

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Work Session of the Board of Education

August 24, 2017

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 6:30 pm

II. SUNSHINE LAW/ROLL CALL

Sunshine Law:

The Somerdale Board of Education Work Session is called to order. The Board of Education is in compliance with the sunshine regulations. This meeting was appropriately advertised by notifying The Courier Post and The Philadelphia Inquirer, as well as posting notices in Borough Hall, the Somerdale Post Office and the Somerdale Park School.

James Anderson - Present	Monique Howard - Present
Kim Barkoff - Present	Susan Lowden - Present
Alicia Conte - Absent	Melissa Moore - Present
Colm Fidgeon - Present	John Phillips - Present
	James Walsh - Present

Also Present:

Dr. Dennis Vespe, Superintendent/Principal
Melissa Engelhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Robert Ford, Vice Principal

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

- **Board Self-Evaluation Discussion**
- **Thursday September 14th keep meeting for interviews**

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

On a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Walsh the board entered into executive session at 7:07 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):

- 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;

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 approximately 7:47 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.

V. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Walsh the board returned to public session at 8:07 pm

VI. BUSINESS AFFAIRS, John Phillips, Chairperson, James Walsh, Alternate Chairperson, Kim Barkoff, Administrative Liaisons: Dr. Dennis Vespe, Melissa Engelhardt

- A. Finance – Reviews and monitors the school district budget and assumes other fiscal responsibilities

On a motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Walsh the following was approved:

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

**RESOLUTION
SOMERDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT’S
CONTRACT PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT’S EXISTING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, the Somerdale Board of Education (“SBOE” and/or “Board”) entered into an Employment Contract dated February 17, 2016 with Dr. Dennis M. Vespe (“Vespe”) to serve in the position of Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Contract contains a provision setting forth the annual salary in the amount of \$135,000.00 in each year of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Contract further contains a provision allowing the Board and Vespe to select up to three (3) quantitative merit criteria and up to two (2) qualitative merit criteria per contract year and provides that Vespe shall receive a merit bonus in an amount up to 3.33% of his annual base salary for each

quantitative merit criterion achieved and/or a merit bonus in an amount up to 2.5% of annual base salary for each qualitative merit criterion achieved; and

WHEREAS, Article IV(A)(1)(a) of the Employment Contract provides that should the existing law that caps the Superintendent's salary sunset, the merit pay component shall become part of Vespe's salary and there shall no longer be any entitlement to merit bonuses, thereby increasing the annual salary amount to \$155,236.50; and

WHEREAS, the existing law that caps superintendent's salary did sunset, with new provisions becoming effective May 1, 2017 as codified in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2 allows for the maximum salary amount for a superintendent of any school district with a total enrollment of 749 or less, such as the Somerdale School District, to be \$147,794.00, with the ability to exceed the maximum salary amount by two (2) percent in any year of the contract, along with an additional administrative position salary increment in the amount of \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, as Vespe serves in an additional administrative position, he is entitled to the additional administrative position salary increment and therefore the provisions of the law do allow for the increase of Vespe's salary to the amount of \$155,236.50, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the existing Employment Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to formally acknowledge and memorialize the existing terms and conditions of the Employment Contract, specifically Article IV(A)(1)(a), in light of the change of maximum salary amount as codified in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, while making no changes to the existing terms and conditions of the Employment Contract.

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. Pursuant to Article IV(A)(1)(a) of the Employment Contract between the Somerdale Board of Education and Dr. Dennis M. Vespe and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, the annual salary for Dr. Dennis M. Vespe shall be \$155,236.20, effective July 1, 2017 for the duration of his existing Employment Contract with the Somerdale Board of Education.
3. Pursuant to Article IV(A)(1)(a) of the Employment Contract between the Somerdale Board of Education and Dr. Dennis M. Vespe and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, Dr. Dennis M. Vespe will no longer be eligible for any merit pay for the duration of his existing Employment Contract with the Somerdale Board of Education.
4. The SBOE's Superintendent, Business Administrator, Board President and/or Board Vice President or their designees are hereby authorized to take any and all action required to effectuate the provisions of the contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

- B. Facilities – Reviews the needs and uses of district buildings and grounds
 - N/A

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL, Dr. Monique Howard, Chairperson, Melissa Moore, Alternate Chairperson, James Anderson, Administrative Liaisons: Dr. Dennis Vespe, Robert Ford

- A. Curriculum – Reviews and evaluates standardized test results as a district and monitors direction of curriculum.
 - N/A
- 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.

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Moore, to approve change of effective date for the resignation of the Superintendent from October 17, 2017 to October 13, 2017.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

On a motion made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Somerdale Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Dr. Dennis Vespe as Superintendent effective on the last day of work, scheduled for October 13, 2017.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 2 (Howard, Walsh) ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

VIII. POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, Melissa Moore, Chairperson, James Anderson, Alternate Chairperson, Kim Barkoff, Administrative Liaison: Robert Ford

- A. Policy – Reviews, updates and creates district policies with Superintendent and presents them to the board.
 - N/A
- 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.
 - N/A

IX. BOND REFERENDUM, Colm Fidgeon, Chairperson, Alicia Conte, Alternate Chair, James Walsh, Administrative Liaison: Dr. Dennis Vespe, Melissa Engelhardt

The Bond Referendum Committee’s function it to meet and develop a framework for moving a referendum forward and to address project and budgetary issues.

- N/A

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Moore the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Engelhardt