

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

MINUTES

December 17, 2007
5:30 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 5:30 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

James Abbott-present	Martha Gray-present
Richard Caswell-present	Susan Lowden-present
Cheryl Cronce-present	David Reeder-present
Linda Giambri-absent	James Walsh-absent
Deborah Giordano-absent	

Also Present:

Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent
Kelly Peters, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Kristine Height, Principal
Doug McGarry, Bldg. & Grnds. Supervisor/EFM
Jack Kennedy, Solicitor

Mrs. Giambri arrived at 5:33 p.m

III. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS at 5:33 p.m.
(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

IV. 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 November 14, 2007 regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

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.

No public comments at this time.

VI. REPORTS

- A. The Superintendent gave a report
- B. The Business Administrator gave a report.

See attached report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

1. John Kosick to serve as a Saturday **Detention Monitor** for the 2007-'08 school year. Salary stipend as per the negotiated contract with the SEA.
2. Andrea Lomas to serve as a **Basketball Chaperone** for the 2007-'08 Basketball Season. Salary stipend as per the negotiated contract with the SEA.
3. Kenneth Bond as a **substitute teacher** for the 2007-'08 school year, pending final verification of certification and clearances, effective upon receipt of same.
4. To approve a long-term **medical leave**, effective 1/10/'08 – 6/30/'08 for Joyce Rykala for the 2007-'08 school year.
5. To approve a \$1,000 **increase in salary** for D. McGarry for successful completion of an initial six month probationary period as was approved at the 5/14/2007 special meeting.
6. Melissa Lachall, Rowan University student, to perform her **clinical school psychologist internship**, working with Sharon DeNafo, psychologist, effective January, 2008 – June, 2008.
7. To allow Michelle Parrish, currently on a medical leave for the 2007-'08 school year, to be **compensated** for all unused personal and sick days (27 days) for the 2007-'08 school year.

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

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

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce 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.

December Bill List #1 \$214,381.53

December Bill List #2 \$16866.53

November Payroll #1 \$165,466.47

November Payroll #2 \$165,299.70

Transfers as attached.

Board Secretary's Report for November, 2007

Treasurer's Report(s) for November, 2007

1. To approve the following staff members to attend **training sessions/seminars/meetings and/or conferences**:
 - a). Janine Houser and Debbie Halpin to attend the **NJASK Training Sessions** on 1/28/'08; 2/11/'08; and 2/14/'08, in Cherry Hill, NJ. There are no registration fees associated with attendance at these meetings.
 - b). Kelly Peters, Dr. Bruner, Debbie Giordano, Cheryl Cronce to attend **Camden County School Board Association** dinner meeting on January 9, 2008. Topic will be an overview of the new funding formula. The cost to attend is \$37 per person and mileage will be reimbursed per Policy #9250.
 - c). Kelly Peters to attend **NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group Claims Coordinator Duties and OSHA Recordkeeping** training on January 18, 2008 at the Gloucester County Department of Ed. in Sewell, NJ. Cost of this training is \$20 and mileage will be reimbursed as per Policy #9250.
 - d). Kelly Peters to attend **NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group Effective Job Descriptions for Early Return to Work** training on March 7, 2007, at the Gloucester County Department of Ed. in Sewell, NJ. Cost of this training is \$20 and mileage will be reimbursed as per Policy #9250.
 - e). Kelly Peters to attend **NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group Employment Practices** on September 26, 2008 at the Gloucester County Department of Ed. in Sewell, NJ. Cost of this training is \$20 and mileage will be reimbursed as per Policy #9250.
 - f). Kelly Peters to attend **New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) OPRA** Seminar on January 24, 2008 at the Double Tree Hotel in Mt. Laurel. Cost to attend this training is \$100.00 and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - g). Kelly Peters, Douglas McGarry, Dr. Bruner, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Reeder to attend the **Educational Facilities Manager's Association of Camden/Gloucester County** meeting on January 10, 2008 at Adelpia's Restaurant in Deptford, NJ. The Board will be accepting a scholarship to be given to a high school student graduating and pursuing a career in industrial trades.

- h). Jennifer Moffa and Linda Saun to attend the “**Advanced Guided Reading Strategies**” workshop in Voorhees, NJ on January 30, 2008. Cost to attend is \$195.00 per person, and mileage will be reimbursed per policy #9250.
 - i). Jennifer Moffa and Erica Coram to attend the “**Cooperative Learning: Elementary, Middle School, & Secondary Teachers**” workshop on January 22, 2008 at the Gloucester County Office of Education. Cost to attend is \$70.00 per person, and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - j). Arlene Maslanka and Liz Carroll to attend the “**Conference for N.J. Pre-K Teachers**” on February 29, 2008 in Atlantic City. Cost to attend is \$199.00 per person, and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - k). Arlene Maslanka to attend the “**Current Best Strategies for Creating an Outstanding Pre-School Program**” on February 8, 2008 in Voorhees, NJ. Cost to attend is \$185.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - l). Liz Carroll to attend the “**Practical Discipline Strategies for the Difficult Young Child**” Seminar on January 25, 2008 in Voorhees, NJ. Cost to attend is \$185.00, and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - m.) Mandy Seligman to attend the **Bureau of Education and Research Seminar** on February 7, 2008 in Voorhees, NJ. Cost to attend is \$195.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - n). Linda Saun to attend the **Academy of Teaching and Learning** on February 28, 2007 in Collingswood, NJ. There is no cost for this workshop. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - o). Erica Coram to attend the “**Using Learning Centers**” training on January 7, 2008 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Cost to attend this training is 185.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - p). Erica Coram to attend the “**1st grade Conference**” in Atlantic City on February 4, 2007. Cost to attend is \$199.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - q). Michael Phillips to attend the “**Strengthening Your Inclusive Classroom**” workshop on February 12, 2008 in Voorhees, NJ. Cost to attend is \$195.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
2. The 2008-'09 **Early Childhood Program Grant Application (ECPA)**.
 3. The 2006-'07 **Title I, Part A Performance Report**.
 4. Receipt of grant award by the NJDOE of the **2008-'09 NCLB** grant application.
 5. To accept the **IDEIA** grant award of \$149,744 for the 2007-2008 school year.
 6. To accept receipt of the FY07 **IDEIA** Amendment application.
 7. To participate in **SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative)** as mandated by A-5.
 8. Presentation of **2006-2007 Audit** with no recommendations. Synopsis is being made available to the public at this meeting.

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. The following field trips:
 - a). **Third Grade students** to visit Camden Children's Garden in Camden, NJ in conjunction with a culminating science unit on 5/9/08.
 - b). **Eighth Grade students** to visit the Holocaust Museum, Cherry Hill, NJ to view the play, "Dear Esther" and visit the Museum on 2/28/2008.
 - c). **Eighth Grade students** to visit the Pocono Valley Resort, located in Mount Pocono., PA on 6/11/08 in conjunction with their end-of-year class trip.
2. The revised 2007-'08 **Boys' and Girls' Basketball** Schedules, as attached.
3. The **Community Service Club** to sponsor a **Ronald McDonald House** fundraising activity through 12/21/07.
4. **Fourth Grade students** to participate in the **Southern Regional Institute** and the **Educational Technology and Training Center** (ETTC)'s on-line Math Challenge program, effective 1/7/08 for a four week period. The cost for the district's participation in the program will be \$150.00 for three (3) participating classroom(s).

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to accept a donation of \$400.00 from the First Presbyterian Church of Somerdale to help with the purchase of a new overhead projector to support the school's new reading program, "Story Town".

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. Disposal of fixed assets:

Tag numbers: 00050, 00046, 00039, 00047, 01190, 01182
2. To award quote for Main Office furniture to Hertz Furniture

Hertz Furniture -	\$9,660.00
BF Molz Furniture -	\$9,806.28
Affordable Office Furniture-	\$12,786.00

Mr. Caswell questioned the new furniture and asked what was planned for the old furniture.

Ms. Peters stated that some of the old furniture would be moved into the building to replace other furniture and that some furniture would be thrown away since it is not useful to the district any longer. The current furniture had to be altered to its current state and does not look professional and lacks space needed for secretaries to perform their jobs.

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

F.	Interdistrict Committee,	S. Lowden, Chairperson- Jan 8, 2008 meeting
G.	CCESC Representative,	D. Reeder, Representative- Nothing
H.	NJSBA Representative,	D. Giordano, Representative-Nothing
I.	CCSBA Representative,	D. Giordano, Representative-Nothing
J.	Liaison Committee,	M. Gray, Chairperson-Will schedule Liaison meeting in January
K.	Public Relations,	D. Giordano, Chairperson-Nothing
L.	Negotiations,	J. Walsh, Chairperson-Nothing

VIII. OTHER REPORTS at 6:08 p.m.

Faculty Attendance	November, 2007
Student Attendance	November, 2007
Fire Drill Reports	November, 2007
Health Report	November, 2007

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item)

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.

No public comments at this time.

Mrs. Giordano arrived at 6:11 p.m.

Mr. Caswell suggested that the school have the water tested and have air monitoring done.

Mr. Abbott responded that the district has had the done already.

Mr. Reeder stated that the district has also had radon testing.

Mr. McGarry stated that there are several opinions regarding air monitoring stating that levels can change from day to day and therefore true readings are hard to obtain.

Mr.s Lowden stated that she was concerned about the drainage on the playground area. She asked if there was anything at this point that the board could do to rectify this situation.

Mr. McGarry stated that in order to fix the problem there would need to be a large project done to build a retaining wall.

Dr. Bruner stated that she and Ms. Peters have instructed Mr. McGarry to place cones and caution tape in areas of extreme on the playground to mitigate injuries.

Mr. Abbott stated that the board is aware of the problem and wanted to point out that the problem has decreased since the last drainage project and realizes that there is still a small problem in that area.

Mrs. Lowden stated that currently the gate guides students and parents across the ice and that there should be something done to guide the students closer to the building away from the ice.

Dr. Bruner stated she and Mrs. Height would work on that.

Mr. Caswell asked if no smoking signs could be posted around the building.

Mr. Abbott reminded Mr. Caswell that smoking has been prohibited from school property for some time and there really is no need for signs.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:19 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mrs. Giordano

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.

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION at 6:56 p.m.

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

To terminate the individual custodian discussed in executive session. This individual will be given thirty days notice and termination is effective January 18, 2008.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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

To appoint LDP as Broker of Record for Health Insurance in the district and dissolve the current appointment of broker of record with Grinspec.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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

Mrs. Cronce, Mr. Reeder, and Mrs. Giambri to attend a one day advanced board member training on January 12, 2008 in Bridgeton NJ. The cost of this training is \$32.00 and is mandatory.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN 3(Reeder, Cronce, Giambri) ABSENT 1

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Giordano seconded by Mr. Reeder the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly A. Peters

Kelly A. Peters
Board Secretary