

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

MINUTES

December 17, 2008
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	Linda Giambri - present
Leslie Caramiello -present	Martha Gray - present
Richard Caswell - present	Susan Lowden - present
Cheryl Cronce - 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 Mr. Reeder seconded by Mr. Walsh the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the November 19, 2008 regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

IV. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS

(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items. Mrs. Berkley commented on the preschool program.

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 7:47 p.m.

Dr. Bruner provided an update of the December activities in the school.

Dr. Bruner discussed the preschool expansion program.

Dr. Bruner informed the Board and the public that the mayor would like to have a joint meeting between the Borough Council and the Board to discuss housing developments in the borough. The meeting will take place on Monday, January 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

- B. Business Administrator gave a report at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Leary met with her mentor to develop the preschool budget.

Ms. Leary participated in a webinar with the Child Study Team to review the SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) program.

Ms. Leary also participated in the following:

Met with Gatekeeper to review the 403B plan and discussed the regulations that have to be in place by January 1, 2009 which is mandated by the IRS.

Met with Strauss Esmay to review policies.

Attended the first QSAC meeting with Dr. Bruner and Board committee members.

Attended her monthly Round Table meeting.

Due to the drainage problem and the flood in the school, Ms. Leary contacted New Jersey School Boards Insurance Group. An adjuster was sent out to survey the damage.

Ms. Leary met with the private investigator and provided him with seven referral cases.

Ms. Leary continues to work on the Emergency Response Plan with Mrs. Denafio.

The new server and tape library was installed by SJTP.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent approved the following:

1. The attached “**Source For Teachers**” approved list of substitute teachers for the 2008-'09 school year.
2. Melissa Dickson, Rowan University student, to conduct a **clinical internship** with J. Rykala, Grade One Teacher, and J. Miller, Spec. Ed. Teacher, for the Spring, 2009 Semester.
3. To appoint James Kelly as a **substitute custodian** at the sub custodian rate of pay (*\$12.00 per hour*) for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year.
4. To appoint Jaime Mungo, 5th Grade Teacher, and Sharon Kapuscinski, Basic Skills Teacher, as (A.M.) **Detention Monitors** for the 2008-'09 school year. Salary as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
5. Alex Casas, former student, to serve as a **volunteer** in K. Bond, ESL Teacher's classroom, for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year.

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. 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.

December Bill List #1 \$ 164,106.96
 December Bill List #2 \$ 22,302.13
 December Bill List #3 \$ 6,419.00
 December Bill List #4 \$ 25,211.50
 November Payroll #1 \$ 99,647.99
 November Payroll #2 \$ 100,385.60

Transfers/Adjustments as attached.

Board Secretary's Report(s) for October 2008

Treasurer's Report(s) for October 2008

***Figures given are accurate payroll account totals. November's Bill list totals were mistakenly listed under November Payroll account figures on the November Agenda.**

1. The following staff members to attend **conferences**:

- a). Halle Koch and Jennefir Moffa, Grade Three Teachers, to attend the “**Writing Strategies That Work**” Seminar, in Cherry Hill, NJ on 1/12/’09. Registration Cost: \$199.00 and mileage reimbursement.
 - b). Kimberly Plotts, Elizabeth Carroll, and Arlene Maslanka, Speech Therapist, PSD Teacher, and Pre-school Teacher, to attend the “**Conference for NJ PreK Teachers,**” in Atlantic City, NJ on 2/26/’09. Total Registration Cost: \$627.00
 - c). Kimberly Plotts, Speech Therapist, to attend the “**6th Annual Symposium for Speech Language Specialists,**” at Rowan University on 3/20/’09. Registration Cost: \$145.00 and mileage reimbursement.
 - d). Dr. Debra Bruner, Superintendent, and Kurtis Still, Computer Teacher/Technology Facilitator, to attend the **NJASA 2009 Techspo** Seminar 1/29-1/30 in Atlantic City, NJ. Registration Costs: \$578.00 (*\$289.00 per person*); Lodging: \$198.00 (*\$99.00 per person*); and mileage costs.
2. Receipt of approval of the **2009 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Consolidated IDEA-B grant** for the 2008-’09 school year.
 3. To provide ten (10) hours per week of **homebound instruction** for a 5th grade special education student who transferred into the district. Rachel Gorman will be assigned as the homebound tutor, to be paid at the negotiated homebound instructional rate of pay.
 4. To accept a **PSD tuition student** from the Laurel Springs School District for placement in the PSD classroom for the remainder of the 2008-’09 school year, at a tuition rate of \$13,420.00, pro-rated, for the remainder of the school year. Transportation costs to be paid by Laurel Springs.
 5. To dispose of a non-usable/non-functioning Audiometer from the nurse’s office, tag #00317, effective 12/18/’08.
 6. To purchase a universal mount and IKAN soccer guard for a 5th grade orthopedically disabled special education student. Cost of the mount and guard: \$435.20.
 7. To have Solicitor send a letter to Bowman & Co. regarding non-payment of the additional \$3000.00 charge for the audit, as per Bowman and Co. contractual agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 1(Mrs. Gray on #7) ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 0

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

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. **January calendar events** for January, 2009 (*subject to change, pending final calendar revisions*).
2. A Community Service school supplies drive to gather various school supplies to support the **Miracles in Action** program in Chuchuca, Guatemala.
3. **Eighth Grade** students to visit/observe the Camden County Technical School, Berlin, NJ on 1/15/’09. Transportation costs are provided by CCTC.
4. **Kindergarten** students to visit StoryBook Land on 5/20/’09 in conjunction with their reading/language arts curriculum. Cost per student: \$12.50 plus \$5.00 transportation fee.

5. The **PTA** to sponsor a **car sticker fund drive** to recognize Somerdale Park School students/families.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Reeder seconded by Ms. Caramiello the following was approved

A **recommendation** is requested to approve the following:

1. To approve a shared service agreement for Building and Grounds with Sterling High School

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

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| E. Buildings and Grounds Committee, | D. Reeder, Chairperson – requested a shared service for B & G Supervisor agreement with Sterling High School. |
| F. Policy Committee, | J. Walsh, Chairperson – Strauss Esmay is working out well with our policy updates. |
| G. Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, Chairperson – no report. |
| H. CCESC Representative, | D. Reeder, Representative – set a new record on the shortest meeting which lasted 17 minutes. |
| I. NJSBA Representative, | S. Lowden – Mrs. Lowden attended the Delegate Assembly meeting. Mrs. Lowden stated the resolution was for NJSBA to support Veteran’s Day as a holiday. She stated it was a real learning experience and a nice session. |
| J. CCSBA Representative, | C. Cronic – no report. |
| K. Liaison Committee, | M. Gray, Chairperson – Mrs. Gray stated the only issue was the heat in the classrooms which had been resolved. |
| L. Public Relations, | L. Giambri, Chairperson – no report. |
| M. Negotiations, | J. Walsh, Chairperson – Mr. Walsh stated we have a labor of bliss. |

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

Faculty Attendance	November, 2008
Student Attendance	November, 2008
Fire Drill Reports	November, 2008
Health Report	November, 2008

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM: Pre-School Expansion Program Plan, K. Height, Principal

Mrs. Height submitted the preschool expansion plan. She stated she mailed out 500 surveys to parents and has received responses back, mainly through email. Mrs. Height stated she has been responding and informed the parents that the State is responsible for the new guidelines. Final consideration for the pre-school will be based on State funding eligibility and classroom space consideration.

Cheerleading Update/Homework Club

Mrs. Height stated there are 26 students in the homework club. She recommended using the cheerleading stipend money for the homework club in lieu of no longer having a cheerleading squad.

Roofing/Flooring/Flooding Issues

Roofing , flooring and flood issues were covered previously by Dr. Bruner and Ms. Leary.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) 8:40 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.

David Farmer of 105 Columbia Avenue in Somerdale, President of the Baseball League asked the Board to accept his offer for use of the gymnasium every Saturday between the hours of 9:00-3:00 pm. The Baseball League will pay the custodial fees for use of the gym. The League will begin on Monday, January 12, 2009. Mr. Farmer wanted to know if he could have access to a storage closet to store his equipment.

Dr. Bruner stated to Mr. Farmer that she would have Mrs. Height speak with Mr. Hayden and check with Mr. Prendergast regarding storage space.

Mr. Reeder stated that last year the Baseball League was a success and there were no problems.

Mrs. Height stated on behalf of Mr. Hayden, it would be ok to store equipment and that there was room available.

Mrs. Carolyn Jenkins Council member and a resident of Somerdale asked for all of the Board members email addresses.

Mr. Abbott stated that all email addresses are available on the district website.

Mrs. Jenkins questioned the number of fundraisers. She asked the Board to reconsider the amount of fundraisers done each year. She stated that parents do not always have the money for their child to participate in dress down days. She asked the Board to reconsider having two big fundraisers instead of several small ones during the year.

Mrs. Jenkins also stated there is a student uniform policy in place and when the students are asked to donate a \$1 in order to participate in the dress down day, it is wrong, and a matter

of principle. She said it should be voluntary and that other parents agree.

Mr. Caswell stated teachers were seen leaving the school through the double doors on the side, rather than the front doors and this could open up an opportunity for strangers to come into the school.

Dr. Bruner assured Mr. Caswell that the school safety measures are in place at all times. She also said depending on where teachers are parked, some may exit through the side double doors.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:55 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 9:40 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Caramiello, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Leary

Dawn Leary
Board Secretary