

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

**October 17, 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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. 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	Thomas Leakan	Mary Jo Schoettle
Kimberly Barkoff	John Maisch	Kevin Smith
Barbara Boyle	Marc Ritz	Tara Voigt

Also Present:

Robert Ford, Superintendent/Principal
Bruno Berenato, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Chris Long, Solicitor

IV. PRESENTATIONS:

- *Representatives of Student Council on past and upcoming events at Somerdale Park School*
- *Recognition of the September Student of the Month Recipients*
- *NJSLA Results*

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items.

Open Public Comment: On a motion made by _____ and seconded by _____ :Voice Vote

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.

Close Public Comment: On a motion made by and seconded by :Voice Vote

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular minutes of the September 19, 2024 BOE Meeting. (see attachment: V1)

VII. REPORTS

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS AFFAIRS, Mary Jo Schoettle, Chairperson, Kimberly Barkoff, Alternate Chairperson, Tara Voigt and Kevin Smith, Committee Members, Administrative Liaisons: Robert Ford, Bruno Berenato

IX. 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:- Roll Call

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-3:

1. Financial Reports:

To approve the revised Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:

- a. May 2024 (see attachment: IX1a)
- b. June 2024 (see attachment: IX1b)

The Board Secretary's Report is in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the months of May and June 2024. 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 months of May and June 2024. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's report are in agreement for the months of May and June 2024.

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:
 - a. September 2024 Bill List and Check Journal totaling \$754,533.17 (see attachment IX2a)
 - b. September 2024 Payroll and Check Journal totaling \$460,427.39 (see attachment IX2b)
3. To approve corrected Transfers/Adjustments:
 - a. June 2024 (see attachment: IX3a)
 - b. July 2024 (see attachment: IX3b)
 - c. August 2024 (see attachment: IX3b)
 - d. September 2024 (see attachment: IX3d)
4. **Resolution 2025-11** – To approve to join the ED-Data Co-op. (see attachment IX4)
5. To approve Natalie Cordivari to take course titled, Curriculum Design & Development through Wilmington University, October 21, 2024 - December 8, 2024. Cost of course is \$1611.00. Course reimbursement per SAA contract.
6. **Resolution 2025-13** – Resolution for Member participation in a Cooperative Pricing System; a Resolution authorizing the Somerdale BOE to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement. (see attachment IX6)
7. **Resolution 2025-14** – Apply and accept the funds for the Emergent Grant. (see attachments IX7a and IX7b)
8. To approve E-Rate Consulting, inc. agreement for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$2000.00. (see attachments: IX8a, IX8b, IX8c, IX8d)
9. To post-approve Talent Stock, LLC – Giancarlo Riotto, to conduct CPR/AED and First Aid Certification Course to (8) staff members, total cost of \$405.00.
10. To approve the Budget Preparation Calendars for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. (see attachments: IX10a and IX10b)
11. To approve Federally Funded Salaries and Benefits for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grant	Emp. Name	Salary	Percentage	Funded by Grant	Benefits
ESSER III	Nancy Burns	\$86,614.00	100%	\$86,614.00	\$38,976.00
ESSER III	Mandy Seligman	\$89,182.00	100%	\$89,182.00	\$40,132.00
ESSER III	Susan Ratajski	\$90,467.00	100%	\$90,467.00	\$16,284.00

X. 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- Roll Call

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

1. To approve South Jersey Magic to hold an assembly on November 22, 2024, for students in K – 2nd grade. The cost of the assembly is \$250.00, to be paid from Student Activity Funds.

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

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: Roll Call

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

1. To approve the revised curriculum as listed below: (see attachments XIIa – XIIu)
 - a. ELA – Grade 6
 - b. ELA – Grade 7
 - c. ELA – Grade 8
 - d. Math – Grade K – 2nd
 - e. Math – Grade 3rd – 5th
 - f. Math – Grade 6
 - g. Math – Grade 7
 - h. Math – Pre-Algebra
 - i. Math – Algebra
 - j. Social Studies – Grade 1
 - k. Social Studies – Grade 2
 - l. Social Studies – Grade 3
 - m. Social Studies – Kindergarten
 - n. Science – Grade 1
 - o. Science – Grade 2
 - p. Science – Grade 3
 - q. Science – Grade 4
 - r. Science – Grade 6
 - s. Science – Grade 7
 - t. Science – Grade 8
 - u. Science – Kindergarten

2. The following field trips:
 - a. To approve the Kindergarten Classes to visit Storybook Land, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ, on May 14, 2025 cost per student at a later date, plus \$5.00 transportation fee.

 - b. To approve Band and Choral students field trip to Thirty Strikes Bowling, Stratford, NJ on February 21, 2025. Cost per student to be determined at a later date plus \$5.00 transportation fee to be included.

 - c. To approve Band and Choral students to visit The Fun Plex, Mt. Laurel, NJ as a culminating field trip on June 4, 2025. Cost per student to be determined at a later date plus \$5.00 transportation fee to be included.

 - d. To approve 8th Grade Students to visit Pocono Valley Resort, Stroudsburg, PA, on June 2, 2025. Fee per student to be paid from Student Activity Funds.

 - e. To approve PBIS Program Grades 6th – 8th to visit 30 Strikes Bowling, Stratford, NJ, on November 20, 2024 for 1st Marking Period Reward.

 - f. To approve the Drama Club to visit the Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia, PA, on December 11, 2024. Cost per student \$14.00 plus \$5.00 transportation fee.

XII. 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: Roll Call

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

1. To post approve Lauren Darrell as Middle School ELA Tutor and Chess Club Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year. Rates as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
2. To post approve Justin O'Neill as Middle School Social Studies Tutor for the 2024-2025 school year. Rates as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.
3. To approve Gregory Cesare, CST Director, to attend the S&PA Safety Techniques and Personal Emergency Interventions Trainer Update Conference on November 18, 2024 at a cost of \$375.00.
4. To approve the Somerdale School District to participate in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's HOPS Program, and Christine Dacchille to be the "school provider" for this program.
5. **Resolution 2025-8:** To approve the amended contract for the Superintendent/Principal as attached. Amended contract was approved for county submission on 09/07/2024. The amended contract was approved by the County Office of Education on 10/02/2024. (see attachment: XII5)
6. To approve Somerdale SEA members to serve as Dance Chaperones for the 2024-2025 school year at the agreed SEA rate of pay.
7. To approve Christine Dacchille to serve as a Student Council Co-Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not an additional position or stipend; Advisors will split the amount in the SEA Contract.
8. To approve Tiffany Wells and Jana as Curriculum Writers for 6th – 8th World Language and K – 8th Art Curriculum. Rates as per the negotiated agreement with the SEA.

XIII. POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, Tara Voigt, Chairperson, Mark Ritz, Alternate Chairpersons, and John Maisch and Kevin Smith, Committee Member, Administrative Liaison: Robert Ford

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: Roll Call

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following item 1-3:

1. **Resolution 2025-12-** WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education issued Fiscal Accountability, Effectiveness and Budgetary Procedures through New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum, and WHEREAS, this Board of Education has received from the Superintendent of Schools the District Performance Review (DPR) in the areas of Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Personnel and Operations, and now, therefore be it RESOLVED, that this Board of Education has reviewed the DPR's and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit same to the New Department of Education. (see attachment XIII1a and XIII1b)
2. 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 3rd Grade Student (#5079242097) to attend school for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. **Resolution 2025-15:** To approve the Annual Maintenance For (M-1) and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan as per NJAC 6A:26-20 Et SEQ. (see attachment XIII3a and XIII3b)

XIV. 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

XV. REPORTS:

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

The following items will be recommended for approval:

- 1. Acknowledge and accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report for incidents dated:
 - a. HIB Incident 9/25/2024 (see attachment: XV1a)
 - b. HIB Incident 9/26/2024 (see attachment: XV1b)

XVI. OTHER REPORTS:

a.) Student Attendance

Enrollment September 2024

Preschool	18
Kindergarten	55
1st Grade	54
2nd Grade	57
3rd Grade	33
4th Grade	56
5th Grade	30
6th Grade	46
7th Grade	44
8th Grade	53
Out of District/CST	6
Out of District/Choices	14
Home Instruction	
Homeless -Tuition	
Total September 2024	466

b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

LOCKDOWN DRILL

DATE: 10/10/2024 Alarm Sounded: 8:47 am
 All Staff/Students in attendance participated in the drill.
 Students present: 443
 Staff present: 101
 Problems encountered: None

c.) To approve the Somerdale Park School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports:

Date of Drill: October 4, 2024
 Time of Drill: 8:00 am
 Location of Drill: Somerdale Park - Bus Drop Off Main Entrance
 Route Number: MJ&R Transport #1266
 Drill Supervised by: Natalie Cordivari, Supervisor

Date of Drill: October 1, 2024
 Time of Drill: 8:21 am and 8:24 am (2 buses)
 Location of Drill: Somerdale Park - Bus Drop Off location in front
 Route Number: Del City #3556 & #900
 Drill Supervised by: Mr. Gregory Cesare, School Safety Specialist

Date of Drill: October 7, 2024
Time of Drill: 8:35 am – 12:45 pm (school wide drill)
Location of Drill: Somerdale Park – Chestnut Avenue Parking Lot
Route Number: T&L Transportation #21563
Drill Supervised by: Mr. Kevin Kretschy, Vice-Principal; Mr. Gregroy Cesare, School Safety Specialist
Officer Rulli, School Resource Officer

Date of Drill: October 3, 2024
Time of Drill: 8:05 am
Location of Drill: Somerdale Park - Bus Drop Off Main Entrance
Route Number: Holcomb #SDP2
Drill Supervised by: Mr. Gregory Cesare, School Safety Specialist

- d.) Health Reports – September 2024
- e.) Nutri-Serve Monthly Report – September 2024

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item)

Open Public Comment: On a motion made by and seconded by : Voice Vote

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.

Close Public Comment: On a motion made by and seconded by : Voice Vote

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

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

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 ____ 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.

XVIII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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