

REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017
ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

Mission Statement

Somerville Schools provide the highest quality education through an environment that promotes individual excellence.

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, January 17, 2017 at the Administrative Headquarters, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville.

The meeting was called to at 7:01 p.m. by Mr. Chin, President.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Norman Chin, Mrs. Dianne Durland, Mr. James Jones, Mrs. Linda Olson, Mr. John Prudente, Mr. Daniel Puntillo, Mr. Lucien Sergile

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Kenneth Cornell

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

Mr. Chin 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's President on January 3, 2017, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Herbert Hall voiced his opinion with respect to Bylaw 0164.5 in that Board Member Participation in Board Meeting by Teleconferencing or Video-Conferencing Equipment should not be permitted by an elected official. He requests that the Board eliminate the practice of teleconferencing. If absolutely necessary, it

should be limited to only 2-3 times a year with no grandfathering.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings as follows:

The motion was made by Mr. Sergile and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	ABSTAIN
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

The motion was made by Mr. Sergile and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2016 Executive Session.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	ABSTAIN
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

The motion was made by Mr. Sergile and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Purnell announced that Mrs. Susan Haynes, will be presenting at N.J. Association of School Administrators (NJASA) Techspo. Mrs. Haynes will highlight her use of Periscope and other Social Media resources to highlight and share her school's story. The Van Derveer vision has extended beyond the school walls and school days including parents who are able to view events and activities via Periscope.

Van Derveer School PreK-2 Highlights

Ms. Susan Haynes, Van Derveer School PreK-2
Principal

Mrs. Haynes reported on PreK-2 highlights using a digital book to show a synopsis of every day school activities. Mrs. Haynes credited every single teacher for their creative contributions.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Olson read the following statement:

**AMEND BYLAW
0164.4**

I am troubled by the change being made to By-Law 0164.5. Not because I disagree with it because, as written it will oust one of our members from the Board. Thank would be unfair to any Board member regardless of length or quality of services, but particularly so for a person who has served this Board for over 30 year, was instrumental in the early stages of bringing technology to our district and has given tireless effort regarding finances and facility maintenance.

On the other hand, I have heard from several members of the public who said the problem is their inability to contact the Board member and difficulty in hearing the member's participation in meetings. That member has agreed to have a phone and email address published by the district. We are currently looking into improving media in the conference room.

Therefore, I am making the following motion that I believe is fair to all parties.

Mrs. Olson made a motion to amend Bylaw 0164.5 to end with the statement: "An exception is made for any member of the Board who is currently teleconferencing in excess for three times per year to allow that member to continue to do so through the end of the member's current term, provided the member can be contracted by the public via telephone or email"

Mrs. Olson introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution, Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

Chin	ABSTAIN	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	NO
Durland	NO	Puntillo	NO
Jones	NO	Sergile	YES

BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Mr. Chin outlined the format of the Board candidate interviews.

The following candidates were interviewed by the Board of Education for the vacant Board of Education seat:

1. Denise VanHorn
2. Robert Fenster
3. Erin Sweitzer
4. Jamie Kraska

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Chin provided an update on the Superintendent search. He announced that Ms. Gwen Thornton, New Jersey School Boards Association Field Representative, will be reviewing the process and timeline with the Board on the 30th of January. The job posting will appear on The Star Ledger on January 22nd. Community and staff input sessions will be held and surveys will be available to provide input as well.

NEW BUSINESS

It is recommended that Items 1 through 10 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 report cases #2016-2017:1VDV-NC, #2016-2017:2SHS-NC, #2016-2017:3SHS-NC, 2016-2017:4SHS-NC and 2016-2017L8SMS-NC.

2. SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2017 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Board of Education is one of more than 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

WHEREAS, the Somerville Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerville Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2017 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerville Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

**3. DISPOSAL OF
OBSOLETE
MATERIALS**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the attached recommendation from the Somerville Middle School Principal to dispose of obsolete

instructional materials in accordance with Policy/Regulation 7300 because they are so outdated as to no longer serve as worthy instructional tools or are so worn as to preclude effective use and economical repair or restoration.

4. NONPUBLIC SECURITY GRANT

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the attached New Jersey Nonpublic School Security Aid Program Order Forms for Immaculata High School.

5. CAPITAL RESERVE WITHDRAWAL

WHEREAS the Somerville Board of Education, County of Somerset desires to advance the following capital projects, and

- Boiler Replacement at Van Derveer Elementary School \$1,000,000
- Roof Replacement at Van Derveer Elementary School \$1,000,000
- Upgrade of Electrical Service at Van Derveer Elementary School \$416,023

WHEREAS capital reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support eligible or otherwise eligible capital projects, and

WHEREAS the Somerville Board of Education acknowledges that State support for capital projects is not currently available, and

WHEREAS the Department of Facilities must approve all capital projects and will only move forward with approval of a properly submitted capital project if a local board of education declares an eligible capital project as "otherwise" eligible, and

WHEREAS, by declaring a capital project as "otherwise" eligible, the Somerville Board of Education hereby declares that the above-mentioned project will be supported in full with local capital reserve funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerville Board of Education hereby declares the above referenced projects as "otherwise" eligible and directs the School Business Administrator to request Department of Facilities Approval, and

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Somerville Board of Education hereby appropriates \$2,416,023 from its capital reserve fund to support the full cost of these projects.

**6. MAINTENANCE
RESERVE
WITHDRAWAL**

WHEREAS the Somerville Board of Education, County of Somerset desires to advance the following required maintenance project, and

Somerville High School Gym Entry Ramp/Bridge
Repair \$200,000

WHEREAS maintenance reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support required maintenance projects, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerville Board of Education hereby appropriates \$200,000 from its maintenance reserve fund to support the full cost of this project.

**7. SOMERVILLE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
TESTING EARLY
DISMISSAL
REQUEST**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve a request for the Somerville Middle School to have a 1:30 p.m. early dismissal for the students participating in the PARCC testing on March 29, 30, 31 and April 5, 6, & 7, 2017.

**8. SOMERVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT REQUEST**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve a request from Somerville High School Student #1238753279 complete his/her senior year due to his/her family moving out of town.

9. FIELD TRIPS

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

**10. 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. Prudente introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution, Mrs. Durland seconded.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

REPORT OF BOARD ITEMS

A. Student Board Member Report

Arthur J. Akins, Student Representative
Griffin LeBlond, Student Representative

No Report

B. Finance Committee:

Daniel Puntillo, Chairperson
Diane Durland, Member
Lucien Sergile, Member

Mr. Puntillo reported that the Administration is building the budget for 2017-2018. Finance Committee meetings will be held periodically throughout the budget process.

It is recommended that Items 1 through 6 be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

1. BOARD SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept the Board Secretary's Reports listed below:

- A. Treasurer's Report (December)
- B. Secretary's Report (December)
- C. Investments (December)
- D. Food Services (November)

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept the monthly reports as listed below:

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

- A. Van Derveer School Fund (December)
- B. Middle School Fund (December)
- C. High School Fund (Not Available)
- D. Athletic/Extracurricular Fund (November)

3. PAYROLL

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the payroll payments for the following dates:

DATE	PAYROLL
December 15, 2016	\$1,202,599.13
December 15, 2016	\$ 22,806.91 (FICA)
December 23, 2016	\$1,108,921.81
December 23, 2016	\$ 15,585.181 (FICA)
January 15, 2017	\$1,209,611.08
January 15, 2017	\$ 23,191.82 (FICA)

4. BILLS LISTS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the payment of the following obligations of the School District:

Van Derveer and Middle Schools
Bills List Dated January 17, 2017

10 General Fund	\$ 37,939.20
20 Special Revenue Fund	1,069.88
TOTAL	\$ 139,009.08

5. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the enclosed December line item transfers.

6* BILLS LISTS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the payment of the following obligations of the School District:

High School and Districtwide
Bill List Dated January 17, 2017

10 General Fund	\$ 880,204.97
20 Special Revenue Fund	85,271.22
40 Debt Service	174,625.00
60 Cafeteria Fund	8,501.56
TOTAL	\$1,148,602.75

Mr. Sergile introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution, Mrs. Durland seconded.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES

Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

Certification of Major Account Status (Read by Mr. Puntillo)

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4), the Somerville Board of Education certifies that as of December 31, 2016 after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year (Major accounts are Current Expense, Capital Projects and Debt Service)

C. Building and Grounds:

Kenneth Cornell, Chairperson
John Prudente, Member

Mr. Prudente referenced the report prepared by Mr. Gabriel, Acting Facilities Supervisor.

D. Athletics and Student Activities Committee:

Daniel Puntillo, Lucien Sergile, Chairpersons
James Jones, Member

Mr. Sergile provided standings for middle and high school winter athletic teams.

E. Curriculum:

Linda Olson, Chairperson
Lucien Sergile, Member
Melissa Sadin, Member

No Report

F. Policy:

John Prudente, Chairperson
Dianne Durland, Member

**1. SECOND
READING**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following bylaw for a second reading:

0164.5 Board Member Participation in Board Meeting by Teleconferencing or Video-Conferencing Equipment

Mr. Puntillo introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution, Mrs. Durland seconded.

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

Chin	ABSTAIN	Olson	NO
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

G. Technology Committee:

Norman Chin, Chairperson
Kenneth Cornell, Member

Dr. Purnell reported that NJ Acting Commissioner of Education, Kimberley Harrington, cited Somerville School District, at the Future Ready Conference, for having a Board of Education who supports a risk-taking culture/environment and a trauma sensitive district. He commended Mr. Teehan, Mrs. Sung, Ms. McEntee and former Board Member Melissa Sadin.

H. Borough Council/BOE:

Luc Sergile, Liaison

Mr. Sergile reported that the Mayor held his organizational meeting on January 1, 2017. Former Councilman Ken Utter was awarded the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award.

I. Somerset County Educational Services: Commission:

Daniel Puntillo, Liaison

Mr. Puntillo shared a recent newsletter. He indicated that the Somerset county Educational Services Commission is making strides in their program offerings.

J. New Jersey School Boards Association:

Delegate

No Report

K. Somerset County School Association of Boards of Education
Delegate

No Report

L. Ad Hoc Security Committee
John Prudente, Chairperson

No Report

M. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee
Daniel Puntillo, Chairperson
Norman Chin, Member
John Prudente, Member
Melissa Sadin, Member

Mr. Puntillo reported that a meeting has been scheduled to begin discussions.

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.)

PreK-8

Motion by Mr. Prudente seconded by Mrs. Durland that items 1 through 4 be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

1. DEBRA TRIFARI **APPROVE** the appointment of Debra Trifari to the position of volunteer for the softball team at Somerville Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

2. CHANGE IN SALARY GUIDE STEP **APPROVE** a change in salary guide placement for the following staff members effective February 1, 2017:
Karen Kucharski BA+15

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

Jessica Meyers	MA+30
Kelly Mulligan	MA+15

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

Chin	ABSTAIN	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

3. MARQUES JACKSON

APPROVE the appointment of Marques Jackson to serve as a mentor for the Mosaic Program at Somerville Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year.

4. ANDREW DEBLOCK

APPROVE the appointment of Andrew DeBlock to the leave replacement position of teacher of special education at Somerville Middle School to fill a vacancy caused by a maternity leave of absence (Deminski) effective March 13, 2017 to May 19, 2017 at a salary of \$58,936.00 (MA Step 1) (prorated).

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

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.)

9-12, Districtwide

Motion by Mr. Sergile seconded by Mr. Puntillo that items **5* through 14*** be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

5* ASHLEY MADALON

APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Ashley Madalon, teacher of science at Somerville High School effective May 9, 2017 to May 19, 2017 and an unpaid child care leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective May 22, 2017 to October 31, 2017.

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

- 6* MICHELE COBOS APPROVE a paid maternity leave of absence for Michele Cobos, teacher of English as a Second Language at Somerville High School effective March 20, 2017 to April 7, 2017 and an unpaid child care leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective April 18, 2017 to June 30, 2017.
- 7* DR. TIMOTHY J. PURNELL ACCEPT the resignation of Dr. Timothy J. Purnell from the position of Superintendent of Schools effective June 30, 2017.
- 8* CHANGE IN STEP ON SALARY GUIDE APPROVE a change in salary guide placement for the following staff members effective February 1, 2017:
- | | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Jeanine Dilling | MA+60 |
| Maylin Harter | MA+30 |
| Jessica Pritchard | MA+30 |
- 9* JOHN CLEARY APPROVE the appointment of John Cleary, a Raritan Valley Community College Professor to teach the SALA Program at Somerville High School for the 2016-2017 school year.
- 10* KIANA CUNNINGHAM APPROVE a request for Kiana Cunningham, a student at the College of Saint Elizabeth to complete her psychology internship placement during the Spring 2017 semester for a total of 120 hours at Somerville High School and she will be supervised by Kathleen DeLuca and Dr. Ellyn Stein.
- 11* JOELLE LEINBACH APPROVE the appointment of Joelle Leinbach to the position of volunteer for the girls basketball team at Somerville High School for the 2016-2017 school year.
- 12* JOELLE LEINBACH APPROVE the appointment of Joelle Leinbach to the position of substitute teacher for the 2016-2017 school year at a rate of \$90.00 per diem.
- 13* SUZANNE DIORIO ACCEPT the resignation of Suzanne DiOrio from the position of teacher of science at Somerville High School effective February 28, 2017.
- 14* NANCY GARVEY APPROVE the appointment of Nancy Garvey to the position of secretary in the guidance office at Somerville High School to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation (Cross) effective February 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 at a salary of \$49,498.00 (Step 2C) (prorated).

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sergile shared a Facebook post from a neighbor and friend recommending the Somerville Academy of Liberal Arts (SALA) Program for any 8th graders to consider.

Mr. Puntillo thanked all four candidates for their interest in serving on the Board of Education. He also thanked the staff involved in the Parent Training on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB).

EXECUTIVE SESSION I

RESOLVED that the Board of Education move to recess into executive session at 8:43 p.m. to discuss student matters, negotiations, to deliberate upon prospective Board member qualifications and a personnel matter. 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. Prudente introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

The Board of Education reconvened to public session at 9:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

RESOLVED that the Board of Education to appoint Erin Sweitzer to the vacant Board of Education position effective upon successful completion of the criminal history background check.

Mr. Puntillo introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Jones seconded.

*Branchburg Vote Eligible

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION II**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education move to recess into executive session at 9:01 p.m. to discuss student matters, negotiations, to deliberate upon prospective Board member qualifications and a personnel matter. 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. Prudente introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution; Mr. Puntillo seconded.

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

Chin	YES	Olson	YES
Cornell	ABSENT	Prudente	YES
Durland	YES	Puntillo	YES
Jones	YES	Sergile	YES

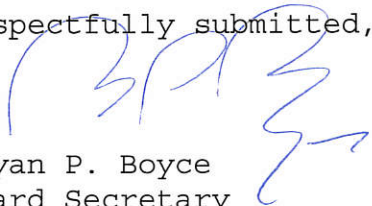
The Board of Education reconvened to public session at 10:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, to be discussed, Mr. Prudente motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mr. Puntillo that the meeting be adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan P. Boyce
Board Secretary