

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Minutes

November 14, 2007
7:30 p.m.

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

James Abbott-present	Martha Gray- present
Richard Caswell-present	Susan Lowden- present
Cheryl Cronce-present	David Reeder-absent
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

Mr. Reeder arrived at 7:31 p.m.

Mrs. Giambri arrived at 7:32 p.m.

III. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS at 7:32 p.m.
(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

IV. PRESENTATION to Lisa Padua, Special Education Teacher on her nomination/selection as "Promoter of Resilience" as part of the National Resilience Builder Program," sponsored by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). At 7:35 p.m.

Presentation(s) will be made by Sharon DeNafo, School Psychologist, Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, and James Abbott, Somerdale Board of Education President.

Mr. Walsh arrived at 7:37 p.m.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the October 17, 2007 regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items.

NOTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS at 7: 39 p.m.

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.

There were not public comments at this time.

VII. REPORTS

A. The Superintendent gave a report at 7:39 p.m.

Dr. Bruner stated that the end of the marking period was near and report cards would be going out soon.

Dr. Bruner stated there would be a curriculum committee meeting on 11/27/2007.

Dr. Bruner stated that there was a food drive underway and that the Thanksgiving feasts are being planned by different grades.

Dr. Bruner stated that the Student of the Month program was going well.

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

Ms. Peters indicated that NJ SMART data collection with seven new data elements has been collected and submitted to the state.

Ms. Peters stated that there have been some problems with one of the Canon copiers and that the district received a loan copier until ours could be fixed.

Ms. Peters stated that her and Mrs. Dow are looking at a company named Cardiac Science to purchase two new AEDs (automated external defibrillator) for the school to be placed in the gym area and outside of the nurse's office.

Ms. Peters stated that there was a Security Task Force meeting held this afternoon and that several topics were discussed including red/green cards, incident command, and a free training for school employees offered by FEMA.

Ms. Peters stated that the Health and Wellness committee will be meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Peters stated that the audit was complete and that Dr. Bruner and Ms. Peters along with the Finance Committee would be meeting tomorrow for the exit interview. There were no audit findings this year.

Ms. Peters stated that she would be attending curriculum meetings in December to discuss the budget process with the teachers and also to discuss the supply closet.

Ms. Peters stated that she would be attending the Delaware Valley Prepared Conference in Philadelphia on December 4, 2007 with guest speaker John Walsh from America's Most Wanted.

Ms. Peters stated that her and Mr. McGarry would be attending a Going Green Seminar on November 30, 2007 at EIRC.

Ms. Peters stated that her and Mr. McGarry are looking at more cameras for the building, inside and outside.

Ms. Peters stated that she place an order with SJTP for eight new computers for the classrooms.

Ms. Peters stated that Connect Ed and Form Path should be up and running by the new year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS at 7:49 p.m.

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

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

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

1. To grant a **medical leave** of absence for Joyce Rykala, First Grade Teacher, effective 10/29/'07 until on and/or before 1/09/'08.
2. To grant a **medical leave** of absence to Edward Prendergast, Head Custodian/Maintenance Technician, effective 11/19/'07 for a maximum six week period (*approximately 1/02/'08*).
3. To appoint Valerie Priolo, Kindergarten Teacher, to replace Joyce Rykala, First Grade Teacher, as **Mentor** for Erica Coram, First Grade Teacher, for the 2007-'08 school year. Mentoring fee and guidelines as per New Jersey Statute and Code.
4. To appoint Kristin Pucca, Lawren Rudley, and Cathy Lafferty as **substitute teachers** for the 2007-'08 school year, effective 11/15/'07; and Joseph Simpkins as a **substitute custodian** for the 2007-'08 school year, effective 11/15/'07.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1 (Mr. Walsh on item 4 only) ABSENT 1

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

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

November Bill List #1 \$250,449.42

November Bill List #2 \$14,254.67

November Bill List #3 \$300.00

October Payroll #1 \$163,572.77

October Payroll #2 \$164,785.05

Transfers as attached.

Board Secretary's Report for October, 2007

Treasurer's Report(s) for October, 2007

1. To approve the following staff members to attend **training sessions/seminars/meetings and/or conferences**:
 - a). Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, to attend the New Jersey Association of Federal Program Administrators and New Jersey Department of Education **South/Central Regional Winter Training Institute** in Atlantic City, NJ on 12/7/'07. Registration Fee: \$120.00.
 - b). Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, and Kurtis Still, Technology Facilitator, to attend the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) Technology **"Techspo 2008"** Conference, in Atlantic City, NJ on 1/31 – 2/1/'08. Registration Cost(s): \$362.00 per person; Lodging Costs (*one night*): \$99.00 per person.
 - c). Dr. Debra Bruner, Superintendent, to continue to serve as a Camden County educational representative/advisor on the **Academic/Business Consortium (ABC)** and the **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)**, and to attend their Fall and Spring meeting(s), respectively. There are no fees associated with the meetings.
 - d). Sandra Robinson, LDTC to attend the November 29, 2007 and December 4, 2007 **Camden County Special Education Director** Meetings, with Ms. Barbara Seery, CST Director, at the Educational Services Commission and Collingswood Senior Community Center, respectively. There are no fees associated with the meetings.
 - e). Louise Barikian to attend the **Sterling Interdistrict Professional Development Committee (PDC)** Meeting on December 7, 2007.
 - f). Debbie Giordano to attend the **NJSBA Delegate meeting** held on November 17, 2007 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wyndham Conference Center/Hotel in Plainsboro,

- NJ. There is no cost to attend, and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
- g). Mindy Kegel to attend Camden County Association of School Business Officials **December Workshop** on December 17, 2007. Cost to attend is \$30.00.
 - h). Kelly Peters to attend the **Delaware Valley Prepared Conference** on December 4, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, PA from 7:15 a.m. - 3:00p.m. This training is being provided by Sprint who is also providing a grant workshop to enable schools to be prepared electronically. There is no cost to attend, and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - i). Douglas McGarry and Kelly Peters to attend a workshop entitled **“Going Green”** presented by EIRC in Sewell NJ on November 30, 2007. Cost of this workshop is \$50.00 per person and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - j). Kelly Peters to attend a professional development workshop given by NJASBO entitled, **“Budget 08/09”** on December 20, 2007 at the Double Tree Hotel in Mount Laurel. Cost of this workshop is \$100.00. Mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - k). Janine Houser to attend a workshop entitled, **“Art with Children”** given by the Institute for Prevention on December 11, 2007. Cost to attend is \$75.00 and mileage will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - l). Jennifer Miller and Barbara Reppy to attend a workshop entitled, **“Writing on Demand”** given by the Institute for Educational Development on December 17, 2007 in Cherry Hill NJ. Cost to attend is \$199.00 per person. All other costs will be reimbursed as per policy #9250.
 - m). Jennifer Miller and Sharon Gomez to attend a workshop entitled, **“Successful Co-Teaching Strategies: Increasing the Effectiveness of Your Inclusive Program”** on January 10, 2007, presented by Bureau of Education and Research in Cherry Hill NJ. Cost to attend is \$195.00 per person; and all other reimbursements will be in accordance of policy #9250.
 - n). Mandy Seligman and Kristine Height to attend a workshop entitled, **“Response to Intervention”** on December 19, 2007, presented by the Institute for Educational Development in Cherry Hill NJ. Cost to attend this workshop is \$199.00 per person, and all other reimbursements will follow in accordance of policy #9250.
 - o). Kelly Peters to attend the NJ Buildings and Grounds meeting on December 12, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. at Auletto Caterers in Deptford, NJ. There is no cost to attend this meeting.
2. Acceptance of the of the **Audit Report** of the Somerdale School District for the year ended June 30, 2007, pending the Exit Conference w/Auditors scheduled for 11/15/07.
 3. The **Debt Service** for the 2008-2009 school-year.
 4. The 2007-2008 **District Report of Transported Resident Students**.
 5. The 2008-2009 **Application for State School Aid**.
 6. The 2007-2008 **Fall Survey Report**.

7. Renewal of the **Kennedy Behavioral Health Services** contract (Drug and Alcohol) for the 2007-'08 school year.

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

Mrs. Cronce stated that the Finance Committee met with LDP Consulting group earlier in tonight. There was a presentation from LDP which shows a good service program for employees. Mrs. Cronce stated that the Finance Committee would be looking at LDP in comparison to Grinspec our current broker to tailor our needs namely broker of record for the December meeting possibly.

C. **Curriculum Committee**, C. Cronce 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). **Second Grade** students to the Martinique Bowling Alley, Lindenwold, NJ on 11/2/'07 (*date was not yet determined as per the 10/'07 BOE Meeting*) from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at a cost of \$7.00 per student. Insurance coverage provided by Martinique Lanes.
 - b). **Kindergarten** students to visit Storybook Land on 5/14/'08 (*raindate 5/21/'08*), located in Egg Harbor Township, N as a culminating language arts activity.
 - c). **Choral and Band** students to perform at the Echelon Mall Holiday Performance at a date and time TBD in December, 2007.
 - d). **Student Council** students to visit the Stratford Nursing Home, Stratford, NJ, in conjunction with a holiday community service project, and "Chuckie Cheese" Restaurant on 12/17/'07.
2. The 2008-'09 **Professional Development Plan (PDP)**, as developed by the Professional Development Committee.
3. Linda Saun's third grade students to participate in "**Kenya's Connect**" overseas Pen Pal Program, located/originated in Silver Spring, MD, effective 11/15/'07.
4. The 2007-'08 **Boys' and Girls' Basketball** Schedules, as attached.
5. The "**Bully Busters**" assembly program(s), presented by the Camden County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Inc., for Kindergarten and first grade students.

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

Mrs. Lowden questioned item A, asking if the date was correct.

Dr. Bruner stated that the date was correct and that the trip was not put on last month's agenda by mistake.

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

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

A recommendation is requested to acknowledge the following **donations**:

- a). Games and toys by M/M Brad Dow for the use of students during indoor recess.
- b). A tricycle from Basic Tri-Cycle for the "Pennies for Patients" fundraising drive. The bike was donated to the Pre-School Disabled (PSD) Class.

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

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

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

1. A recommendation is requested to allow SYAA Cheerleading to use the cafetorium for the time period of 11/15 – 11/30/'07 (*Mon. – Fri. 6:50 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*) and 1/2 - 2/29/'08 (*Tues. – Thurs. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*).
2. Award quotes for bathroom renovations:

Flooring:

Carpet Showcase	\$ 4,438.62
Mazza's	\$ 8,000.00
ERCO	\$16,856.00

Award quote to Carpet showcase in the amount of \$4,438.62

Toilet Partitions:

Equiparts	\$5,819.00
ERCO	\$9,982.00
Assoc. Building	\$6,448.00

Award quote to Equiparts in the amount of \$5,819.00

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

F. Interdistrict Committee, S. Lowden, Chairperson- There was a meeting a convention regarding updates on negotiations and the next meeting is scheduled for February 2008.

G. CCESC Representative, D. Reeder, Representative-nothing to report

H. NJSBA Representative, D. Giordano, Representative-none

I. CCSBA Representative, D. Giordano, Representative-none

J. Liaison Committee, M. Gray, Chairperson- met on 11/1/2007 with SEA outcome was positive.

K. Public Relations,

D. Giordano, Chairperson-none

L. Negotiations,

J. Walsh, Chairperson-nothing to report at this time.

IX. OTHER REPORTS

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

- X. DISCUSSION ITEMS: NJASBO- Second Question 60% Vote- Ms. Peters spoke about a resolution to be sent to our legislators in regards to the 60% vote on second questions.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to the attached resolution, all in favor (8)

Computer/Equipment Sale December 6th and 7, 2007.- Ms. Peters stated that there were several pieces of equipment computers and such that she would like to sell. The public sale would take place on Dec 6th and 7th and all proceeds would be put back into the school district.

On a motion by Mr. Walsh seconded by Mrs. Cronic the board approves the public sale on the dates listed above.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) at 8:00 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.

No public comments at this time.

Mr. Walsh stated that Officer Beatty attended the Security Task Force meeting today and told Mr. Walsh that the district has good safety plans and that we are running a "tight ship"

Mr. Walsh stated that the grounds are looking better than ever and wanted to thank Mr. McGarry for all his efforts.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like Mrs. Height or Dr. Bruner to let Mr. Kosick (Science teacher) know that the State Crime Lab does tours for schools and that it would be interesting for a class trip.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:01 p.m on a motion by Mr. Caswell seconded by Mr. Reeder

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.

XIII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION at 8: 55 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Caswell seconded by Mrs. Gray the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly A. Peters

Kelly A. Peters
Board Secretary