

**WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

Mission Statement

Our mission as a school community is to provide quality education through an environment which promotes individual excellence, and that all pupils achieve the Common Core State Standards and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

**TIME AND PLACE**           The Board of Education of the Borough of Somerville in the County of Somerset, New Jersey convened a Workshop/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at the Somerville Administrative Headquarters, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville.

**CALL TO ORDER**           The meeting was called to at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Kerestes, President; who asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**               **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. James Adamec, Mr. Norman Chin, Mr. Kenneth Cornell, Mrs. Michelle Edgar, Mr. Dennis Garot, Mr. Al Kerestes, Mr. Peter Lawton, Mrs. Melissa Looby, Mrs. Linda Olson, Mr. John Prudente

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Timothy Purnell, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Bryan P. Boyce, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Mr. Kerestes announced that adequate Notice of this meeting in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," has been provided by action of the Board of Education at the Reorganization Meeting of May 10, 2011 notices to the three newspapers circulated in the school district, and a posted notice to this effect on the Board of Education building bulletin board, Administrative Headquarters, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**       There was no public comment.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT****Anti-bullying Bill of Rights/Code of Conduct  
Presentation**

Mr. Thomas Conroy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Conroy presented a status report on the district's progress towards meeting requirements under the new Anti-bullying Bill of Rights. He indicated that as of October 10, 2011, everyone in district has completed the mandatory training required by the law. He stated that although a mixture of reports have been received to date, none rose to the level of a harassment, intimidation or bullying incident.

**District Highlights**

Dr. Timothy Purnell, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Purnell stated that three strategic multiyear goals were set at the recent Board of Education Retreat. Those goals along with an action plan will be presented of a future meeting. The districts needs assessment as reported by community stakeholders will also be reported at a future Board of Education meeting as well as individual schools. Dr. Purnell also reported on activities and achievements at the Preschool, Van Derveer School, Somerville Middle School and Somerville High School.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

It is recommended that Items 1\* to 4\* be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**1\* APPROVAL OF  
FLEXIBLE  
SPENDING ACCOUNT**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the implementation of a Section 125 Flexible Spending Accounts pursuant to the requirements of NJPL 2011 Chapter 78 effective January 1, 2012, as follows:

The Board accepts the recommendation of its group insurance consultant, Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc. to designate Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ as the Board's FSA administrator.

**2\* INDEPENDENT  
STUDY PROGRAM**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the enclosed application for the Independent Study Program at the Somerville High School for the 2011-2012 school year.

**3\* FIELD TRIPS**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the enclosed request for field trips.

**4\* TRAVEL  
EXPENDITURE  
RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that the school district travel expenditures for the attached programs are in compliance with State travel guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and within the guidelines established by the federal Office of Management and Budget; except as superseded by conflicting provision of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and in compliance with the district policy on travel; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the attendance of the listed number of school board members and district employees at the attached training and informational programs, and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount.

Mr. Kerestes introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Cornell seconded.

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Adamec	YES	Lawton	YES
Chin	YES	Garot	YES
Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Edgar	YES	Prudente	YES
Kerestes	YES	*Looby	YES

**PERSONNEL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve and/or accept the Superintendent's Recommendations as follows:

*(All appointments and salaries subject to verification of documentation.)*

K-8

Motion by Mr. Kerestes, seconded by Mr. Cornell that 9-12 and Districtwide item 1 through 3 be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

**1. MIDDLE SCHOOL  
INTRAMURAL  
SUPERVISORS**

**APPROVE** the following staff members to the position of intramural supervisors at Somerville Middle School during the 2011-2012 school year at the following stipends:

Fall: Soccer:	Mr. Thomas George	\$794.50
	Mr. Nick Petronko	\$794.50
Fall: Dance/Drill Team:	Mrs. Eleni Iannella	\$794.50
	Ms. Sally Whitten	\$794.50
Spring: Soccer:	Mr. Thomas George	\$794.50
	Mr. Nick Petronko	\$794.50
Spring Volleyball	Mrs. Eleni Iannella	\$794.50
	Mr. Michael Callahan	\$794.50

**2. NICHOLAS DIAZ**

**APPROVE** an extension of the appointment of Nicholas Diaz to the position of interim assistant principal, administrative: principal certification at Van Derveer School effective October 17, 2011 to November 8, 2011 at a salary of \$84,000.00. (prorated)

**3. LORRAINE  
POHORELY**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby grants Lorraine Pohorely, an unpaid disability leave of absence, with benefits, per Article 12(B) (4) of the collective bargaining agreement, for the period, October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, per her physician's certification substantiating the need for this extended leave.

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Adamec	YES	Lawton	YES
Chin	YES	Garot	YES
Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Edgar	YES	Prudente	YES
Kerestes	YES	*Looby	N/A

9-12 and Districtwide

Motion by Mr. Kerestes, seconded by Mr. Cornell that 9-12 and Districtwide items 4\* through 12\* be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

- 4\* DANIELLE TARVIN APPROVE a paid maternity disability leave of absence for Danielle Tarvin, teacher of Spanish at Somerville High School, effective November 28, 2011 to January 20, 2012.
- 5\* JOSH HOBBS APPROVE the appointment of Josh Hobbs to the position of assistant boys basketball coach at Somerville High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a stipend of \$3,237.00.
- 6\* BRYCE GIBBONS APPROVE the appointment of Bryce Gibbons to the position of assistant boys baseball coach at Somerville High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a stipend of \$6,240.00.
- 7\* DR. SHARON GRANETZ APPROVE the appointment of Dr. Sharon Granetz as a volunteer consultant to assist the Special Education Department as a reading specialist for the 2011-2012 school year.
- 8\* SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS APPROVE the enclosed list of substitute teachers at the rate of \$90.00 per diem for the 2011-2012 school year.
- 9\* JOSEPH SCODARI APPROVE the appointment of Joseph Scodari to the position of maintenance to fill a Vacancy caused by a transfer (Weeast) effective October 17, 2011 to June 30, 2012 at a salary of \$44,655.00. (Step 2) (prorated)
- 10\* PARAPROFESSIONALS HIGH SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL APPROVE the following list of individuals to the position of paraprofessionals at Somerville High School and Somerville Preschool for the 2011-2012 school year:
- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Lisa Butynes    | Marching Band and Color Guard |
| Cindy Hand      | Marching Band and Color Guard |
| Donna Rodriguez | Marching Band and Color Guard |
| Paige Cornell   | Preschool Volunteer Aide      |
- 11\* STACY WILLIAMS APPROVE the appointment of Stacy Williams to the leave replacement position of secretary to the assistant principal (Barrows) at the Somerville High School guidance office effective October 17, 2011 to January 6, 2012 at a salary of \$44,487.00. (Step C1) (prorated) (emergent hiring)

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Adamec	YES	Lawton	YES
Chin	YES	Garot	YES
Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Edgar	YES	Prudente	YES
Kerestes	YES	*Looby	YES

**12\* RON  
BOMMARITO**

**APPROVE** the appointment of Ron Bommarito to the position of Coordinator of Technical Services to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation (Ramos) effective November 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 at a salary of \$85,000. (prorated)

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Adamec	YES	Lawton	YES
Chin	YES	Garot	YES
Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Edgar	YES	Prudente	YES
Kerestes	YES	*Looby	ABSTAIN

**BOROUGH  
PRESENTATION**

**Presentation by Mayor Brian Gallagher**

Mayor Gallagher discussed the implications of a potential future tax abatement for JSM Group who is developing the downtown shopping center. Mayor Gallagher stated that he and the Council are very aware of any impact a tax abatement would have on the school district and their goal is to maintain the current ratable value of the property for the benefit of the Board of Education. Mayor Gallagher reviewed how a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement would impact property taxes for the Borough, County and Board of Education. Mr. Colin Driver reviewed how the recent Borough revaluation changed the value of the property and elaborated on how a tax abatement differs from a PILOT program. Mayor Gallagher and Mr. Driver answered questions from Board of Education members.

**\*EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education move to recess into executive session to discuss student matters and Chief School Administrator evaluation. The minutes of the executive session, to the extent permitted by law, will be made available to the public once the issues are

resolved, subject to confidentiality requirements.

Mr. Cornell introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Garot seconded.

Upon call for a voice vote, the vote was as follows:

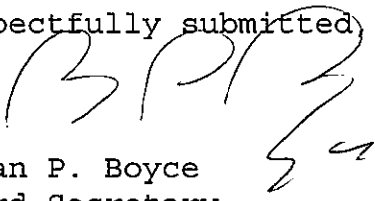
Adamec	YES	Lawton	YES
Chin	YES	Garot	YES
Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Edgar	YES	Prudente	YES
Kerestes	YES	*Looby	YES

**PUBLIC COMMENT** There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT** With nothing further, to be discussed, Mr. Cornell motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Olson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Upon call for a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan P. Boyce  
Board Secretary

