

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**September 8, 2022  
6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**BOE Mission Statement**

The mission of the Somerdale School District, in active partnership with the community and staff, is to provide a safe and supportive environment which offers all students the opportunity to develop academically, socially, physically and emotionally, and to create students who are inquisitive and value learning not, only now, but also in the future.

We aspire to provide a broad range of educational opportunities in a nurturing environment designed to challenge all students to strive for personal excellence, achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and become responsible citizens in this rapidly changing world.

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. SUNSHINE LAW/ROLL CALL**

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 in The Courier Post, as well as posting notices in Borough Hall, at Somerdale Park School, and on the District website in accordance with all NJ laws. Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded.

James Anderson-Present	Monique Howard-Absent	Marc Ritz-Present
Kim Barkoff-Present	Taylor Klenk-Present	Mary Jo Schoettle-Present
Barbara Boyle-Absent	Kevin Smith-Present	Tara Voigt-Present

Also Present:

Mark Pease, Superintendent  
William H. Thompson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Chris Long, Solicitor

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS** on any action items.

**NOTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

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
5. Limit your comments to the specific resolution/items.
6. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Smith the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular and executive session minutes of the August 11, 2022 BOE Meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

#### V. PRESENTATION

*A presentation from Mrs. Amanda Schwartz regarding seeking approval for Care Solace a Mental Health Resource to support students and staff at Somerdale Park School.*

#### VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

##### September 2022-2023 Superintendent Report

##### 1. COVID 19 Update

- a. No testing
- b. No COVID days
- c. General notification of positives
- d. Masking optional
- e. Quarantine for positives
  - i. 5 days
  - ii. No symptoms after 5 days return with mask
  - iii. Symptoms after 5 days quarantine until symptom free
  - iv. Close contacts no quarantine monitor for symptoms, must wear a mask for 10 days
  - v. No contact tracing
  - vi. Unvaccinated staff not required to participate in weekly testing

##### 2. School Update

- We opened the 2022-2023 school year successfully and with a ton of excitement. Despite the rain there was an abundance of smiles and positive energy.
- I would like to thank the Somerdale Park School team for all of their hard work this Summer to provide us with an amazing start.
  - Administration and Admin. Assistants
  - Peg and all of the individuals in the Building and Grounds Department
  - Shane, Zack and Andrew from the IT Department
  - All of our amazing teachers
  - Our dedicated parents
  - Last but not least our Board of Education
- Summer Days in Somerdale continues to receive high praise from our parents.
- We had a great turnout for Kindergarten Orientation which took place on August 31st. Parents and students received a tour of the building and received valuable information to kick off a successful school year.
- We are excited to offer the After School Program for a second year. Kellyn Lowden is the Program Coordinator.
- **Principal's Office**
  - Mr. Ford did a great organizing and conducting our 2 Day Opening School Training and Meetings for all staff. This year our focus was on, getting back to the basics and "The Grass is Greener where you Water it".
  - Back to School Night is scheduled for September 22, 2022 beginning at 5:30

##### 3. School Safety

- The School Safety and Security Plan has been shared with the Mr. Marx and Mr. O’Leary from the Office of Emergency Management. We have been informed to proceed with what we have in place (the approved 2021-2022 plan) and the 2022-2023 will be approved by his office throughout the year. I have placed the plan on the agenda for your approval.
- The Chestnut Ave. Parking Lot open officially on September 6<sup>th</sup> with no issues. We are keeping a close watch and we will continue to assess this new addition to our campus and make the necessary adjustments as needed.

**Business Affairs**

- Update on Parking Lot Project
  - 2 handicap parking spaces in the Chestnut Ave Parking Lot were installed.
  - Final landscaping will be completed in September.
  - A final payment (retainage) will be made in October or November once final punch list is review and completed.

**Personnel**

- Tonight, I will be requesting the approval of Dana Poole to fill the Principal’s Secretary vacancy. Dana is off to an amazing start.
- I will be requesting your approval to rename Maria Montroni Currais’ title to Director of Curriculum and Instruction.
- Finally, I would like to have some discussion regarding hiring an SRO.
  - Chief Walsh and Borough Council have approved the SRO Agreement
  - I would like to approve this position at our October meeting.

B. Business Administrator’s Report

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**, Marc Ritz, Chairperson, Monique Howard, Mary Jo Schoettle, Alternate Chairperson, Administrative Liaisons: Mark Pease, William H. Thompson

**A. Finance – Reviews and monitors the school district budget and assumes other fiscal responsibilities**

Report by Finance Committee Chair

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Voigt the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-15:

1. To approve the following bill lists (attachment #1):
  - a. To approve payroll for August 2022 totaling \$107,118.13
  - b. To approve Vendor Bill List #1 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$246,912.51
  - c. To approve Vendor Bill List #2 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$10.00
  - d. To approve Vendor Bill List #3 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$2,796.98
  - e. To approve Vendor Bill List #4 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$1,268.08
  - f. To approve Vendor Bill List #5 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$2,256.04
  - g. To approve Vendor Bill List #6 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$700,561.07
  - h. To approve Vendor Bill List #7 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$2,796.98
  - i. To approve Vendor Bill List #8 and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$5,218.86

2. To approve Greg Cesare, CST Director, and/or Designee to attend all countywide, district wide, and/or regional CST and/or IEP (*out-of-district*) student(s) meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
3. To approve Erica Lamancusa, Social Worker, to attend the Homeless Liaison Coordinator's Meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
4. To approve Mark Pease, Superintendent, to attend all countywide, district-wide, and/or regional Roundtable for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
5. To approve William H. Thompson, Interim Business Administrator, to attend all countywide, district-wide, and/or regional BA Roundtable and/or CCASBO meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
6. To approve Robert Ford, Principal, and/or Designee to attend all countywide, district-wide, and/or regional Principal and/or Curriculum meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
7. To approve Maria Montroni-Currais, Curriculum Supervisor, and/or Designee to attend all countywide, district-wide, and/or regional Curriculum meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no costs to attend these meetings.
8. To approve all board members and/or William H. Thompson, Interim SBA/Board Secretary to attend any Camden County NJSBA or statewide NJSBA meetings and/or training sessions for the 2022-2023 school year.
9. To approve to change the November 10, 2022 Board of Education Meeting to November 17, 2022. Meeting to take place at same time and location.
10. To approve the 6<sup>th</sup> payment in the amount of \$179,137.70 and the 7<sup>th</sup> payment in the amount of \$79,648.00 to Landberg Construction.
11. To approve the contract with Virtua Health for PT services for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$81.00 per hour. (attachment #2)
12. To approve the contract with Amazing Transformations for BCBA services in the about of \$90.00 per hour and Clinical Associate services in the amount of \$39.50 per hour. (attachment #3)
13. To approve the contract with Empower AAC, LLC for the 2022-2023 school year for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Services at a rate of \$160.00 per hour and \$1,300.00 per evaluation. (attachment #4)
14. To approve the contract with Care Solace for connection services for students and families needing to have access to mental health treatment providers for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$5,938 to be paid from ESSER Funds. (attachment #5)
15. To approve the performance of the Bright Star Children's Theater, LLC to be held on October 3, 2022 in the amount of \$1470.00 to be paid from ARP ESSER Grant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES\_\_7\_\_ NO\_\_0\_\_ ABSTAIN\_\_0\_\_ ABSENT\_\_2\_\_

**B. Facilities – Reviews the needs and uses of district buildings and grounds**

Report by Facilities Committee Chair

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Schoettle the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following item 1 for Use of Facilities as per Somerdale Board of Education Policy 7510:

1. To approve the 2022-2023 Somerdale PTA Calendar of events. (attachment #1)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES\_\_7\_\_\_ NO\_\_0\_\_\_ ABSTAIN\_\_0\_\_\_ ABSENT\_\_\_2\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONAL**, Taylor Klenk, Chairperson, James Anderson, Alternate Chairperson, Kevin Smith, Administrative Liaisons: Mark Pease, Robert Ford

**A. Curriculum – Reviews and evaluates standardized test results as a district and monitors direction of curriculum.**

Report by Curriculum Committee Chair

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Anderson the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following items 1-2:

1. To approve Sarah Mandalas and Teri Burris, literacy coaches from the University of Delaware, to visit Somerdale Park School on a monthly schedule during the 2022-2023 school year to aid in the facilitation of the Bookworms Reading Program.
2. The following field trips:
  - a. To approve the Kindergarten classes to visit Storybook Land, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ, on May 17, 2023 with a cost per pupil to be determined at a later date plus \$5.00 transportation cost, with a rain date of May 24, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES\_\_7\_\_\_ NO\_\_0\_\_\_ ABSTAIN\_\_0\_\_\_ ABSENT\_\_\_2\_\_\_

**B. Personnel – Assists in the interviewing process of district administrators and reviews hiring recommendations of the Superintendent. Also, reviews and approves staff policies and job descriptions**

Report by Personnel Committee Chair

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Voigt the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following items 1-9:

1. To approve (5) volunteers from the Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Center to visit on October 6, 2022 as part of the Week of Respect.
2. To approve the following staff members, Cindy Reid, Jennifer Miller, Gina Horiates, Kelly Cesarski and Natalie Cordivari, to serve on the Fall Curriculum and Assessment Committee during the 22-23 school year. Staff members will be paid from Staff Training Account, each staff member will receive 30 hours at SEA negotiated rate.
3. To post-approve Dana Poole as Principal Secretary, with a start date of September 7, 2022 at a pro-rated salary of \$50,000.00, for the 2022-2023 school year.
4. To approve the attached list of staff to serve as After School Tutors and Extra-Curricular Drama Club Advisors for the 2022-2023 school year. Rate of pay as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA. (attachment #1)
5. To approve Lisa Rollick as Assistant Soccer Coach and Math Club Advisor for the 2022-2023 school year. Rate of pay as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
6. To approve the change in title for Maria Montroni-Currais from Curriculum Supervisor to Curriculum Director. No increase of salary associated with this change.
7. To approve the following staff members to attend the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program in Burlington County on October 18, 19, and 20, 2022 at no cost to district.

Staff attending workshop: Melissa Durand, Greg Cesare, Erica Lamancusa, Kristine Reichelderfer, Mary Rose Reeder, Jennifer Miller, and Deanna McGinnis

8. To approve an FMLA/NJFLA for Nikki Marroletti from September 12, 2022 through December 9, 2022. Sick days will be utilized through November 15, 2022.
9. To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Nikki Marroletti from December 12, 2022 through January 31, 2023. Nikki Marroletti will return February 1, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES\_7\_\_\_ NO\_\_0\_\_\_ ABSTAIN\_0\_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**, Kevin Smith, Chairperson, Tara Voigt, Alternate Chairpersons, Mary Jo Schoettle, Barbara Boyle, Administrative Liaison: Robert Ford

**A. Policy – Reviews, updates and creates district policies with Superintendent and presents them to the board.**

Report by Policy Committee Chair

On a motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Ritz the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following items 1-5:

1. For First Reading:
  - a. P 3216 - Dress and Grooming – Teaching Staff
  - b. P 4216 - Dress and Grooming – Support Staff
2. For Second Reading:
  - a. P 0163 - QUORUM
  - b. P 1511 - Board of Education Website Accessibility
  - c. P 1648.15 - Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings COVID 19
  - d. P 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act
  - e. P 2415.04 - Title I District – Wide Parent and Family Engagement
  - f. P 2415.50 - Title I School Parent and Family Engagement
  - g. P 2416.01 - Postnatal Accommodations for Students
  - h. P 2417 - Student Intervention and Referral Services
  - i. P 3161 - Examination for Cause
  - j. P 3270 - Professional Responsibilities
  - k. P 4161 - Examination for Cause
  - l. P 5512 - Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
  - m. P 5513 - Care of School Property
  - n. P 5722 - Student Journalism
  - o. P 7410 - Maintenance and Repair
  - p. P 8420 - Emergency and Crisis Situations
  - q. P 9320 - Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
  - r. R 3270 - Lesson Plans and Plan Books
  - s. R 5513 - Care of School Property
  - t. R 7410 - Maintenance and Repair
  - u. R 9320 - Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
3. To approve the Somerdale Park School Safety and Security Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.
4. To approve the Somerdale Park Staff Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year.
5. As per N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1 and New Jersey Statute 18A:61D-3, to enact a religious exemption to waive immunization requirements to allow a Kindergarten student (#15324372) and a First Grade student

(#15837342) to attend school for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES\_\_7\_\_ NO\_\_0\_\_ ABSTAIN\_\_0\_\_ ABSENT\_\_2\_\_

**B. Community Affairs – Participation in community events to educate the public on programs the district offers. Also educates the public on the school board policies and responsibilities.**

Report by Community Affairs Committee Chair

**BOND AD HOC COMMITTEE**, Kimberly Barkoff, Chairperson, Marc Ritz, Alternate Chair, James Anderson, Administrative Liaison: Mark Pease, William H. Thompson

The Bond Committee’s function it to meet and develop a framework for moving a referendum forward and to address project and budgetary issues.

Report by Bond Committee Chair

**VIII. 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 9130). 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.

Please respect the following procedures:

1. Be recognized by the Board President.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Wait to be recognized before you make your comment
4. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)**

On a motion made and seconded by the board entered into Executive Session at pm:

**WHEREAS**, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Somerdale Park School District, Board of Education to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in Executive Session,” i.e. without the public being permitted to attend; and

**WHEREAS**, the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

**WHEREAS**, the nine exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box within which the number of issues to be privately discussed that fall within that exception shall be written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the decision as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b):

\_\_\_\_Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public

\_\_\_\_Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

\_\_\_\_Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual’s personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publically;

\_\_\_\_Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective

bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed in public;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

**WHEREAS**, the length of the Executive Session is undetermined; however, the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education will make every attempt to estimate the time of the session prior to convening the session after which the public meeting shall reconvene at \_\_\_\_\_ pm and the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education will proceed with business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education attorney advises that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the school district or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Somerdale Park Public School District, Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the board secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees allowed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

#### **X. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

On a motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ the board returned to public session at \_\_\_\_\_ pm

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Ritz the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm