

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Special Meeting of the Somerdale Board of Education

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

August 31, 2015

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 6:34 pm

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.

Thomas Toff - Absent	Susan Lowden - Present
Colm Fidgeon - Present	Russel Dunnings – Present
Victoria Burckley - Absent	Monique Howard - Present
Debra Hightower - Present	John Phillips - Present
	James Walsh - Present

Also Present:

Dr. Dennis M. Vespe, Superintendent/Principal
Melissa Engelhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Audra Pondish, Solicitor

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items. - None

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
(*Just before the resolution is voted on*).
5. Limit your comments to the specific resolution/items.

6. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS AFFAIRS, Colm Fidgeon, Chairperson, Thomas Toff, Alternate Chairperson, Russel Dunnings, 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. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Hightower the following was approved

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

1. To approve the submission of the application for the Interior Room construction projects to the DOE.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

INSTRUCTIONAL, Dr. Monique Howard, Chairperson, Debra Hightower, Alternate Chairperson, John Phillips, Administrative Liaisons: Dr. Dennis Vespe, Jarod Claybourn

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

On a motion made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. To approve the submission of attached 2015-2016 Merit Goals for Dennis Vespe, Superintendent to the ECS for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 5 NO 2 (Lowden & Phillips) ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

On a motion made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Dunnings the board entered into Executive Session at 6:37 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 _____ 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.

Mrs. Burckley arrived at 7:12 pm

C. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Hightower the board returned to public session at 7:17 pm.

D. 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 Dr. Howard and seconded by Mrs. Burckley the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following item:

1. To approve Melissa Engelhardt's contract as Business Administrator for a salary in the amount of \$90,750 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

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

V. DISCUSSION ITEM:

- a.) Discuss/Set Calendar (6 months out)
Business Affairs committee meeting 9/23 5:30; 10/28 5:30; 11/18 5:30; 12/16 TBD; 1/27 5:30;
2/24 5:30
Instructional (all at 6:30) 9/3; 10/1; 11/3; 12/3; 1/7; 2/4
Policy (all at 4:30) - see business affair dates
- b.) Discuss Merit Goals for 2016/17 (Merit Goals are contractual and are NOT part of the CSA evaluation – their final approval rests with the Executive County Superintendent) – Will be discussed at September meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) - None

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.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Engelhardt