

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

September 14, 2017

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 6:42 pm

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 Core Curriculum Standards and become responsible citizens in this rapidly changing world.

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 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.

Our attorney has advised us that we cannot prevent you from making remarks about our employees. He has requested we advise you that our employees are not Public Officials and you are not immune from civil actions they may bring as a result of your remarks whether vocal, by e-mail, or social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

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

Also Present:

Melissa Engelhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the board entered into Executive session at 6:58 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 8 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.

IV. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Anderson the board returned to public session at 8:59 pm

V. NEW BUSINESS

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. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Anderson the following was approved:

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

1. To approve contract with NJ School Boards Association to assist in the search for a new Superintendent for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.

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

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

A. 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. Conte the following was approved:

Recommend on the recommendation of the Board President that the Board of Education approve the following:

1. To approve to offer Mr. Cleve Bryan interim superintendent contract.

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

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Order plaque for Dr. Vespe and farewell party on Oct 12 at Precision Power Wash after board meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) N/A

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.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Engelhardt