

**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
SOMERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**Mission Statement**

Somerville Public Schools provide the highest quality education through an environment that promotes individual excellence to all students.

**TIME AND PLACE**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Somerville in the County of Somerset, New Jersey convened a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the Somerville Middle School Cafeteria, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Derek Jess, President.

Mr. Jess 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 on November 20, 2018, notices to the two 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.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Dan Carlson, Mr. Derek Jess, Ms. Candace Matthews, Mrs. Linda Olson, Mr. Daniel Puntillo, Dr. Melissa Sadin, Mr. Lucien Sergile, Mrs. Kristen Fabriczi

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Erin Sweitzer, Mrs. Denise Van Horn

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

Mr. Sergile motioned to close Public Comment; Dr.

Sadin seconded.

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

**BOARD  
PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mr. Jess noted staff members who have lost loved ones recently and offered his condolences.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Food Waste in the Cafeteria/Problem Based Learning Presentation

Somerville Middle School Grade Six

Representatives

District Highlights

Dr. Timothy M. Teehan, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Teehan stated the problem based learning presentation by Somerville Middle School grade six representatives will be postponed to a future Board meeting.

Dr. Teehan highlighted various activities at Van Derveer School, Somerville Middle School and Somerville High School.

**REPORT OF BOARD ITEMS**

**A. Finance**

It is recommended that Items 1 and 2 be moved upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

**1. DONATION TO  
VAN DERVEER  
SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mrs. Suzanne Kreie in memory of her husband Mr. Paul Kreie, in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help economically disadvantaged students who would like to participate in school activities that require a fee.

**2. NONPUBLIC  
SCHOOL SECURITY  
AID PROGRAM**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached New Jersey Nonpublic School Security Aid Program Order Form for Immaculate Conception. (Attachment C-1)

Mr. Puntillo introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 1 and 2; Ms. Matthews

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

seconded.

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

It is recommended that Items 3\* through 8\* be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools

**3\* DONATION TO SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept a donation from DonorChoose.org for a total of \$711.00 worth of resource books to be donated to Marisol Espinoza’s classroom at Somerville High School.

**4\* ADVANCED COMPUTER SCIENCE GRANT**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the Advanced Computer Science Grant, 19-CZ01-G06, in the amount of \$92,408.00 to increase computer science offerings at Somerville High School.

**5\* NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY AID PROGRAM**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached New Jersey Nonpublic School Security Aid Program Order Forms for Immaculata High School. (Attachment C-2)

**6\* BID REJECTION - APPLE LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND TABLETS**

**WHEREAS,** the Somerville Board of Education advertised for bids for the sale of Apple laptop computers and tablets that are no longer needed for school purposes, with a public bid opening date of January 16, 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board received two bids for the project; and

**WHEREAS,** one of the bidders, Sycamore International, submitted the bid via email, which was impermissible, and did not include certain required financial statements or bid security, which were material defects and rendered its bid nonresponsive; and

**WHEREAS,** the other bidder, of the bidders, Dimex, failed to supply bid security in the form of a certified check, bank check or money order, which is a material defect rendering its bid nonresponsive;

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby rejects both bids as nonresponsive and authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to readvertise for the sale of such property in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45;

**7\* FIELD TRIPS**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the enclosed request for field trips. (Attachment C-3)

**8\* 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. (Attachment C-4)

Mr. Puntillo introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 3\* through 8\*; Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

**B. Athletics & Student Activities**

It is recommended that Items 1\* and 2\* be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**1\* SOMERVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
WINTER COLOR  
GUARD**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached list of Somerville Middle School students to participate in the Somerville High School Winter Color Guard Program. (Attachment C-5)

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

**2\* ROBOTICS  
COMPETITION**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached list of dates for the Robotics Club competitions. (Attachment C-6)

Mr. Sergile introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 1\* and 2\*; Ms. Matthews seconded.

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

**C. Curriculum**

It is recommended that Item 1 be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools

**1. HARASSMENT,  
INTIMIDATION AND  
BULLYING REPORT**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the monthly Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying unconfirmed case #2018-2019:8SMS-NC; #2018-2019:9SMS-NC and #2018-2019:10SMS-NC.

Ms. Matthews introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution number 1; Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

It is recommended that Items 2\* and 3\* be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools

**2\* HARASSMENT,  
INTIMIDATION AND  
BULLYING REPORT**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the monthly Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying unconfirmed cases #2018-2019:12SHS-NC and #2018-2019:13SHS-NC.

**3\* JOB  
DESCRIPTIONS**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached job descriptions. (Attachment C-7)

Ms. Matthews introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 2\* and 3\*; Mr. Carlson seconded.

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

**D. Residency**

It is recommended that Item 1\* be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools

**1\* SOMERVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS REQUEST**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve student #200774 and student #200705 to complete their senior year at Somerville High School due to their families relocating out of Somerville.

Mrs. Olson introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution number 1\*; Ms. Matthews seconded.

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

**PERSONNEL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve and/or accept the following appointment(s) upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools. (Appointment(s) and salaries contingent upon verified documentation.)

**PS-8**

**1. DAVIE-LYN  
JONES-EVANS**

**APPROVE** a change in salary guide placement for the following staff member effective February 1, 2019:

Davie-Lyn Jones-Evans MA+15 to MA+30

**2. TRACEY  
DESARNO**

**APPROVE** a paid medical leave of absence for Tracey DeSarno, Instructional Assistant at Van Derveer School effective January 29, 2019 through March 1, 2019 and an unpaid medical leave of absence effective March 4, 2019 through March 8, 2019.

**3. CHRISTINE  
BIRNBAUM**

**APPROVE** an unpaid childcare of absence leave for Christine Birnbaum, Literacy Coach at Van Derveer School, according to the Family and Medical Leave Act effective May 21, 2019 to June 30, 2019 or sooner if medically cleared by doctor.

**4. CHRYSTALYNN  
SIMON**

**APPROVE** the appointment of Chrystalynn Simon to the position of Cafeteria/Playground Aide at Van Derveer School to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation (Urena) for the 2018-2019 school year

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

at the rate of \$14.50 per hour.

**5. ANASTASIA SCIORRA**

**APPROVE** the transfer of Anastasia Sciorra from the position of Teacher of Multiple Disabilities, at Van Derveer School PS-2 to the newly created position of Teacher of Preschool Disabilities, effective February 11, 2019 to June 30, 2019 at her current salary.

**6. MELANIE SCOTT**

**APPROVE** the appointment of Melanie Scott to the position of teacher of Multiple Disabilities, instructional; certificate of teacher of students with disabilities, at Van Derveer School PS-2 to fill a vacancy caused by a transfer (Sciorra) effective February 11, 2019 to June 30, 2019 at a salary of \$54,447.00+ (BA Step 1) (prorated). (Attachment P-1)

**7. NEW POSITION**

**APPROVE** the newly-created position of Intervention Teacher at Somerville Middle School.

**8. STEPHEN THYNE**

**APPROVE** the appointment of Stephen Thyne to the interim position of Intervention Teacher, instructional; certificate of Teacher of Language Arts, at Somerville Middle School effective February 6, 2019 to June 30, 2019 at a salary of \$58,936.00+ (MA Step 1) (prorated). (Attachment P-2)

Mr. Sergile introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 1 through 8; Mr. Puntillo seconded.

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

Carlson	YES	Sadin	YES
Jess	YES	Sergile	YES
Matthews	YES	Sweitzer	Absent
Olson	YES	Van Horn	Absent
Puntillo	YES	*Fabriczi	N/A

**9-12 and Districtwide**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve and/or accept the following appointment(s) upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

(Appointment(s) and salaries contingent upon verified documentation.)

- 9\* NEW POSITION** APPROVE the newly-created position of Translator district wide.
- 10\* MARIA FABBY OBREGON-RINCON** APPROVE the appointment of Maria Fabby Obregon-Rincon to the position of District wide translator for the 2018-2019 school year at a rate of \$25.00 per hour.
- 11\* KATHLEEN MCCABE** APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Kathleen McCabe, Teacher of Physical Education at Somerville High School, effective March 18, 2019 to May 15, 2019 and an unpaid childcare leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective May 16, 2019 to June 30, 2019.
- 12\* CAROLYN ROSS** APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Carolyn Ross, Instructional Coach at Somerville High School, effective February 26, 2019 to April 16, 2019 and an unpaid childcare leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective April 17, 2019 to June 30, 2019.
- 13\* NICOLE APPEZZATO** APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Nicole Appezzato, Teacher of Math at Somerville High School, effective April 8, 2019 to May 16, 2019 and an unpaid childcare leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective May 17, 2019 to June 30, 2019.
- 14\* JESSICA PRITCHARD** APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Jessica Pritchard, Teacher of Science at Somerville High School, effective April 29, 2019 to June 30, 2019 and an unpaid childcare leave of absence in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act effective September 1, 2019 to November 6, 2019.
- 15\* ABOLISH POSITIONS** ABOLISH two (2) Teacher of Business Education positions at Somerville High School.
- 16\* NEW POSITION** APPROVE the newly-created position of Teacher of Computer Science at Somerville High School.

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations



17\* NEW POSITION APPROVE the newly-created position of Teacher of Social Studies at Somerville High School.

18\* KRISTI MALONE APPROVE the appointment of Kristi Malone to the position of Teacher of Computer Science, instructional; certificate of Teacher of Comprehensive Business, at Somerville High School effective February 6, 2019 to June 30, 2019 at a salary of \$59,548.00+ (MA Step 5) (prorated). (Attachment P-3)

19\* TIM MARDONE APPROVE the appointment of Tim Mardone to the position of Teacher of Social Studies, instructional; certificate of teacher of Social Studies, at Somerville High School effective February 11, 2019 to June 30, 2019 at a salary of \$93,599.00+ (MA+45 Step 15) (prorated). (Attachment P-4)

Mr. Puntillo introduced and moved the adoption of Resolution numbers 9\* through 19\*; Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

Carlson	YES	Sadin	YES
Jess	YES	Sergile	YES
Matthews	YES	Sweitzer	Absent
Olson	YES	Van Horn	Absent
Puntillo	YES	*Fabriczi	YES

OLD BUSINESS Mr. Sergile stated that he attended a recent Borough Council meeting and asked community members to visit the Recreation Department website for information on registration for planned athletics and events. He also stated that Mayor Sullivan is sponsoring an essay contest titled What Makes Government Great.

Mr. Puntillo thanked Mr. Gabriel for taking him on a tour of the buildings to inspect facilities.

Mrs. Olson introduced and moved to close Old Business; Mr. Sergile seconded.

Upon call for a voice vote, the motion was

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

Ms. Matthews introduced and moved to close New Business; Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several members of the Somerville Education Association spoke regarding contract negotiations with the Somerville Board of Education for a successor collective bargaining agreement and made the following points:

- Questioned delay of salary guides when the topic has not been raised for the past two years
- Salary guide delays affecting morale
- Teachers talking about contract negotiations instead of students
- Teachers are looking for jobs in other districts and are now receiving training for resume writing and interviewing
- Reason for Board of Education rejection of salary guides is vague
- Teachers do not feel valued
- Not getting salary increases presents financial hardship

Mr. Puntillo stated that the Board of Education waited for an extended period of time for the NJEA to prepare the salary guides and then turned around comments on the guides within a few days of receiving them. He also stated that both sides contribute towards the preparation of salary guides.

Mr. Jess thanked the Somerville Education Association members for their comments and assured them that their comments do not fall on deaf ears. He indicated that the Board Negotiations Committee reviewed the salary guides for fairness. Mr. Jess promised that the Board will not drag out the review process and said there was no need to re-engage the services of a fact finder. Mr. Jess also welcomed back the teachers returning from maternity leave and

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

+Subject to change as per the SEA contract negotiations

wished their families well.

Dr. Sadin introduced and moved to close Public Comment; Mrs. Olson seconded.

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

**\*EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education move to recess into executive session to discuss matters involving legal matters falling within the attorney-client privilege. 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. Sergile introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Ms. Matthews seconded.

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

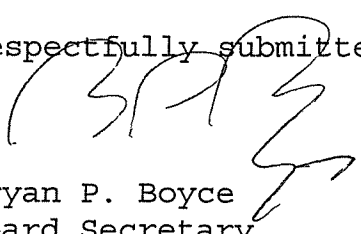
The Board of Education reconvened to public session at 8:02 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to be discussed, Mr. Puntillo motioned to adjourn and Dr. Sadin seconded the motion at 8:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan P. Boyce  
Board Secretary