

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**March 16, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**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	Jessie Klenk	Mary Jo Schoettle
Kim Barkoff	Taylor Klenk	Kevin Smith
Barbara Boyle	Marc Ritz	Tara Voigt

Also Present:

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

**III. PRESENTATIONS:**

*A Presentation by Mr. Mark Pease, Superintendent to recognize the February 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 and seconded by the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular and executive session minutes of the February 9, 2023 BOE Meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. REPORTS**

- A. Superintendent’s Report
- B. Business Administrator’s Report

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**, Mary Jo Schoettle, Chairperson, James Anderson, Alternate Chairperson, Tara Voigt and Kimberly Barkoff, Committee Members, 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 and seconded by the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-16:

1. Financial Reports:

To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for February 2023 (attachment #1).

The Board Secretary’s Report is in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of February 2023. 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 February 2023. The Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s report are in agreement for the month of February 2023.

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. Bill List - March 2023 Bill List and corresponding Check Journal Totaling: \$627,589.39
- b. Bill List- February 2023 State Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$29,010.40
- c. Bill List- February 2023 Board Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$3,988.46
- d. Bill List- February 2023 Café bill list and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$40,681.87
- e. February 2023 Payroll and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$454,444.09
- f. Bill List- February State Aid GCSSSD Deduction and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$4,920.00
- g. Bill List- February State Aid Deduction and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$608.80
- h. January 2023 Payroll and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$439,177.24

3. To approve the Transfers/Adjustments for the month of February 2023 (attachment #3).
4. To approve the Somerdale Park School to opt out of participation in the 2023-2024 Special Education Medicaid Initiative due to the projected Medicaid Enrollment.
5. To approve Peggy Hughes to Attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Expo for the NJSBGA on March 19, 2023- March 22, 2023 at the cost of \$400.00 not including tolls and mileage.
6. To Post approve S/O Gillespie's uniform purchase at the cost of \$910.00, Ballistic Vest at the cost of \$1,146.38, Psychological Screening at the cost of \$450.00.
7. To Post approve S/O Gillespie to Attend LEAD training on February 6-10, 2023 at the cost of \$100.00.
8. To approve Jubilee Children's Entertainment to hold an assembly on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at a cost of \$2800.00, to be paid from Title IV Funds account #20-280-100-300.
9. To Approve Mrs. Schwarz to attend NJPSA on March 28, 2023 in person from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monroe Twp., NJ, at the cost of \$150.00
10. To approve the District transportation renewal agreement with CCESC for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.
11. To post approve Tuition Contract with Collingswood School District for Student: SID #2536033953 for the SY 22-23 in the amount of \$17,657.00, to also post approve his 1:1 Aide in the amount of \$22, 932.00, and to also post approve student to attend ESY from July 5, 2022 through July 28, 2022 at the amount of \$2219.00 along with his 1:1 Aide for \$1196.00.
12. To approve Tuition Reimbursement to Greg Cesare for completion of the NJ EXCEL Model 4 Superintendent Certificate Program on January 11, 2023 in the amount of \$3300.00
13. To approve CSI Software Support Renewal Agreement for the School Year 23-24 for the annual amount of \$8,064.00. To be paid on a monthly basis of \$672.00.
14. To approve the proposed 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$ 10,490,856 for submission to the Camden County Executive Superintendent, pending the review and approval of same. In conjunction with the submission of the proposed 2023-2024 budget, to hold a Public Hearing of same on May 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with the regular Board Meeting, to be held following the Public Hearing.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the Somerdale Borough Board of Education budget for the FY 2023-2024 School Year for submission to the county as follows:

General Fund	\$ 9,817,910.00
Special Revenue Fund	446,697.00
Debt Service Fund	226,249.00
 Total Budget	 \$10,490,856.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to raise a General Fund Tax Levy of \$5,004,425.00 and a Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of \$154,571.00.

WHEREAS, General Fund Budget includes utilization of fund balance in the amount of \$352,933;

WHEREAS, a maximum of \$2,500 in professional development travel expenses is set for 2023-2024 school year.

WHEREAS, an amount not exceed \$250 may be utilized for public relations expenses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board has approved that there should be raised a total tax levy of \$5,158,996.

15. To approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE SOMERDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOMERDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SOMERDALE  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Somerdale Board of Education (“SBOE”) and the Somerdale Education Association (“SEA”) are parties to an existing Collective Bargaining Agreement which commenced on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 (“Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, following the execution and commencement of the Agreement, the parties desired to add additional extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the Parties negotiated the stipends for the additional extracurricular activities in the form of an Addendum to the Agreement which is attached to and made a part hereof, the terms of which shall be incorporated into the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Somerdale Board of Education as follows:

1. The provisions of the WHEREAS clauses set forth above are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.
2. The SBOE hereby authorizes and directs the Board President and/or her designee to execute the Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the SBOE and the SEA in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof.

16. To approve the following resolution:

APPLICANT’S RESOLUTION  
LEAP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$10 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

WHEREAS, \$2 million in LEAP Implementation Grant funds has been set allocated to support costs associated with school district consolidation studies; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Education of the Somerdale, Magnolia Stratford and Laurel Springs school districts (collectively the “Sending District Boards of Education”) have determined to evaluate whether the sending district boards of education and the Sterling Regional High School District Board of Education may be able to attain improved educational quality and efficiencies through consolidation or regionalization; and

WHEREAS, a formal study must be undertaken to accomplish this objective; and

WHEREAS, the Sterling Regional High School District Board of Education has agreed to be the lead entity in conducting this study and will submit the application for financial support for this study to DLGS on behalf of all participating units.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sterling Regional High School District Board of Education it shall apply for a LEAP Implementation Grant to support undertaking a feasibility study to explore the options for regionalization of the Sending District Boards of Education, either independently or with Sterling Regional High School District, and/or the consolidation and sharing

of services by and among the Sending District Boards of Education and Sterling Regional High School District Board of Education, on behalf of itself, and on behalf of the Sending District Boards of Education at an approximate cost of \$5,000.00 to the Somerdale Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

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

Report by Facilities Committee Chair

On a motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ the following was approved:

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Somerdale Board of Education to approve the submission of the Landscape Improvements at Park School to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding and amendment of the long range facilities plan to be consistent with the project. Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONAL**, Taylor Klenk, Chairperson, Kevin Smith, Alternate Chairperson, Kevin Smith, Mary Jo Schoettle and Barbara Boyle, Committee Members, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ the following was approved:

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

1. To approve the Preschool calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. (attachment #1)
2. The following field trips:
  - a. To approve 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students to visit Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center, Chesterfield, NJ, on May 4, 2023 at a cost of \$12.00 per student plus \$5.00 transportation fee.
  - b. To approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students to visit Camden Adventure Aquarium, Camden, NJ, on May 3, 2023, at a cost of \$20.00 per student plus \$5.00 transportation fee.
  - c. To approve the Lead A Way Program to visit the Alice Paul Institute, Mt. Laurel, NJ, on April 25, 2023. Trip to be paid for by Municipal Alliance, student responsible for \$5.00 transportation fee.
  - d. To approve Student Council to visit Dave and Busters, Blackwood, NJ, on March 30, 2023, at the cost of \$5.00 per student plus \$5.00 transportation fee.
  - e. To approve 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students to visit Lincoln Financial Field/Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, PA, on April 25, 2023, at a cost of \$15.00 per student. No transportation fee of \$5.00 per student to be charged, money toward this expense was donated by Sam’s Auto and Truck Repair.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**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 and seconded by the following was approved:

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

1. To approve Kimberly Noonan as the full-time Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC) for the 2023-2024 school year at a MA Step 15 salary as per the 2023-2024 contracted salary guide.
2. To post-approve Somerdale Teaching Staff to chaperone for either the PTA or school sponsored dances at a rate of \$51.75 per event as per SEA contract.
3. To accept the resignation of Kristine Reichelderfer, Physical Education Teacher, last day effective February 24, 2023, 60-day prior notice to be paid up through April 21, 2023.
4. To approve the donation of (1) sick day from Mark Pease, Robert Ford, and (2) sick days from Gregory Cesare for a total of (4) sick days to Luthina Gordon.
5. To approve Mr. Robert Ford as Superintendent/Principal for the 2023-2024 school year pending contract negotiations and Camden County Department of Education approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**, Tara Voigt, Chairperson, Mark Ritz, Alternate Chairpersons, Jessie Klenk and Kevin Smith, Committee Members, 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 and seconded by the following was approved:

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

1. For First Reading:
  - a. P 0152 - Board Officers
  - b. P 0161 - Call, Adjournment and Cancellation
  - c. P 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings
  - d. P 2423 - Bilingual and ESL Education
  - e. P 2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction
  - f. P 5200 - Attendance
  - g. P 5512 - Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
  - h. P 8140 - Student Enrollments
  - i. P 8330 - Student Records
  - j. R 2423 - Bilingual and ESL Education
  - k. R 2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction
  - l. R 5200 - Attendance
  - m. R 8140 - Enrollment Accounting
  - n. R 8330 - Student Records
  - o. R 8420.2 - Bomb Threats
  - p. R 8420.7 - Lockdown Procedures
  - q. R 8420.10 - Active Shooter

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**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

**VIII. REPORTS:**

On a motion made by and seconded by the following was approved:

The following items will be recommended for approval:

- 1. Acknowledge and accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report for incidents dated:
  - a. February 1, 2023 (attachment #1)
  - b. February 24, 2023 (attachment #2)

ALL IN FAVOR: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**IX. OTHER REPORTS:**

a.) Student Attendance

<b>Enrollment February 2023</b>	
Preschool	30
Kindergarten	56
1st Grade	34
2nd Grade	47
3rd Grade	32
4th Grade	45
5th Grade	33
6th Grade	48
7th Grade	55
8th Grade	62
Out of District	6
Charter Students	1
Home Instruction	
Homeless -Tuition	
<b>Total February 2023</b>	<b>449</b>

b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

**FIRE DRILL:**

**DATE: 2/21/23**

Alarm Sounded: 9:43 am  
 Building Cleared: 9:46 am  
 Returned to Building: 9:48 am  
 Alarm Station Used: Front Office Hallway  
 All Staff in attendance participated in drill  
 Number evacuated: Students present: 423  
 Staff Present: 87  
 Special conditions simulated: none at this time  
 Problems encountered: none at this time  
 Weather: 45 degrees / cloudy

**LOCK OUT DRILL #2**

**DATE: 2/28/23**

Alarm Sounded: 10:02 am  
 All Staff in attendance participated in drill (83 staff members)  
 Problems encountered: None

c.) Health Reports – February 2023

d.) Nutri-Serve Monthly Report – February 2023

**X. 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.

**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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] and seconded by [redacted] the board returned to public session at [redacted] pm

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by [redacted] and seconded by [redacted] the meeting was adjourned at [redacted] pm