

-SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

**October 13, 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-Absent	Taylor Klenk-Present	Kevin Smith-Present
Kim Barkoff -Present	Marc Ritz-Present	Tara Voigt-Present
Barbara Boyle-Present	Mary Jo Schoettle-Present	

Also Present:

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

III. A Presentation by Mr. Mark Pease, Superintendent to recognize the September Student of the Month recipients.

IV. 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.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular session minutes of the September 8, 2022 BOE Meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent’s Report

October 2022-2023 Superintendent Report

School Update

C&I Department

Curriculum Night 10/20/2022 6:00-7:00pm in the Cafeteria.

Staff has been working hard attending PD sessions in Preschool Assessment, Financial Literacy, the Civics Mandate, Wilson strategies, and Intervention Techniques. K-8 ELA teachers are receiving ongoing PD in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar from our monthly Bookworms coaches. We had a ½ day PD on 9/30 where staff members from the Curriculum & Instruction & Assessment team led their peers in discussion of Standards Based Grading, Curriculum Mandates, and Data Analysis.

State Assessments: Data from Spring NJSLA and Fall Start Strong were analyzed to identify students in need of intervention. NJSLA and Start Strong data will be presented to board at November meeting. Standard analysis is currently happening- we are taking a close look at the standard areas in which our students excel, and in which they fall short of the state average. Then we will look at how our instruction aligns to those standards in particular and work to make adjustments.

- Grade Level meetings with the principal and C&I Department have been taking place.
- Student of the month assembly
- Halloween parade and activities 10/31/2022 1:15

School Safety

1. Camden County Prosecutors student assembly and parent meeting addressing Internet Safety

Personnel

1. Update on the SRO position
 - a. Agreement approval
 - b. Signatures
 - c. Somerdale Police Department will begin the hiring process

B. Business Administrator’s Report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS AFFAIRS, Marc Ritz, Chairperson, 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. Ritz and seconded by Mr. Smith the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-17:

1. Financial Reports:

To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for 2022 (attachment #1).

The Board Secretary's Report is in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of June, July, August 2022. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Treasurer's Report is in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of June, July, August 2022. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's report are in agreement for the month of June, July, August 2022.

Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A - 16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.

Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 4 We certify that 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 accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. To approve the following bill lists (attachment #2):

- a. September 30, 2022 Payroll Bill List and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$456,075.37
- b. Bill List - State Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$29,218.83
- c. Bill List – Board Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$3,851.78
- d. September Bill List and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$344,330.72

3. To approve the Transfers/Adjustments for the months of June, July, August 2022 (attachment #3).

4. To approve Regina Valinski to attend the “Changing the ADHD Brain: Moving Beyond Medication” webinar workshop on November 3, 2022 at a cost of \$219.99.

5. To approve General Healthcare Resources. LLC part-time Speech Therapist up to 7 hours per week at the agreed contracted rate for the 2022-2023 school year.

6. To approve Greg Cesare to attend the Safety Techniques and Personal Emergency Interventions workshop at Devereaux Advanced Behavioral Health, Villanova, PA on November 8, 2022 in the amount of \$350.00.

7. To approve Sandy Robinson and Kimberly Noonan to attend the virtual NJALC Fall Symposium on October 20-21, 2022 in the amount of \$145.00 each.

8. To approve Sharon Gorman to attend the virtual Restorative Practices in the Classroom workshop on January 19, 2023 at a cost of \$279.00.

9. To post approve Melissa Durand and Gena Whaley, Pre-School Teachers, to attend the State Mandated PreSchool Assessment System workshop at the Pine Hill School District, Pine Hill, NJ on October 7, 2022 at a cost of \$107.00 each.

10. To approve the Interlocal Service Agreement between the Borough of Somerdale and Somerdale Park School for the Provision of Police Services at a cost of \$63,228.17 for the 2022-2023 school year. (attachment #4)

11. To approve Michele Burton to attend the NJASL Annual Conference on December 5, 2022, Atlantic City, NJ at a cost of \$200.00.

12. To approve the contract with Bilingual Therapies to provide supplemental speech at a rate of \$100.00 per hour for 6.25 hours one day per week. (attachment #5)

13. To approve the tuition contract for student #2519040960 with Lark School for the 2022-2023 school year, tuition paid in the amount of \$46,151.82. (attachment #6)

14. To approve homeless tuition contract for student #7068159177 with the Cherry Hill School District for the 2022-2023 school year, tuition paid in the amount of \$17,532.06. (attachment #7)

15. To approve homeless tuition contract for student #1551556471 with the Cherry Hill School District for the 2022-2023 school year, tuition paid in the amount of \$17,058.86. (attachment #8)
16. To approve the following resolution (attachment #9):

RESOLUTION CONCERNING NEW YORK LIFE VOLUNTARY BENEFITS

Somerdale Board of Education resolves to implement New York Life’s Voluntary Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Insurance Program.

1. Pursuant to the meeting of October 13, 2022, the Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to designate New York Life as a voluntary provider for Somerdale Board of Education. All plans will be offered at no cost to the school district through payroll deduction.
2. All appropriate people that are authorized to take such action and affect such documentation as necessary to implement these changes.

17. To approve Camden County Education Services Commission to provide Occupational Therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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

Report by Facilities Committee Chair

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

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-2 for Use of Facilities as per Somerdale Board of Education Policy 7510:

1. To approve Mykee Fowlin “You Don’t Know Me Until You Know Me” Assembly addressing differences, bullying and tolerance to be held on December 2, 2022. Cost of assembly to be paid by Somerdale PTA.
2. To approve Student Council to hold a 6th – 8th Grade Halloween Costume Dance Fundraiser on October 28, 2022 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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 Ms. Klenk and seconded by Mr. Smith the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following item #1a:

1. The following field trips:
 - a. Pre-school trip to Kids Empire, Moorestown, NJ on November 8, 2022 with a per pupil cost of \$10.00 plus \$5.00 transportation fee each.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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 Ms. Klenk and seconded by Mr. Smith the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following items 1-8:

1. To post approve Michael Phillips' request for paid medical leave of absence from September 1, 2022 – October 7, 2022 with an expected return date of October 10, 2022. Leave to be paid from accumulated sick days.
2. To post approve Mark Pease request for paid medical leave of absence from September 22, 2022 – October 14, 2022 with an expected return date of October 17, 2022 but an earlier return date is possible. Leave to be paid from accumulated sick days.
3. To approve Suzanne Golt from Camden County Technical School to visit and speak to the 8th Grade Students on October 25, 2022.
4. To approve Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. under the guidance and leadership of member Russell Dunnings to visit on December 15, 2022 for "Room 2 Read". This event will provide volunteer readers and mentors for students in grades K-8.
5. To approve Dominic Travarelli and Justin O'Neill to attend the Implementing the Middle School Civics Mandate workshop, Rutgers University, November 8, 2022. There is no cost to the district.
6. To accept the resignation of Nichole Costello, Accounting Clerk, as of October 18, 2022.
7. To approve Dominic Travarelli as Boys Assistant Basketball Coach at for the 2022-2023 school year. Rate of pay as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
8. To approve Kyle Bachman as a volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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. Smith and seconded by Ms. Klenk the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following items 1-4:

1. For Second Reading:
 - a. P 3216 - Dress and Grooming – Teaching Staff
 - b. P 4216 - Dress and Grooming – Support Staff
2. To approve the Health Office and Medication Standing Orders as required by NJ Statute for the 2022-2023 school year. (attachment #1& #2)
3. To approve the Director of Instruction, Curriculum Coordinator Job Description. (attachment #3)
4. 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 6th Grade student (#15410111) to attend school for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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. REPORTS:

On a motion made by Mrs. Voigt and seconded by Mrs. Schoettle the following was approved:

The following items #1a-1b will be recommended for approval:

- 1. Acknowledge and accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report for incidents dated:
 - a. September 12, 2022 (attachment #1)
 - b. September 27, 2022 (attachment #2)
 - c. September 29, 2022 (attachment #3)

ALL IN FAVOR: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

IX. OTHER REPORTS:

a.) Student Attendance

Enrollment September 2022

Preschool	30
Kindergarten	56
1st Grade	34
2nd Grade	48
3rd Grade	36
4th Grade	45
5th Grade	33
6th Grade	48
7th Grade	55
8th Grade	61
Out of District	1
Charter Students	
Home Instruction	
Homeless -Tuition	
Total September 2022	447

b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

FIRE DRILL:

DATE: 9/9/22

Alarm Sounded: 1:29 pm
 Building Cleared: 1:32 pm
 Returned to Building: 1:44 pm
 Alarm Station Used: D-Wing double doors
 All Staff in attendance participated in drill
 Number evacuated: Students present: 425
 Staff Present: 85

Special conditions simulated: none at this time

Problems encountered: Alarm sounded during class switching
Weather: 80 degrees

LOCK DOWN DRILL #1:

DATE: 9/12/22

Alarm Sounded: 2:30 pm
All Staff in attendance participated in drill (90 staff members)
Problems encountered: None

c.) Nutri-Serve Monthly Report – September 2022

d.) Health Report – September 2022

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item)

Audience Recognition and Public Comment:

Shaun Leakan subject spoken about-Curriculum

Dr. Michele Whitmore subject spoken about-Curriculum

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.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

On a motion made by 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.

XII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Voight the meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm