

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

**September 14, 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	Taylor Klenk	Kevin Smith
Kim 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. 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 and seconded by the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular minutes of the August, 2023 BOE Meeting.

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

V. REPORTS

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS AFFAIRS, Mary Jo Schoettle, Chairperson, James Anderson, Alternate Chairperson, Tara Voigt and Kimberly Barkoff, 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 1-15:

1. Financial Reports:

To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for June, 2023 (final) and July, 2023. (attachment #1).

The Board Secretary’s Report is in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of June, 2023 (final) and July, 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 June and July, 2023. The Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s report are in agreement for the month of June and July, 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. June Payroll and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$575,891.15.
- b. Bill List – June 2023 Board Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$14,261.92.
- c. Bill List – June 2023 Café bill list and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$29,422.67.
- d. Bill List – June 2023 State Aid Deductions and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$5,517.81.
- e. Bill List – June 2023 State Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling \$28,098.51.
- f. July Payroll and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$72,901.46.
- g. Bill List – July Board Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$3,235.69.
- h. Bill List – July State Share FICA and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$2,194.93.
- i. August Payroll and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$99,780.43.
- j. Bill List – August 2023 and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$878,381.11.

3. To approve the Transfers/Adjustments for the month of 2023 (attachment #3).

4. To approve Robert Ford, William Thompson and BOE Members to attend the NJSBA 2023 Conference on October 23 – 26, 2023 in Atlantic City, NJ. Cost to the district \$2,200.00.
5. To approve contract with CCESC to provide David Houck, a substitute school psychologist, for a total 45 days from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 at \$504.00 per day totaling \$22,680.00.
6. To approve the Somerdale School District to enter into an agreement with Camden County Educational Services Commission to join the Camden County WIN country-wide mental health network, which will provide crisis screenings to districts free of charge through December 2024.
7. To approve Robb Holladay (aka Robb Holla), teen expert and youth speaker to hold an assembly on October 5, 2023, to speak to students about topics such as bullying, vaping, and social media safety at a cost of \$1,975.00.
8. 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 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to attend these meetings.
9. To approve Angela Lindner, Social Worker, to attend the Homeless Liaison Coordinator’s Meetings for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to attend these meetings.
10. To approve Robert Ford, Superintendent/Principal, and Kevin Kretschy, Vice-Principal, to attend all countywide, inter-district, and/or regional Roundtable for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to attend these meetings.
11. 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 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to attend these meetings.
12. 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 2023-2024 school year.
13. To approve Natalie Cordivari, and/or Designee to attend all countywide, district-wide, and/or regional Curriculum meetings for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to attend these meetings.
14. To approve Robert Ford, Superintendent/Principal, to attend the Strauss Esmay NJ Family Leave / Federal Family and Medical Leave Program on October 16, 2023 at a cost of \$145.00.
15. To approve teaching staff members to attend the on-line 30-hour Google Educator Certification Program, at a cost of \$225.00 per staff member. Staff members attending to be determined at a later date.

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 1-2 for Use of Facilities as per Somerdale Board of Education Policy 7510:

1. To approve the Somerdale PTA calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. (attachment #1)
2. To approve Preston Centuolo, The Youth Alliance, to present an assembly on October 13, 2023. No cost to district, assembly to be paid by Somerdale Municipal Alliance.

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: 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

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 the following staff members to attend the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program in Burlington County on October 10, 11, and 12, 2023 at no cost to district.
Staff attending workshop: Danielle Cross, Lisa Barcia, Justin O’Neill, Brianne Siderio, and Angela Lindner.
2. To approve FMLA maternity leave for Regina Valinski, Psychologist, with a start date of January 15, 2024 – March 8, 2024. FMLA to run concurrent with sick and personal days.
3. To approve unpaid maternity leave for Regina Valinski, Psychologist, from March 11, 2024 – June 30, 2024.
4. To post-approve Musique Hodges as an After Care Aide for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.
5. To approve the Commission for the Blind/VI-Vision consultant and the Department of Human Services – mobility specialist to provide services for a third grad student during the 2023-2024 school year at no cost to the district.

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

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, Tara Voigt, Chairperson, Mark Ritz, Alternate Chairpersons, 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

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 item 1a:

1. For Second Reading:
 - a. P 2419 School Threat Assessment Teams

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

VII. 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 _____

VIII. OTHER REPORTS:

- a.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

FIRE DRILL:

<u>DATE:</u> 9/11/23	Alarm sounded:	9:30 am
	Building cleared:	9:33 am
	Returned to building:	9:35 am
	Alarm station used:	Gym Hall/By Gym Doors
	All staff in attendance participated in drill.	
	Number evacuated:	Students present: 433
		Staff present: 111
	Special conditions:	damp ground
	Problems encountered:	none
	Weather:	73 degrees and cloudy

IX. 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.

X. 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.

XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by ___ and seconded by ___ the meeting was adjourned at ___ pm