

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education  
301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**November 12, 2015**

**6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT 6:28 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 - Absent
Victoria Burckley - Absent	Monique Howard - Present
Debra Hightower - Absent	John Phillips - Present
	James Walsh - Present

Also Present:

Dr. Dennis M. Vespe, Superintendent/Principal  
Melissa Engelhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Audrey Pondish, 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  
(*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.

***Mr. Dunnings arrived at the meeting at 6:35 pm***

**Sue Alexander; 808 Valley, Somerdale, NJ** – Question about Superintendent’s contract. Is this the current year contract?

Mr. Walsh – It has to do with current year contract but the procedures mandate that the contract go to the County for approval prior to being approved by the BOE.

Ms. Alexander – What are the terms?

Solicitor – That is not public information at this time.

Ms. Alexander – How many years?

Solicitor – Superintendent’s contract is a minimum of 3 years, maximum of 5 years. Dr. Vespe’s contract is 5 years.

Ms. Alexander – Why the rush? He had a 3 year contract, why 5? I don’t see why we have to go to 5 years.

Mr. Walsh – It is the BOE’s prerogative as to a 3 or 5 year contract.

**Melissa Moore; 401 Park Avenue, Somerdale, NJ** – Hoping board will hold off on superintendent contract. Don’t think it is fair new board members don’t get a say in something that will affect them.

Solicitor – Superintendent is not allow to go without a contract. As of now the contract has already renewed. The County will not let the district hold off on a contract, it is already in the works and the County is expecting it. Ultimately it is the County Superintendent’s decision.

Ms. Moore – We were under the impression it has already renewed.

Solicitor – Yes, it has renewed but the County still needs to approve the contract.

Mrs. Lowden – I’d like to be clear. Yes, the current contract has automatically renewed however, this contract amends the automatic renewal for an additional 2 years.

**Alicia Conte; 128 Yale Avenue, Somerdale, NJ** – I would like more clarification about the three versus five year. If we already have a 3 year contract, we don’t need to send one for 5 years.

Solicitor – It is the BOE’s decision to amend the 3 year contract for a 5 year term. We cannot send the County a contract for just 2 year additional years.

Mrs. Conte – Why was the public not informed that it was going to be a 5 year contract?

Solicitor – The BOE had negotiations with the Superintendent. The contract itself is not being approved tonight, just the authorization to send it to the County.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular and executive session minutes of the October 8, 2015 BOE Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All in Favor

**VII. REPORTS**

a. Superintendent’s Report

- LED 95% complete. Sensors were placed in the bathrooms and storage closets; one final punch list will be scheduled.

- Many PTA events were scheduled in October; Trunk or Treat, Middle School and PreK – 4 dances. They all went well without a hitch – KUDOS to the PTA.
- Celebration on Ward Field for the fourth marking period [of last year] Renaissance Card winners in conjunction with the Halloween Parade. KUDOS to the National Honors Society, Renaissance Committee, and Student Council for putting on a great activity.
- Wrapping up first marking period. Grades are online and report cards will be ready sometime next week. February 18<sup>th</sup> will be a parent meeting to discuss 1:1 take home initiative for the grades 6-8. 1:1 take home agreement is up on the webpage.

b. Business Administrator’s Report

- I have completed the District’s Purchasing Manual and have it on the agenda for Board approval. I’m still working on updating our Standard Operating Procedure Manual and I’m about half way through the document.
- I have started the application for state school aid (a.k.a. ASSA) entering student count information on the NJ Homeroom website.
- I have completed the District Report of Transported Resident Students (a.k.a. DRTRS) and certified the information I have entered into the State system.
- I have started the budget process for the 2016/2017 school year.
- I have reached out to the SEA to begin negotiations. The SEA anticipates meeting in January.
- I received my official NJ Qualified Purchasing Agent Certification.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary) None at this time**

**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 publicly;
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**IX. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION – N/A**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**, Colm Fidgeon, Chairperson, John Phillips, 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. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the Following items 1-5:

Financial Report

1. Recommend that the Board of Education certify that as of this date and 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 fund balance has been overspent in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations as of this date.

Check Journal #1:	Fund 10	\$1,270.00
Check Journal #2:	Fund 60	\$84.91
Check Journal #3:	Fund 60	\$12,228.30

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Check Journal #4	Fund 10	\$223,466.20
	Fund 20	<u>\$8,290.00</u>
		\$231,756.20
Check Journal #5	Fund 10	\$24,433.93
	Fund 20	<u>\$14,626.71</u>
		\$39,060.64
October 15, 2015 Payroll:	Fund 10	\$210,685.19
	Fund 20	<u>\$5,285.50</u>
		\$215,970.69
October 30, 2015 Payroll	Fund 10	\$189,224.99
	Fund 20	<u>\$5,285.50</u>
		\$194,510.49

2. Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for October 2015.

Treasurer’s Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of October 2015. The Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s report are in agreement for the month of October 2015.

3. Transfers/Adjustments for the month of October 2015.

- To approve Kelly Cesarski, Spanish Teacher to attend a workshop on “Utilizing Cutting-Edge Technology Resources to Enhance Your World Language Instruction in Grades 6 – 12”, in Cherry Hill, NJ on December 11, 2015 at a cost of \$239.00 per day.
- To approve Michael Phillips, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher to attend a workshop on “Making the Best Use of Mobile Devices to Strengthen Your Science Instruction”, in Cherry Hill, NJ on January 7, 2016 at a cost of \$239.00 per day.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 6-10:

- To approve Danielle Reyes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher and MaryRose Reeder, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher to attend a workshop on “NextGen Connections: Force and Motion (Grades 3-5)”, in Monroe Twp. on February 1, 2016 at a cost of \$200.00 per day.
- To approve Dominic Travarelli-Burmeister, Middle School Teacher to attend a workshop on “NextGen Connections: Force and Motion (Grades 6-8)”, in Monroe Twp. on February 9, 2016 at a cost of \$200.00 per day.
- To approve Cristin Butler, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher to attend a workshop on “NextGen Connections: Matter and its Interaction (Grades 3-5)”, in Monroe Twp. on February 11, 2016 at a cost of \$200.00 per day.
- To approve Lyndsay Pasi, Science Teacher to attend a workshop on “NextGen Connections: Matter and its Interaction (Grades 6-8)”, in Monroe Twp. on February 24, 2016 at a cost of \$200.00 per day.

10. To approve the contract to Franklin Township Board of Education for three (3) homeless students in grades 1, 3 and 5 from September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 with revenue in the amount of \$37,647.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 11-15:

11. To void check 19962 in the amount of \$1,880.00.
12. To void check 19758 in the amount of \$1,270 and replace it with check 020003
13. To void check 19963 in the amount of \$65.00
14. To add Great American Financial Services to the Pre-Pay list for the 2015-2016 school year.
15. Submission of the (DPR) District Performance Review as required by the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2015-2016 school year. (attachment)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 16-20:

16. To approve the district's updated Purchasing Manual for the 2015-2016 school year.
17. To Approve Dennis Vespe as the Accountability Officer for Federal Grants for the 2015-2016 school year.
18. To approve the transportation contract to Camden Board of Education for a foster student in Kindergarten from October 28, 2015 to June 30, 2015 with a reimbursement in the amount of \$10,500.
19. To approve the award of Technology Bid # 16-09 to Advanced Computer Solutions Group, LLC for the services and rates as set forth in the bid proposal (attachment).
20. To approve Camden County Educational Services Commission and Middle Township Board of Education as members of our Park Technology Services Joint Purchasing System whereas members are allowed to participate in the Technology and/or PowerSchool Services as awarded by the Somerdale Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 21-23:

21. To approve the following expenditures for the IDEA Grant Award for the 2015/2016 school year:  
IDEA Basic: \$1,260 allocated to salary stipends  
\$137,994 allocated to classroom paraprofessionals

IDEA PreSchool: \$715 allocated to classroom supplies  
\$3,000 allocated to professional support services  
\$6,905 allocated to other support services  
\$3,954 allocated to classroom supplies

22. To approve the following expenditures for the NCLB Grant Award for the 2015/2016 school year:

Title I Part A: \$21,350 allocated to salary stipends  
\$105,593 allocated to classroom paraprofessionals  
\$8,200 allocated to educational purchased services  
\$1,737 allocated to classroom supplies  
\$3,920 allocated to professional support services  
\$7,000 allocated to professional development support services

Title II Part A: \$3,964 allocated to classroom supplies  
\$1,260 allocated to professional support services  
\$1,500 allocated to other support services  
\$5,700 allocated to professional development supplies

23. To amend and correct May 7, 2015 minutes for the approval of Nutri-Serve Food Management, Inc. to serve as the food service management company for Somerdale Board of Education;

WHEREAS Nutri-Serve Food Management, Inc. be appointed as the food service management company for the 2015-2016 school year;

WHEREAS Somerdale Board of Education wishes to renew the food service contract for a fifth year;

WHEREAS Nutri-Serve Food Management, Inc. cost of services will be a fixed fee of \$12,190.00 plus expenses;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Somerdale Board of Education, County of Camden, New Jersey that Nutri-Serve Food Services be appointed as the food service management company for the 2015-2016 school year at a cost of \$12,190.00 plus expenses.

BE IF FUTHER RESOLVED that the Somerdale Board of Education has advertised the awarding of this contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

#### **B. Facilities – Reviews the needs and uses of district buildings and grounds**

On a motion made by Mr. Fidgeon and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. To post approve Sterling Elementary Basketball League to utilize the Gym, on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm during November 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016.
2. To approve Tarkill Soccer Club to utilize the Gym on Wednesdays from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm during December 16, 2015 through March 16, 2016.
3. To approve the 2015-2016 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. (attachment)

4. To approve Soccer Shots to utilize the Cafeteria on Tuesday from 6 pm – 7:00 pm during February 2016 through April 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

**INSTRUCTIONAL**, Dr. Monique Howard, Chairperson, Debra Hightower, Alternate Chairperson, Susan Lowden, 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 Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. The following field trips:
  - a.) Kindergarten Students field trip to Storybook Land, on May 19, 2016 at an approx. cost per pupil of \$13.95 and \$5.00 transportation cost, with a rain date of May 26, 2016.
  - b.) Eighth Grade Students to travel to Pocono Valley, Pennsylvania on June 6, 2015. Cost per student \$63.90 plus \$5.00 transportation fee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

**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 by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the following was approved:

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

1. To approve the submission of Dr. Dennis Vespe’s contract to the Camden County Superintendent for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 3 NO 3 (Lowden, Dunning and Phillips) ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

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

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following items 2-4:

2. To approve Carissa Smith, Grand Canyon University student, to conduct Elementary Education clinical practice with Erica Botto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher during January 7, 2016 – April 20, 2016.
3. To approve Samantha Morton as a Bridge Program Coordinator Volunteer through the Sterling Municipal Alliance for the Somerdale Park Bridge Program during 2015-2016 transition period.
4. To approve Laurie Rizzolo, Grand Canyon University student, to conduct 20 hours of observation in a resource setting during November 30, 2015 – February 7, 2016.

5. To approve new/revised job descriptions for the following positions: **TABLED**
  - a.) Senior Technician
  - b.) Director of Technology
  - c.) Technical Support Specialist

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Dr. Howard and seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following item 6:

6. To approve Brianne Siderio, Kindergarten Teacher to serve as a Homebound Tutor for a Kindergarten student starting November 2015 to continue on an as needed basis until further notice.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

**POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**, Victoria Bureckley, Chairperson, Susan Lowden, Alternate Chairperson, James Walsh, Administrative Liaison: Jarod Claybourn

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Lowden and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the following was approved:

The following item will be recommended for approval:

1. To approve the Somerdale School District's 1:1 Tablet Program Student Guidelines Agreement. (attachment)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mrs. Lowden and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for first reading:

1. Policy 0157 – Board of Education Website
2. Policy 0169 – Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet
3. Policy 2360 – Use of Technology
4. Regulation 3321 – Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Teaching Staff Members
5. Regulation 4321 - Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Support Staff Members

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

On a motion made by Mrs. Lowden and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for second reading:

1. Policy 2622 – Student Assessment
2. Policy 3218 – Substance Abuse
3. Policy 4218 – Substance Abuse

4. Policy 5200 – Attendance
5. Policy 5330 – Administration of Medication
6. Policy 5339 – Screening for Dyslexia
7. Policy 8630 – Bus Driver Bus Aide Responsibility
8. Regulation 3218 - Substance Abuse
9. Regulation 4218 – Substance Abuse
10. Regulation 5200 – Attendance
11. Regulation 8630 – Emergency School Bus Procedures

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 3

**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.**

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. None at this time

**XI. DISCUSSION ITEM: None**

**XII. OTHER REPORTS:**

- a.) Student Attendance

**Enrollment October 2015**

Preschool	33
Kindergarten	57
1st Grade	55
2nd Grade	59
3rd Grade	51
4th Grade	43
5th Grade	49
6th Grade	63
7th Grade	50
8th Grade	55
Out of District	1
Home Instruction	2
Homeless -Tuition	1
<b>Total October</b>	<b>519</b>

- b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

**Fire Drill:**

**DATE:**

**10/7/2015**

Alarm Sounded: 2:03 pm

Building Cleared: 2:05 pm

Returned to Building: 2:07 pm

Alarm Station Used: E-wing

All Staff in attendance participated in drill

Number evacuated: Students present: 505

All Staff Present: 91

Special conditions simulated: none at this time

Problems encountered: None

Weather: 71 degrees

**Bomb Threat Drill**

**DATE:**                   **10/15/15**

Alarm Sounded:           8:33 am

Building Cleared:        8:34 am

Returned to Building:   8:36 am

Alarm Station Used:     Alarm was pulled in the B-Wing

All Staff in attendance participated in drill

Special conditions simulated:   no prior warning was announced; Mr. Claybourn pull the alarm in the B-Wing

Problems encountered:        none at this time

Weather:                       53 degrees

c.) Health Reports

**XIII. 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  
*(Just before the resolution is voted on).*
4. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

**Jim Anderson** – Wants to know how much time is spent on tablets during the school day. Also feels there is not enough time to eat lunch/recess.

Dr. Vespe – The kids use the tablet just like they would a textbook or workbook. There seems to be a misconception that the kids are sitting at a desk for 47 minutes each period just staring at the screen. That is not the case. The class is a combination of tablet use, class discussion, and small group instruction. They are not sitting at a screen all day. As to lunch and recess, we are locked into 47 minutes per the state curriculum guidelines and I agree with your concern but there is nothing we can do about it.

Jim Walsh presents plaque to resigning board member, Mr. Dunnings in recognition of his years of service.

**John Gunderson, Neptune City, NJ** – Neptune City School District in hardship and would like to discuss State funding issues with board after the meeting.

Facilities Report by Colm Fidgeon: Mr. Bach (architect) will send out engineer to inspect Boiler and give analysis at next committee meeting. We also discussed the HVAC and roof plans. Mr. Phillips will be the “czar” of the roof maintenance.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Somerdale Board of Education meeting held on November 12, 2015

On a motion made by Mrs. Lowden and seconded by Mr. Fidgeon the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Engelhardt