

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

MINUTES

March 17, 2009
7:30 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30

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 - present
Leslie Caramiello - present	Martha Gray - absent
Richard Caswell - present	Susan Lowden - present
Cheryl Cronce - present	David Reeder – arrived at 8:15 pm.
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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the February 18, 2009 regular Board of Education Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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. Superintendent gave a report at 7:40 p.m.

Dr. Bruner discussed the 2009-10 budget. The budget will be delivered on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 to the County Office. She also stated the budget will reflect a tax decrease. She stated the district received \$119,000 in additional monies which will be used for the preschool program.

Dr. Bruner stated the teachers will be conducting an inter-district walk to help promote voter turnout.

She also stated an invitation was extended to the Mayor and Council to attend the budget hearing presentation on March 30, 2009.

Dr. Bruner informed the public and the Board the Reorganization Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, April 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Bruner informed the Board that Mrs. Houser, Mrs. Butler and Student Council members are currently working on a commercial with Sterling High School to be aired on channel 19.

Dr. Bruner stated the maximum number of students for each preschool class is 15.

Dr. Bruner stated there was a Security Task Force Meeting, and the district would be comparing the Emergency Response Manual to the County to make sure we have included the proper guidelines and procedures.

Dr. Bruner stated that Spring Sports are upon us, and Somerdale Baseball and Softball are having their opening on April 4, 2009.

Dr. Bruner stated we will be welcoming a new Board member on April 27, 2009.

Mr. Abbott stated the preschool monies are here for one year, and next year we will have to include them in the budget.

Dr. Bruner thanked Mr. Reeder for donating a snow blower.

B. Business Administrator gave a report at 7:50 p.m.

Ms. Leary stated she held a Building and Grounds Meeting with the Building and Grounds Committee, the Board President and Frank Radey, Architect of Record, to discuss options regarding roof replacement and/or repairs.

Ms. Leary stated she also participated in the following:

Met with Mrs. Cronce, Finance Chairperson, and Dr. Bruner to review the budget.

Met with Mr. Sarfraz from the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group. Mr. Sarfraz is the district's representative. Mr. Sarfraz and Ms. Leary reviewed and discussed workers compensation claims. Mr. Sarfraz provided a list of free training sessions available to the district. Safety issues were also discussed. Ms. Leary stated the staff was given training on sexual harassment and the monthly newsletters provided to her by NJSBAIG are shared with the staff.

Met with Mr. Holloway from the Division of Contract Compliance and Equal Employment Opportunity in Public Contracts. She stated they discussed affirmative action and the language necessary that should appear in all public contracts.

Met with Jack McDermott from Grinspec to review the State Health Benefits analysis.

Held a Safety Task Force Meeting to review highlights of the Emergency Response Manual.

Attended her Roundtable with other business administrators.

Ms. Leary congratulated Dowling Food Service for being recognized and featured in the New Jersey Nutrition Association Newsletter.

Ms. Leary also thanked Mr. Reeder for donating a snow blower.

Mrs. Leary thanked Mrs. Dicroce of "All Risk" for donating three Dell computers and keyboards to the district. She stated Mr. Mitchell of SJTP is currently updating the software to the machines and making them ready for use.

Ms. Leary stated she has been working very hard on the budget since January. She stated her mentor along with Mrs. Peters helped her prepare the budget. She stated 40% of the budget will be allocated towards instruction. Other areas include student services, direct school sponsored athletics and tuition.

Ms. Leary shared some State Aid highlights which included a 304 million dollar statewide increase in funding for classrooms in direct school aid. She stated it represents 35% of the governor's total proposed 2009-2010 budget. She also said 171 districts will receive an increase capped at 5% because they were below the adequacy limit.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Jolene Schiller and Doreen Graham as **substitute teachers** for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, effective 3/18/'09 and 3/9/'09, respectively, pending receipt of all clearances, transcripts, medical verifications, etcetera.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mrs. Caramiello 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.

March Bill List #1 \$ 134,259.27

March Bill List #2 \$ 27,291.88

March Bill List #3 \$ 22,770.32

February Payroll #1 \$ 97,598.23

February Payroll #2 \$ 99,191.04

Transfers/Adjustments as attached.

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

Treasurer's Report(s) for February, 2009

1. The following staff members to attend **conferences**:
 - a.) Ken Bond, ESL Teacher, to attend the **2009 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference** in Somerset, NJ on 5/19 – 5/20/09. Registration Costs: \$194.00. Transportation and Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - b.) Dawn Leary, Business Administrator, to attend the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (**NJASBO Spring Conference**) in Atlantic City, NJ 5/6 -5/8/09. Registration Cost: \$275.00. Transportation and Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - c.) Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, to attend the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and New Jersey School Boards Association Conference (**NJASA/NJSBA Spring Conference**) in Atlantic City, NJ 5/20 - 5/21/09. Registration Cost: \$300.00. Lodging (5/20): \$125.00. Transportation and Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
 - d.) Kristine Height, Principal, to attend the Southern Regional **“Code of Student Conduct Development Workshop”** on 4/27/09 at the Gloucester County Office of Education, Sewell, NJ. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - e.) Kristine Height, Principal, to attend the **“Emergency Planning for Pre-Schools”** workshop at the Camden County Emergency Training Academy, Blackwood, NJ on 4/8/09. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - f.) Kristine Height, Principal, and Arlene Maslanka, Pre-School Teacher, to attend the **“Introduction to Creative Curriculum”** Workshop at the Educational Services Commission, Berlin, NJ on 4/22 – 4/24/09. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - g.) Linda Saun, Teacher, to attend the **Camden County 4th Quarter Seminar**, on 5/28/09 at the Camden County Educational Technology and Training Center (ETTC), Berlin, NJ. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - h.) Michele Burton, Librarian, and Mary Alice Goins, Library Assistant, to attend the **“Follett Book Spring Display,”** in Pennsauken, NJ on 5/7/09. There is no cost to attend this workshop.
 - i.) Barbara Seery, CST Director, and Janine Houser, Guidance Counselor, to attend **“New Jersey Issues in School Law” (504 and Homeless)** Seminar on 4/30/09 in Mount Laurel, NJ. Registration Costs: \$179.00 per person. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.

- j). Mandy Seligman, Basic Skills Teacher, to attend the “**Foundations Workshop**” (*Wilson Reading*) on 5/21/’09 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Registration Cost: \$225.00. Mileage Costs as per BOE Travel Policy.
2. Receipt of NJDOE approval of **FY2009** No Child Left Behind (**NCLB**) consolidated application, as per state mandates regarding same.
 3. Doreen Graham, substitute teacher, to provide **homebound instruction** for an 8th grade special education transfer student, pending placement for a maximum of sixty (60) days at the district reimbursement rate, effective 3/10/’09.
 4. Receipt of consent approval from Bond Counsel regarding the **revised bond refunding**, as attached, originally approved at the 2/18/’09 BOE Meeting, effective 3/11/’09.
 5. To approve a one year extended **maintenance agreement** starting March 1, 2009 in the amount of \$1,464.00 covering the full maintenance and service on the phones.
 6. To **void** the following outstanding checks dated 6/15/2007, check # 21982 in the amount of \$710.48 and check #21983 in the amount of \$1,152.55.
 7. Presentation of the **proposed 2009-2010** Annual Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the Somerdale Borough Board of Education budget for the FY 2009-10 School Year for submission to the voters as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund Budget	\$6,353,058	\$ 3,303,653
Total Special Revenue Budget	\$ 365,344	N/A
Total Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 341,792</u>	<u>\$ 209,742</u>
Totals	\$7,060,194	\$3,513,395

RESOLVED, That there should be raised for the General Fund \$3,303,653 for the ensuing FY 2009-10 School Year

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. **April calendar events** for April, 2009 (*subject to change, pending final calendar revisions*).
2. **National Junior HS** and **Community Service** students to visit the New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters, Trenton, NJ on 5/11/’09; and **Fourth Grade** students to visit same on 5/12/’09, in conjunction with their social studies curriculum on New Jersey.
3. The **2009 –’10 Baseball and Softball Schedules**, as attached.
4. Receipt of **approval** from the Camden County NJDOE of the Somerdale School District’s School Level Objectives; Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR); and the Statements of Assurances.

5. Receipt of **approval** from the Camden County NJDOE of the Somerdale School District's Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan as mandated by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(f).

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. The second reading of the revised **Emergency Response Manual**, as attached.
2. To acknowledge receipt of M/M David Reeder's **donation** of a **snow blower** for the Somerdale Park School ; and All-Risk's donation of three (3) used **computers** for same.
3. To **change** the April 22, 2009 **BOE Meeting @7:30 p.m.**, to **April 27, 2009 @6:30 p.m.** to serve as a joint **Reorganization/Regular BOE Meeting**, following certification/validation of the budget/school board election vote on 4/21/09.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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| E. Buildings and Grounds Committee, | D. Reeder, Chairperson – no report |
| F. Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, Chairperson – Mrs. Lowden stated there has been several on-going discussions but no meeting has been scheduled. |
| G. CCESC Representative, | D. Reeder, Representative – Mr. Reeder stated he will be attending the delegate assembly. |
| H. NJSBA Representative, | S. Lowden – attended the 8 th grade dialogue |
| I. CCSBA Representative, | C. Cronce – no report |
| J. Liaison Committee, | M. Gray, Chairperson – no report |
| K. Public Relations, | L. Giambri, Chairperson – Mrs. Giambri stated we need to get ready for the budget vote. |
| L. Negotiations, | J. Walsh, Chairperson – no report |

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

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

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS: **2009-'10 Proposed Budget/Calendar
Dress Down Days (Reward Incentives)
Uniforms (Parent Survey)**

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) were given at 8:05 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.

Dr. Bruner stated Dress Down Days would continue to be used as a reward incentive, and described the Renaissance Program as an example. She also stated the district will be looking at other alternatives for next year.

Dr. Bruner stated the district has reached the (ten) 10 year mark on the Uniform Policy. She also stated Mrs. Height will be putting together a survey asking the parents their opinion regarding the policy.

Mr. Abbott stated all the students' look great coming to school and the uniforms are good for security.

Mrs. Mary Dow of 645 East Wood Avenue in Somerdale stated she has had problems finding a gym uniform for her son. She also stated the belts are too tight and that parents should have a say on what is working and what is not working. She was glad there would be a parent survey. She also commented at times, the uniform policy is too strict. She said kids are individuals and should be able to express themselves. She stated we are in a public school not a private school.

Mr. Abbott stated uniform accessories can be found at Sam's Club.

Cathy Farmer of 105 Columbia Avenue in Somerdale stated that it is hard to find a plain belt for girls.

Mrs. Carol Jenkins-Mitchell a resident of Somerdale stated she is very pleased with the Dress Down ideas and thinks the incentive programs are very good. She also thanked Dr. Bruner and Mrs. Height for working on the issues.

Terry Hodges of 110 Ogg Ave in Somerdale stated she thinks the teachers are great, however; she has a problem with white slips. She stated if her son is wearing a white shirt or colored shirt, it should have no bearing on his education. She also stated her son was given white slips and that the Dress Code is far too excessive.

Mr. Abbott stated Dr. Bruner and Mrs. Height will look into addressing the issues.

Mrs. Dow asked how the Dress Down funds will be handled for barometers. Dr. Bruner stated the funds will be handled through student activity. She also stated the clubs will be doubled up when it comes to fund raising.

Dr. Bruner stated a Dress Down Day will not be given until a benchmark is reached.

Mrs. Farmer asked how were the current Spring Sports teams going to be handled if there were no Dress Down Days?

Dr. Bruner stated needed funds will be taken out of the student activity monies already raised.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:25 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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Cronic, seconded by Mr. Reeder, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Leary

Dawn Leary
Board Secretary