

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

February 8, 2024
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	John Maisch	Kevin Smith
Kimberly Barkoff	Marc Ritz	Tara Voigt
Barbara Boyle	Mary Jo Schoettle	

Also Present:

Robert Ford, Superintendent/Principal
William H. Thompson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Chris Long, Solicitor

III. PRESENTATIONS:

- *Representatives of Student Council on past and upcoming events at Somerdale Park School*

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 minutes of the January 18, 2024 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, Kimberly Barkoff, Alternate Chairperson, Tara Voigt and Kevin Smith, Committee Members, Administrative Liaisons: Robert Ford, 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 1-5:

1. To approve the following bill lists (attachment #2):
 - a. Bill List – Vendor Bill List and Check Journal totaling: \$402,291.35.
2. To retroactively approve Angela Lindner, School Social Worker, to attend the online webinar from Rutgers School of Social Work: Continuing Education Program, School Law and Students Rights: What New Jersey Social Workers Should Know, on January 22, 2024 at a cost of \$60.00.
3. To approve Gena Whaley and Melissa Durand, Preschool Teachers, to attend the CCESC – Southern Region Early Childhood Collaborative (SRECC) PD for Preschool Student Assessment on February 13, 2024 at a cost of \$340.
4. To post approve Sharon Gorman, to attend an online webinar from the Foundation for Educational Administration (NJPSAFEA): Addressing Student Behaviors and Improving Student Engagement Post-COVID, on February 1, 2024 at a cost of \$100.
5. To approve the resolution for Carry Over Funds from 2022-2023.
 - Title I, Part A \$1,003
 - Title II, Part A \$7,595
 - Title IV \$10,584

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN _____ ABSENT _____

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

Report by Facilities Committee Chair

INSTRUCTIONAL, Barbara Boyle, Chairperson, Marc Ritz, Alternate Chairperson, Kimberly Barkoff and Kevin Smith, Committee Members, Administrative Liaisons: Robert Ford, Kevin Kretschy

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 1a-1c:

1. The following field trips:
 - a. To approve the Art/Curator Club to visit the Brandywine Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA, on May 29, 2024. Cost per student to be determined at a later date, plus \$5.00 transportation fee.
 - b. To approve 3rd Grade Classes to visit Lego Land, Plymouth Meeting, PA on June 6, 2024. Cost per student is \$24.00 which includes \$5.00 transportation fee.
 - c. To approve 1st Grade Students to visit Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center, Chesterfield, NJ, on June 11, 2024 at a cost of \$12.00 per student plus \$5.00 transportation fee.

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 1-3:

1. To approve Olivia Dutcher, Rutgers Physical Education Student to complete her clinical internship with Elizabeth Kummer, contracted Physical Therapist through Virtua Rehab Services, during the period of February 26, 2024 – May 3, 2024.
2. To approve Katelin Burton to complete her Occupational Therapy observation hours with Kathryn Persinger, Occupational Therapist, during the 2023-2024 school year.
3. To accept the resignation of Dominic Travarelli-Burmeister as of April 3, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN _____ ABSENT _____

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, Tara Voigt, Chairperson, Mark Ritz, Alternate Chairpersons, and John Maisch and Kevin Smith, Committee Member, 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

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

1. REPORTS:

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

The following item will be recommended for approval:

1. Acknowledge and accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report for incidents dated:

a. None at this time

ALL IN FAVOR: YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN _____ ABSENT _____

2. OTHER REPORTS:

a.) Student Attendance

Enrollment January 2024	
Preschool	29
Kindergarten	54
1st Grade	57
2nd Grade	32
3rd Grade	51
4th Grade	30
5th Grade	48
6th Grade	38
7th Grade	55
8th Grade	60
Out of District	7
Charter Students	1
Home Instruction	
Homeless -Tuition	
Total January 2024	462

b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

SHELTER IN PLACE

<u>DATE:</u> 1/25/24	Alarm Sounded: 1:09 pm
	All Staff in attendance participated in drill: 102 staff members
	Problems encountered: None

FIRE DRILL

<u>DATE:</u> 1/31/24	Alarm Sounded: 1:35 pm
	Building Cleared: 1:37 pm
	Returned to Building: 1:42 pm
	Alarm Station Used: Marquee Door
	All Staff in attendance participated in drill
	Number evacuated:
	Students present: 437
	Staff present: 103
	Special conditions: None
	Problems encountered: None
	Weather: 44 degrees cloudy

c.) Student Safety Data System Report Period 9/1/2023 – 12/31/23 revised and resubmitted (attachment #1)

d.) Health Reports – January 2024

3. 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.

4. 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;
- X 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.

5. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

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