

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education  
301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Public presentation of the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget**  
and the  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

**Minutes**

March 19, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:03 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  
Doug McGarry, Bldg. & Grnds. Supervisor/EFM  
Jack Kennedy, Solicitor

III. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS at 7:04 p.m.

*Presented by Dr. Debra Bruner, Superintendent, Somerdale Park School*

IV. PRESENTATION of the 2008-'09 Proposed Budget for the Somerdale School District, followed by a Public Question and Answer Session of same.

*James Abbott, BOE President, Cheryl Cronce, Chairperson, Finance Committee,  
Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, and Kelly A. Peters, Business Administrator*

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION at 7:59

No public comments at this time

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

RESOLUTION approving the 2008-2009 Budget for the Somerdale School District (Attached)

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

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the February 11, 2008 regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

Mr. Walsh arrived at 8:01 p.m.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items at 8:01 p.m..

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 comment at this time.

IX. REPORTS

A. The Superintendent gave a report at 8:01 p.m.

Dr. Bruner stated that there will be an early dismissal day tomorrow.  
 Dr. Bruner stated that administration is using Connect Ed more.  
 Dr. Bruner stated that the meeting with Mayor and Council on 3/17/08 went well.  
 Dr. Bruner stated that the talent show will be held the night of the annual election  
 Dr. Bruner stated that the Multi-Cultural club will be having a Cultural Fair on 4/8/08  
 Dr. Bruner stated that Grandparents Day will be held on April 18, 2008  
 Dr. Bruner stated that the Re-Organization meeting will be held on 4/21 and she wanted to thank Mrs. Giordano for her time on the board this past year.  
 Dr. Bruner stated that Father and Son Baseball has asked her to throw out the first ball on opening day ceremonies on 4/12/2008.

B. The Business Administrator gave a report at 8:06 p.m.

Ms. Peters stated that she has been working on the budget preparation and submission this past month.

Ms. Peters stated that her and Mr. McGarry had met with a company called Green-Tech in regards to saving energy costs and that a proposal was submitted that would save the district money by changing over light fixtures and switches to conserve energy.

Ms. Peters stated that there continues to be training and new forms on Form Path .

Ms. Peters stated that she is holding a meeting next month for the Security Task Force.

Ms. Peters stated that there were 10 new cameras installed in the district, the district now has a total of 26 cameras in and outside of the building.

Ms. Peters state that new regulations on in-state travel have been released in addition to clarification on meals and refreshments.

Ms. Peters stated that Mr. McGarry, Mr. Reeder and Ms. Peters did a walk around the property to look at the grounds and some areas in need of improvement/clean up.

Ms. Peters stated that Mr. McGarry has started the bathroom renovations and office renovations and those renovations should be complete the week of spring break.

Ms. Peters stated that four new exterior doors are also being replaced over spring break.

Ms. Peters stated that she conducted a walkthrough and completed the RFP for Food Service.

#### X. DISCUSSION ITEM: Use of Ward Field

Mr. Abbott stated that this discussion was specifically regarding the use of field request presented by Monkey Joes' baseball team.

Mr. Abbott stated that this team is an adult league, and that previously the board had decided that the field was for the use of students, excluding adult teams.

Mr. Abbott requested that this request be denied.

#### XI. NEW BUSINESS

##### 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. Michelle Devlin, Stockton University student, to conduct forty (40) hours of **fieldwork** in Mrs. Priolo's (*Kindergarten*) classroom for the remainder of the Spring, 2008 Term/Semester.
2. To accept the **resignation** of Michelle Parish, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, effective 6/30/'08.
3. To **appoint** Rory Eisenstein as Advisor/Instructor for the after-school Faculty/Staff Conversational Spanish program for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year. Salary as per the negotiated contract/stipend (pro-rated) with the SEA.
4. To **appoint** Michele Coppola as a substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year.
5. To **appoint** Catherine Farmer, as a (*PT – maximum 4 hours per day*) One-to-One Assistant (*non-certificated*) at a Step I Level for a primary special education student for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year, contingent upon receipt of clearances. Salary (*pro-rated*) as per the negotiated contract with the SEA.

6. To **appoint** Nancy Estrella as Spanish Translator (*Hourly Stipend*) for the remainder of 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. Walsh 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 \$180,003.64

March Bill List #2 \$21,588.84

February Payroll #1 \$166,020.84

February Payroll #2 \$165,706.68

Transfers as attached.

Board Secretary's Report for February, 2008

Treasurer's Report(s) for February, 2008

1. To approve the following staff members to attend **training sessions/seminars/meetings and/or conferences**:
  - a). Donna Granese, Mandy Seligman, and Dr. Debra Bruner, to attend the **New Jersey Association of Federal Program Administrators (NJAFPA)** Spring Conference/Meeting at the Trump Marina Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ on 5/21-22/'08. Registration Fees: \$458.00 for Dr. Bruner and Ms. Granese; \$229.00 for Ms. Seligman.

Item 1b was removed and voted on separately

- c). Kristine Height, Principal, and Janine Houser, Guidance Counselor, to attend the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Mediation** Recognition Day on 5/21. Total Registration Cost: \$110.00
- d). Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, to attend/participate in the University of Pennsylvania's Tri-State "**Leadership Symposium**," sponsored by the Middle States Regional Office, in Philadelphia, PA on 5/16/'08. There is no registration cost to participate/attend the Symposium.
- e). Mary Dow and Douglas McGarry to attend **EPA Air Quality for Schools Training** on April 8, 2008 in Manahawkin, NJ. Cost of this training is \$50 per participant.
- f). Mary Alice Goins and Michelle Burton to attend the **Follett Library Resources 2008 Spring Book Preview** on April 17, 2008 in Turnersville, NJ. There is no cost to attend this event.

- g). Douglas McGarry to attend **New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost to attend this conference is \$100.00.
  - h). Kelly Peters to attend the **NJASBO 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** on May 7-9<sup>th</sup> at Bally's in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost of attendance is \$235.00
  - i). Melissa McCarthy to attend "**Helping Your Student Build Self Discipline and Self-Control**" on April 30, 2008 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Cost to attend this workshop is \$195.00
  - j). Nancy Strassle to attend the **Regional Training Session (Southern Region)** for Licensing via the Office of Licensure and Credentials, at Stockton State College, EHT, NJ on 4/11/'08. There is no registration cost to attend this training session.
2. Receipt of approval by the NJDOE of the **NCLB 2007 Carry-Over** Final Application.
  3. To continue to provide an **outside placement** for an ED Kindergarten transfer student at the Brookfield Academy for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year, effective 3/10/'08. Tuition costs pro-rated on a yearly tuition cost of \$39,780.00. Transportation to be provided through the Camden County Educational Services Commission.
  4. To approve a **contract** with Pyramid Educational Consultants to provide consultation to special education department regarding programming for students with autism at an hourly rate of \$185.00 to be paid using IDEA grant funds. The contract will be on an as needed basis for the time period of April 2008 to August 2008.

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

Mr. Caswell asked a question regarding item 1B listed below and the cost of this training.

Mr. Caswell stated that the cost seemed exorbitant and wanted to know if this training was necessary and if it was held somewhere else that did not cost as much.

Dr. Bruner stated that the only time and place this training was being held was in California during this time period.

Dr. Bruner stated that this was the only time that did not interrupt the normal operations of school.

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

- 1b). Kurtis Still and Kristine Height to attend the **Power School Training Institute**, in Anaheim, CA on 6/22 - 6/26/'08. Registration Fees: \$2,000.00 per person. Five days Lodging Fees: \$179.00 plus taxes per day per person not to exceed \$895 + taxes per person. Cost of air fare as remitted.

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. The following field trips:
  - a). **Community Service Club** students to participate in the “PRIDE” in Public Education Day at the Voorhees Town Center (*formerly the Echelon Mall*), on 4/4/’08. As per parental permission forms, students will be dropped off and picked up by parents.
  - b). **Pre-Vocational Eighth Grade** students to attend the Camden County Technical School on 4/24/’08. Transportation provided by the Camden County Technical School.
  - c). **Seventh Grade Math** students to attend and participate in the Hershey Park Math Day on 5/9/’08. Cost per student is \$30.50.
  - d). **Fourth Grade** students to visit the New Jersey State Trooper Museum Learning Center in Trenton, NJ on 5/13/’08. Transportation Cost per student is \$5.00.
  - e). **Safety & NJHS & Community Service** groups to visit the NJ Police Headquarters for Police Week on 5/16/’08.
  - f). **Grades K – 2** to participate in a **walking trip** to attend the Cinemark 16 Movie Theater on 4/4/’08 to view “Horton Hears a WHO.”
  - g). **Preschool Students** to visit ShopRite Supermarket, Berlin, NJ on 4/10/’08 and the Somerdale Police Station (*walking trip*), Somerdale, NJ at date to be determined (*April-May, 2008*).
2. Volunteer staff members Andrea Lomas, Michelle Pringle, Louise Barikian, Nancy Estrella, Lauren Baldyga, Sharon Gomez, Mary Rose Reeder, Lennie Biad, and Victoria Dare, for the **Spring Talent Show** tentatively scheduled to be held on 4/15/’08.
3. **NJDOE Immigrant Student Count** Achievement and Accountability Report for the 2007-’08 school year.
4. 2008 revised **Boys’ Baseball and Girls’ Softball Schedules**, as attached.
5. The **March and April, 2008 Student Activity Calendar(s)**, as attached.
6. The approval of **TarKill Soccer Club**, Stratford, NJ to award two \$50.00 Bonds to two outstanding soccer athletes (*one male and one female*) annually at the Somerdale Park School Graduation ceremony.
7. **Sixth Grade** students to participate in a joint “Butterflies” Project with the National Holocaust Museum to commemorate the 1.5 million children killed during the holocaust.
8. **Student Council/NJHS/Peer Mediation** students to attend Hershey Park, Hershey, PA on 6/3/’08 as their end-of-year culminating trip.
9. **Multi-Cultural Club** students to participate and host a “**Cultural Fair**” on 4/8/’08, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m..

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following omitting item 2 as in-eligible:

1. **F & S** to use Ward Field from 3/20/'08 – 6/15/'08 (*Mon. Tu. Th. & Fri. 4 p.m. – Dusk; and Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.*), contingent upon the practice/schedules(s) of the SPS girls' softball and boys' baseball teams.
2. **Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co.** to use Ward Field on Sunday mornings 3/30/'08 – 8/3/'08 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m..

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

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the **donation** of 10 - 12 junior tennis racquets, a 10' net and twenty-four (24) foam tennis balls from Prince Sports, via Maria Raws, SPS Parent, to the Somerdale Park School.

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

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| F. Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, Chairperson- nothing   |
| G. CCESC Representative,    | D. Reeder, Representative-CCESC is moving forward with co-op  |
| H. NJSBA Representative,    | D. Giordano, Representative-nothing   |
| I. CCSBA Representative,    | D. Giordano, Representative-nothing   |
| J. Liaison Committee,       | M. Gray, Chairperson-meeting on 3/11/2008 went well concerns were discussed   |
| K. Public Relations,        | D. Giordano, Chairperson- Ms. Peters stated that she thought it would be a good idea to have a community task force as had been in the past. This was discussed with Mayor and Council on Monday night who seem agreeable to this type of event. The taskforce would meet quarterly and discuss the school, the community and opportunities for both to do good things. |
| L. Negotiations,            | J. Walsh, Chairperson-nothing   |

XII. OTHER REPORTS

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

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) at 8:28 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.

Mr. Dave Farmer of Father and Son Baseball stated that we wanted to thank the board for the use of the gym and that more than 120 kids went through the practices and trainings held there. Mr. Farmer stated that F&S wants to give back to the school in some way for instance a grant earmarked for some type of equipment. The equipment does not have to be sporting in nature but that Father and Son baseball wants to show its appreciation towards the school.

Mr. Farmer stated that there are new bases that need to be installed that were donated to the school. These bases are break away bases that are safer for players.

Mr. Abbott stated that there is a grant called the Clean Communities Grant that the district should look into that could help with cleanup of the field.

At 8:32 p.m. Mr. Tom Hayden- SEA President spoke.

Mr. Hayden stated that he is of the understanding that the board is contemplating outsourcing of custodial services next year and that this is the first plea of jobs for these individuals. Mr. Hayden stated that the board should take into consideration that two of these employees are residents of Somerdale and that this is men's livelihoods at stake.

- XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:33 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.

- XV. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION at 9:16 p.m.

- XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Reeder seconded by Mrs. Lowden the meeting was adjourned at 9:17p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly A. Peters*

Kelly A. Peters  
Board Secretary