and one female*) from the Sterling Regional HS District.
15. To **purchase** two \$50.00 bonds for one male and one female class member of the eighth grade graduating class from the Somerdale Park School.

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Reeder to table # 7 until further discussion was made by the Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 9 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

C. **Curriculum Committee**, C. Cronic and L. Giambri, 2008-'09 Co-Chairpersons

On a motion by Mrs. Cronic seconded by Mrs. Giambri the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. **May calendar events** for May, 2009 (*subject to change, pending final calendar revisions*).
2. The following **field trips**:
 - a). **Drama Club** students to visit Historic Cold Springs Village, Cape May, NJ on 5/28/'09 as an end-of-year culminating extra-curricular activity.
 - b). **Student Council, NJHS & Peer Mediation** students to visit Hershey Park, Hershey, PA on 6/2/'09 as an end-of-year culminating extra-curricular activity.
 - c). **Student Council** and **NJHS** students to visit Washington, D.C. (*sites include Pentagon or Arlington Cemetery; Museum of Natural History and dinner at a restaurant to be determined*) as an end-of-year culminating extra-curricular activity.
 - d). **Pre-school students** to visit the Somerdale Police Station, date pending, during the Spring, 2009 Semester.
 - e). Third Grade students to visit **Camden Gardens**, Camden, NJ on 6/12/'09 as an end-of-year culminating Science activity.
3. **Community Service Club** to sponsor a Spring Goodwill Clothing Drive, effective 4/20 – 5/8/'09.
4. **Summer School enrichment application** for the Summer, 2009 term. Programs include the Wilson Reading Program; English Language Learners; the Reading/Language Arts "Foundations" Literacy Program; and the PSD extended-school-year-program. The Summer term will begin 7/6/'09 and conclude 7/30/'09.
5. To approve **Summer curriculum writing** and development programs for a maximum of six professional staff members for a two-week period (*three hours per day*) to develop professional learning communities; align curriculum guides with curriculum mandates as per QSAC; and to prepare for the pre-school initiative as per the mandates for same.
6. A **Statement of Assurance** to demonstrate compliance with Part B of the IDEA, as per the mandates of N.J.A.C. 6A: 14-1.1(b).

Mrs. Caramiello inquired about the summer school program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 9 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

D. **Policy Committee**, J. Walsh, 2008-'09 Chairperson

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

A recommendation is requested to **allow** an eighth grade student, whose family recently moved to Clementon, NJ to remain in our school for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year, as per BOE Policy #5118.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 9 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

E. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**, D. Reeder, 2008-'09 Chairperson

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the use of Ward Field and the Snack Shop for Somerdale Day on 9/26/'09 (*rain date 9/27/'09*) by the Borough of Somerdale. Custodial coverage/costs for same will be covered by the district.

Mr. Reeder asked to have a tractor brought into the baseball field in order to drag it and clean it up.

Mr. Kennedy asked what are the ramifications if the tractor is stolen or exploded.

Dr. Bruner asked Mr. Kennedy to draft up a signed agreement and have the baseball team sign it.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 9 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

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| F. | Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, 2008-'09 Chairperson – no report. |
| G. | CCESC Representative, | D. Reeder, 2008-'09 Representative – Mr. Reeder stated he will be attending the reorganization meeting soon and that he has received information from Harry. He asked to represent the committee for the 2009-2010 school year. |
| H. | NJSBA Representative, | Mrs. Lowden stated she will be attending the May 16, 2009 Delegate Assembly. |
| I. | CCSBA Representative, | Mrs. Frontera – no report. |
| J. | Liaison Committee, | M. Gray, 2008-'09 Chairperson – no report. |
| K. | Public Relations, | L. Giambri, 2008-'09 Chairperson – Mrs. Giambri stated she was shocked and amazed about the budget passing. She was very pleased. |
| L. | Negotiations, | J. Walsh, 2008-'09 Chairperson – no report. |

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

Faculty Attendance	March, 2009
Student Attendance	March, 2009
Fire Drill Reports	March, 2009
Health Report	March, 2009

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM: Roofing Project/Calendar

Dr. Bruner stated the roofing project will start on June 18, 2009. She said she would like to have the project start as soon as possible before summer school starts on July 6, 2009.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) at 8:15 p.m.

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. Carol Jenkins-Mitchell a resident of Somerdale congratulated the Board on the Budget passing. She stated it was an excellent budget presentation given by Dr. Bruner and Ms. Leary. She also gave an update on Walmart and informed the Board that the LA Fitness Club has been started.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel, legal, and student matters at 8:20 p.m.

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 10:10 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Caramiello, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Leary

Dawn Leary
Board Secretary