

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
following the Reorganization Meeting**

MINUTES

April 21, 2008

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:56 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-absent
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
Kelly Peters, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal
Douglas McGarry, Bldg. & Grnds. Supervisor/EFM
John Kennedy, Solicitor

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular and executive session minutes of the March 19, 2008 Regular Meeting, and the March 17, 2008 Special Somerdale Council/Board of Education (*Joint*) Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 1 ABSTAIN 1(Caramiello) ABSENT 1

- IV. PRESENTATION to *Tiyanna Prince in recognition of her artwork award/nomination in the Camden County NJPTA 2008 Reflections Art Show;*” and to *Zachary Axelrod, for his winning poster in the 2007-'08 Peace Poster Contest, held annually by the Lions International Club, and presented on behalf of the Lindenwold Lions Club.*

Presentation of recognition certificates will be made by Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent, and the Somerdale Board of Education President.

- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items at 8:10 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.

Mr. Thomas Hayden- SEA President

Mr. Hayden stated that he wanted to congratulate all the newly elected members of the board.

Mr. Hayden stated that he wanted to comment on the RIF (items 1 and 2 under personnel). He stated that he would please like the Board to reconsider the RIF and also reconsider the outsourcing of custodians. He stated that one gentleman has ten year in the pension system and that two other custodians are residents of Somerdale. He stated that the cost that the board feels it will save, they should consider the cost of these men's livelihoods and keep them on the job.

VI. REPORTS

A. The Superintendent gave a report-

Dr. Bruner stated that we have a defeated budget and Ms. Peters will be working with Mr. Cantillo in getting him all the information he may need.

Dr. Bruner stated that there will be a meeting with Mayor and Council on Monday May 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm in Borough Hall to discuss the defeated budget.

Dr. Bruner stated that the school is well into state testing.

Dr. Bruner stated that recycling efforts have increased this year.

Dr. Bruner stated that she will be attending a meeting on Pre-School expansion

Dr. Bruner stated that our baseball team is off to a good start, winning games and playing well.

Mr. Reeder stated that the team had been defeated tonight but they played well.

Dr. Bruner stated that the Cultural Fair, Talent Show and Grandparents Day went well.

Dr. Bruner stated that Report Cards are coming out soon.

B. The Business Administrator gave a report:

Ms. Peters stated that Mr. McGarry worked really hard over Spring Break to accomplish the front office renovation and bathroom renovations.

Ms. Peters stated there was a picture board made of the renovations, before, during and after.

Ms. Peters stated that the following projects/items were completed by all the custodial and maintenance staff over spring break:

1. Carpets shampooed in rooms C1, C7, C8, C10, C-11, B8, B10, D5, D6
2. The bathroom floors were scrubbed and disinfected in C3, C5, C7, C11, C4, C6, C8, C10, the C-Wing Boys' and Girls' restrooms, the C-wing Faculty Men's and Women's Bathrooms, and the A-Wing Faculty Men's and Women's Bathrooms.
3. The Kitchen floor was scrubbed, disinfected and 2 coats of sealer were applied to the floor.
4. The cafeteria floor was scrubbed, 2 coats of wax were applied and the floor was burnished.
5. All hallways were scrubbed, a restoring agent was applied and all halls were then burnished.
6. The Gym floor was scrubbed with a multi-purpose cleaner.
7. The floors in the boys' and girls' locker room areas were scrubbed and disinfected.
8. All classroom lighting was checked and bulbs were replaced as necessary.(approx. 60 bulbs)
9. Replaced 2 faulty light switches in room A4.

Ms. Peters stated that a Security Task Force meeting was held and that several issues were discussed including playground safety.

Ms. Peters stated that the Policy Committee met and that there are several policies on tonight's agenda that are being revised.

Ms. Peters stated she had worked on the RFQ's for food service as well as RFQ's for professional services.

Ms. Peters stated that the defeated budget packets have been delivered to Borough Hall.

Ms. Peters stated that each board member now has a Somerdale email address and that instructions have been passed out to each member. Ms. Peters stated that any board member that has trouble logging on to contact her and she will be available to help.

Ms. Peters stated that she handed out the Board Members Code of Ethics and that each board member should read the code of ethics and sign the acknowledgement form.

Mr. Abbott stated that Mr. McGarry did an excellent job on the renovations.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Personnel Committee**, M. Gray, '07 Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Gray seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following items were tabled until such time the board could discuss them:

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

1. To **initiate** a "Reduction in Force" (RIF) of all non-tenured special area (*physical education and world languages*) staff for the 2008-'09 school year.

2. To **initiate** a “Reduction in Force” (RIF) for all custodial and maintenance staff for the 2008 - '09 school year.

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

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

3. To **eliminate/terminate** the part-time cafeteria aide position for the 2008 - '09 school year, and to re-evaluate the need for same and/or reappoint same, based on final enrollments for the 2008-'09 school year.
4. To **eliminate/terminate** the two long-term substitute (*elementary teaching*) positions for the 2008 -'09 school year, effective 6/30/'08.
5. The **reappointment** of all tenured professional staff as per the attached list for the 2008 -'09 school year, with salaries as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
6. The **reappointment** of all non-tenured elementary certificated staff as per the attached list for the 2008 -'09 school year, with salaries as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
7. To **submit** for approval at the 5/19/'08 regular Board of Education meeting , salary increases as per the proposed 2008-'09 budget and contractual agreements for Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent; and Ms. Kelly Peters, Business Administrator, Kristine Height, Principal, and Ms. Barbara Seery, CST Director/Social Worker, effective 7/1/'08.
8. To **reappoint** Douglas McGarry, Building and Grounds Supervisor/EFM for the 2008-'09 school year, and to submit for approval, salary increase as per the proposed 2008-'09 budget, effective 7/1/'08.
9. To **reappoint** tenured and non-tenured clerical and confidential staff for the 2008-'09 school year, as per the attached list. Salaries as attached.
10. To **reappoint** para-professional instructional staff for the 2008-'09 school year, as per the attached list. Salaries as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
11. To **appoint** Anjana Awadhiya, Dorrian Schenck and Jenna Halpin as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year.
12. To appoint Ken Bond, substitute teacher, as ESL Teacher, at a BA Step 1 level, effective 4/14/'08 (*date of receipt/verification of certification*) for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year, as per the negotiated contract with the SEA.

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

B. Finance Committee, C. Cronce, '07 Chairperson

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

April Bill List #1 \$256,768.41
 April Bill List #2 \$15,332.10
 April Bill List #3 \$336.90
 March Payroll #1, as attached \$163,475.25
 March Payroll #2, as attached \$164,132.25
 Transfers as attached.
 Board Secretary's Report for March, 2008
 Treasurer's Report(s) for March, 2008

1. To approve the following staff **training sessions/conferences/seminars** and/or **meetings**:
 - a). Registration fees for all board members and administrators for the annual **NJSBA/NJASA/NJASBO Workshop** in Atlantic City, NJ, October 29-31, 2008.
 - b). The attendance of Dr. Debra Bruner, Superintendent, at the **NJSBA/NJASA Spring Conference** in Atlantic City, NJ 5/14 – 5/15/'08. Registration Cost: \$390.00; Lodging: \$119.00 plus applicable taxes.
 - c). Dr. Debra L. Bruner to attend the **NJDOE Preschool Expansion (Southern Regional) Meeting**, Mullica Hill, NJ on 4/29/'08. There is no cost to attend this meeting.
 - d). Kristine Height, Principal, and Douglas McGarry, Building and Grounds Supervisor/EFM, to attend the **New Jersey IPM Training**, GCSD, Sewell, NJ on 5/22/'08. There is no cost to attend this meeting.
 - e). Kelly Peters to attend the **BACCEIC Meeting (Insurance consortium)** on April 30, 2008 at Medford Country Club. There is no cost to attend.
 - f). To approve attached listing of staff to attend out-of-district meetings and/or professional development seminars/training.
2. To approve a contract with Source 4 Teachers for the 2008-2009 school year as attached.
3. To approve a contract with Gatekeeper to administer third party services for 403B plans for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Caswell questioned the cost of item (a) under item#1 .

Dr. Bruner stated that the cost of the conference was not yet released and that this item is placed on the agenda each year.

Mrs. Caramiello stated that she read the letter that was sent to the township regarding the un-timely payments of the tax levy.

Ms. Peters stated that this letter was sent after several attempts are made each month to collect the money and that little cooperation is given from the township manager.

Mrs. Caramiello asked whether there was anything that could be done to alleviate this problem.

Mr. Kennedy stated that unless Mayor and Council and the Board of Education each passed resolutions pertaining to the payments and dates of those payments there is little that can be done.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

C. **Curriculum Committee**, C. Cronic and L. Giambri, '07 Co-Chairpersons

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

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. Receipt of approval from the Camden County NJDOE of the **2008-'09 Early Childhood Program Aid Plan**.
2. All school sponsored student activities as reflected on the **May, 2008** calendar, subject to change, due to additions, deletions, modifications, etcetera.
3. To operate an enrichment **Summer School** program for the Summer, 2008 Session for the time period of 7/7 – 7/31/08.
4. **Student Council and NJHS** members to visit the Liberty Science Center/Statute of Liberty and Applebee's Restaurant, New York, NY on 5/20/08. Cost is \$34.00 plus transportation per person.
5. Middle School **Junior Achievement** students to participate in a Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day at the Little Mill Country Club, Marlton, NJ on 5/19/08. The district's transportation fee (\$5.00) will be paid by each student participant.
6. **Community Service** Students to sponsor a Multiple Sclerosis fundraising event 4/15 – 2/25 to benefit the MS Foundation.
7. The establishment of a graduation **memorial award** (*\$150.00 savings bond*) from the Somerdale Democrat Committee in memory of Frank Sabatini to a student who is active in the community and who exemplifies good citizenship. The annual award will be presented at the 8th grade graduation award ceremonies.
8. To provide two \$100.00 savings bond **scholarship awards** to two Somerdale (*male and female*) Sterling Regional HS graduating seniors in June, 2008.
9. **ESL Students** to visit the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA on 5/6/08 in conjunction with a Cultural Awareness Day. Cost of the trip \$15.00 plus \$5.00 student transportation fee.
10. To cover the cost of the annual **5th Grade Mother-Daughter Dinner**, to be held on 5/16/08, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the SPS Cafetorium.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

D. **Policy Committee**, J. Walsh, '07 Chairperson

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

1. To allow one **non-resident** fifth grade student to remain in our school for the remainder of the 2007-'08 school year, as per Board Policy #5118.

2. To **acknowledge** receipt of \$1700.00 donated by students and staff for the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society's "Pennies for Patients" 2008 Campaign, dedicated this year to Janine Houser, Somerdale Park School Counselor.
3. **First Reading** of revisions to the following policies:

4244.11
 3280
 3440
 3320
 3000/3010
 3451
 3453
 3570
 1312
 2224

Mr. Caswell questioned the legal references and cross references of the polices above.

Dr. Bruner stated that the policies were taken from the New Jersey School Boards Association Critical Policy Reference Manual and that these changes are instrumental for QSAC monitoring.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

E. Buildings and Grounds Committee, D. Reeder, '07 Chairperson

Mr. Reeder stated the he wanted to say that Mr. McGarry did a great job on the remodeling project and wanted to Thank him for a job well done.

F. Interdistrict Committee,	S. Lowden, '07Chairperson- nothing
G. CCECSC Representative,	D. Reeder, '07 Representative-progress
H. NJSBA Representative,	Representative-nothing
I. CCSBA Representative,	Representative-nothing
J. Liaison Committee,	M. Gray, '07 Chairperson

Mrs. Gray stated that another liaison meeting will be held shortly and that if any board members have any concerns they would like addressed to please write them down and return them to Mrs. Gray so they may be addressed at the next meeting.

K. Public Relations,	L. Giambri, '07 Chairperson-nothing
L. Negotiations,	J. Walsh, '07 Chairperson-nothing

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

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

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS: **2008 -'09 Defeated Budget/Council Resolution Meeting**

Dr. Bruner stated that she is hopeful that the resolution between the district and council will be fair.

Somerdale Logo/Mascot/Website

Dr. Bruner stated that there was a suggestion to either change the Somerdale mascot by way of a student contest, define the current mascot, or leave everything the way it is.

Dr. Bruner stated that our website has been recently changed and that some staff members did not like the mascot on the website.

Ms. Peters stated that the changes were not supposed to be in effect so soon and they she was surprised that SJTP had made the changes without consulting the district first.

Mr. Abbott stated that the new mascot is to be changed back to our current logo.

Paid Family Leave Legislation

Ms. Peters stated that recent legislation may be signed into law by Governor Corzine allowing paid family leave. This leave would allow workers the opportunity to receive an amount of money if the need to take care of sick family members or children arose. There would be a new payroll tax that would take effect January 2009 and paid family leave would take effect in July 2009. Currently employees of this district do not pay into NJ disability and therefore would have to start paying this mandatory payroll tax.

Ms. Peters stated that she would keep everyone informed as this law progresses.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) at 8:45 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. Caswell suggested that the board should prepare a resolution regarding the rail road crossing at Atlantic Avenue and Somerdale Road and our request to correct the safety issues that currently exist.

Mr. Reeder stated that he thought the Camden County Freeholders are addressing this issue now.

Mr. Abbott stated that several years ago the Board of Education did draft a resolution pertaining to this same subject.

Ms. Peters asked if anyone knew the time frame so she may go back to the minutes and search for it.

None of the Board Members could recall the specific time or a time period.

Ms. Peters stated that she would need assistance in preparing this resolution.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he would assist Ms. Peters in preparing this resolution.

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

Draft a resolution pertaining to the safety and health issues of the railroad crossing at Atlantic Avenue and Somerdale Roads.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

Mr. Reeder asked that the athletic schedules be posted on the website.

Dr. Bruner stated that the athletic schedules were posted on the website on the school calendar.

Mr. Reeder asked that these schedules be posted under the Athletics tab on the website.

Mr. Reeder requested that any organization using Ward Field be sent a reminder letter that these organizations are to clean up the fields, benches etc during and after their use.

Mr. Caswell suggested that the Board of Education send a letter to our legislators stating that the board strongly disagrees with the 60% voter approval for second questions.

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Kennedy whether any other districts or possibly this district could enter into a class action lawsuit deeming this law unconstitutional.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he would research this information and report back at a later date.

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

To approve Mr. Kennedy to research whether any other districts in the area would be or are thinking about a lawsuit regarding the unconstitutionality of the 60% voter approval on second questions.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:54 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 9:30 p.m.

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

1. To **initiate** a "Reduction in Force" (RIF) of all non-tenured special area (*physical education and world languages*) staff for the 2008-'09 school year.
2. To **initiate** a "Reduction in Force" (RIF) for all custodial and maintenance staff for the 2008 - '09 school year.
3. To approve a maintenance technician/head custodian position for the 2008-2009 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT1

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

1. To approved an inter-local agreement between Pittsgrove Township School District and Somerdale Board of Education for custodial outsourcing as per the attached resolution:

INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
By and Between
PITTSBORO TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
And
SOMERDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THIS AGREEMENT dated this 21st day of April, 2008, by and between the Pittsboro Township Public School District (Pittsboro) and the Somerdale Board of Education (Somerdale).

WHEREAS Pittsboro wishes to enter into a Interlocal Service Agreement for the purposes of providing custodial services for the Somerdale Board of Education effective July 1, 2008, as outlined in the Master Contract between Pittsboro and GCA, and

WHEREAS both parties agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Master Contract between Pittsboro and GCA and wishes to join that contract for a term of no more than a year, and

WHEREAS Pittsboro and the Somerdale have each separately consented and resolved to enter into an Interlocal Service Agreement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq. regarding the custodial services to be provided by GCA; and

WHEREAS the contract held with GCA has been duly bid and advertised and allows for additional services to be provided to other school districts, and

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual promises made herein, the two parties agree as follows:

1. Costs of the services
The two parties agree to the annual sum of \$140,444.90.
2. Governing Law
This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey.
3. Dispute
If a dispute arises in the contract, arbitration will be resolved by the respective county superintendents.
4. Entire Agreement
This Agreement may only be amended in writing and by resolutions passed by the each Board of Education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly signed and sealed this Agreement.

PITTSBORO TOWNSHIP PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOMERDALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: _____

By: _____

Board President

Board President

Attest:

Board Secretary/Business Administrator

Board Secretary/Business Administrator

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Caswell seconded by Mr. Walsh the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly A. Peters

Kelly A. Peters
Board Secretary