

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, NJ 08083

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**April 15, 2021  
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/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**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 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	Monique Howard	
Kim Barkoff	Taylor Klenk	Marc Ritz
Colm Fidgeon	Susan Lowden	Kevin Smith

Also Present:

Mark Pease, Superintendent/Principal  
David Rouse, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Chris Long, 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
5. Limit your comments to the specific resolution/items.
6. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the regular session minutes of the March 11, 2021 BOE Meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**V. REPORTS**

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

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**, Susan Lowden, Chairperson, Colm Fidgeon Alternate Chairperson, Marc Ritz, Administrative Liaisons: Mark Pease, David Rouse

**A. 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:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following items 1-9:

1. Financial Reports:

To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for February 2021 (attachment #1).

The Board Secretary’s Report is in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of February 2021. 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 month of February 2021. The Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s report are in agreement for the month of February 2021.

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 (attachment #2):

- a. March 15, 2021 Payroll Check Journal totaling: \$216,163.23
- b. March 30, 2021 Payroll Check Journal totaling: \$218,708.81
- c. Vendor Bill List 1 and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$339,153.78
- d. Vendor Bill List 2 and corresponding Check Journal totaling: \$26,425.74

3. To approve the Transfers/Adjustments for the month of February 2021 (attachment #3).

4. To approve Joy Jaskolka, Shared Services ESL teacher, to attend the virtual NJTESOL Conference on May 25-27, 2021. To be paid out of the Title I funds.

5. To approve Gina Horiates, Danielle Cross and Cristin Butler to attend the virtual Breaking Binaries and Bias workshop on April 28, 2021 at a cost of \$107.72 per person. To be paid out of Title II funds. Per District

Policies 3240 & 4240, all employees of the BOE must submit certificates of completion or detailed written reports within 10 days of the event in order to verify participation in the webinar.

6. To approve Gina Horiates, Danielle Cross and Cristin Butler to attend the virtual Creating Equitable Classrooms and Lesson Plans workshop on May 5, 2021 at a cost of \$107.72 per person. To be paid out of Title II funds. Per District Policies 3240 & 4240, all employees of the BOE must submit certificates of completion or detailed written reports within 10 days of the event in order to verify participation in the webinar.
7. To approve Gina Horiates, Danielle Cross and Cristin Butler to attend the virtual Customized Infusion of LGBTQ Content Curriculum workshop on May 12, 2021 at a cost of \$107.72 per person. To be paid out of Title II funds. Per District Policies 3240 & 4240, all employees of the BOE must submit certificates of completion or detailed written reports within 10 days of the event in order to verify participation in the webinar.
8. To approve Mykee Fowling, psychologist, performer and poet, to speak to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at a date to be determined regarding racial insensitivity and creating an atmosphere of inclusion towards all people, at a cost of \$1,500.00.
9. To approve the release agreement with Winchester Roofing Corporation for the damage to the parking lot in the amount of \$10,868.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_

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

Report by Facilities Committee Chair

**INSTRUCTIONAL**, Monique Howard, Chairperson, James Anderson, Alternate Chairperson, Kevin Smith, Taylor Klenk, Administrative Liaisons: Mark Pease, Robert Ford

**A. 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:

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

1. To approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar due to total of student days, changes are as follows (attachment #1):
  - a.) June 1, 2021 – changed to school open
  - b.) Teacher last day changed from June 18, 2021 to June 17, 2021.
2. To approve the Pre-School Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. (attachment #2)

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_

**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**

Report by Personnel Committee Chair

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

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

1. To approve Gina Horiates to hold the GSA meetings on a trial basis during the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. There will be no charge to the district for these meetings at this time.
2. To approve NJFLA leave of absence, with sick leave pay, for Nichole Costello to care for her sick spouse commencing April 12 through April 30, 2021 as per NJ Stat. 18A:30-7.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**, Kimberly Barkoff, Chairperson, Kevin Smith, Alternate Chairperson, Taylor Klenk, Administrative Liaison: Robert Ford

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

Report by Policy Committee Chair

**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.**

Report by Community Affairs Committee Chair

**BOND AD HOC COMMITTEE**, Susan Lowden, Chairperson, Colm Fidgeon Alternate Chair, Marc Ritz, Administrative Liaison: Mark Pease, David Rouse

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

Report by Bond Committee Chair

**VII. REPORTS:**

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

The following item will be recommended for approval:

1. Acknowledge and accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report for incidents dated:
  - a. March 10, 2021 (attachment #1)

ALL IN FAVOR: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. OTHER REPORTS:**

- a.) Student Attendance

<b>Enrollment March 2021</b>	
Preschool	20
Kindergarten	53
1st Grade	40
2nd Grade	45
3rd Grade	31
4th Grade	43
5th Grade	50
6th Grade	61
7th Grade	59
8th Grade	55
Out of District	5
Charter Students	0
Home Instruction	0
Homeless -Tuition	0
<b>Total March 2021</b>	<b>462</b>

b.) Security/Fire Drill Reports

**PHASE 1 - FIRE DRILLS**

**March 8, 2021 (Monday) 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fire Drill**

<b>Announced over PA System:</b>	<b>Cleared Building:</b>	<b>Returned to Building:</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 10:31 am	10:32 am	10:36 am
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 10:32 am	10:33 am	10:38 am
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 10:34 am	10:35 am	10:39 am

**Onsite learning numbers:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 28 total  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 23 total  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 31 total  
Less 13 absent = **69** students onsite during drill

**Middle School Staff who participated: 19**

**Weather conditions:**

36 degrees

**No problems encountered during drill**

**March 9, 2021 (Tuesday) PK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fire Drill**

<b>Announced over PA System:</b>	<b>Cleared Building:</b>	<b>Returned to Building:</b>
Prekindergarten – 10:04 am	10:05 am	10:12 am
Kindergarten- 10:04 am	10:05 am	10:11 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade – 10:06 am	10:07 am	10:13 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade – 10:04 am	10:05 am	10:11 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade – 10:07 am	10:08 am	10:13 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 10:06 am	10:07 am	10:12 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 10:04 am	10:05 am	10:10 am

**Onsite learning numbers:**

Prekindergarten – 9 total  
Kindergarten – 32 total  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 21 total  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 19 total  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 18 total  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 17 total  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 21 total  
Less 3 absent = **134** students onsite during drill

**School Staff who participated: 38**

**Weather conditions:**

54 degrees

**No problems encountered during drill**

**PHASE 2 – TABLETOP DRILL**

**March 11, 2021 (Thursday) – All Grades**

PK – Grade 5 - 10:05 am

Grades 6 - 8 - 10:30 am

Conducted announced test of fire alarm system. Teachers and students remained in classroom and participated in tabletop discussions regarding previous training.

c.) Health Reports – March 2021

**IX. 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
4. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)**

On a motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ the board entered into Executive Session at \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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;

**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.

**XI. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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