

**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016  
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, October 11, 2016 at the Administrative Headquarters, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville.
- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Chin, President.
- ROLL CALL**
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Norman Chin, Mr. Kenneth Cornell, Mrs. Dianne Durland, Mr. James Jones, Mrs. Carmela Noto (Arrived 7:15 p.m.), Mrs. Linda Olson, Mr. John Prudente, Mr. Daniel Puntillo, Mrs. Melissa Sadin, Mr. Lucien Sergile
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- 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 Organization/Workshop/Regular Meeting of January 5, 2016, 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** There was no public comment.

**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. Prudente and seconded by Mrs. Sadin to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2016 Workshop Meeting.

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

The motion was made by Mr. Prudente and seconded by Mrs. Sadin to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2016 Workshop/Regular Meeting.

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	ABSTAIN
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	ABSTAIN	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Overview of Anti-Bullying and Character Education Programs and Action Plans for the 2016-2017 School Year

Anti-Bullying Specialists

Mr. Gerard Foley, Somerville High School Principal

Ms. Georgette Boulegeris, Somerville Middle School Principal

The Anti-Bullying Specialists at each of the schools provided an overview of the anti-bullying and character education programs in their respective schools.

Mr. Foley and Ms. Boulegeris, Principals, also reported on the action plans being taken at the Somerville High School and Somerville Middle School respectively. The district is being proactive in addressing trends noted by

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

Electronic Violence Vandalism System (EVVRS). Discussion ensued regarding how our district compares to other school districts. Mrs. Sadin asked to use caution when looking at comparative data. Dr. Purnell emphasized that it is what we do (with the programs we implement) that is key in addressing these issues.

Personnel/Hiring Process for Teachers

Mr. Christopher Baldino, Personnel Committee Member

Dr. Timothy J. Purnell, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christopher Baldino provided an overview regarding the hiring process of teachers. The committee is comprised of 13 teachers. Their mission is to construct interview questions, organize materials and meet with building level administration. They assist beginning with the screening of resumes, selection of candidates for the first and second rounds of interviews and through the lesson demonstration. Dr. Purnell added that the district is unique in that only teachers are involved in the hiring process of teaching staff.

District Highlights

Dr. Timothy J. Purnell, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Purnell reported on various student activities at the Preschool, Van Derveer School, Somerville Middle School and Somerville High School. He invited the members of the Board to attend an event held at Van Derveer School on October 20th. Acting Commissioner of Education Harrington and Congressman Lance are among the dignitaries expected to attend.

Dr. Purnell congratulated Megan Flynn and James Liu, students at Somerville High School, who have been named semifinalist in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. In addition, Joshua Clarkson, Rebecca Dry, Carolyn Evans and Courtney Johnson were also commended.

Dr. Purnell asked the members of the Board to confirm their attendance at the New Jersey School

Boards Association Workshop.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

It is recommended that Items 1 through 9 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 #2016-2017:1SMS-NC. and #2016-2017:1SHS-NC.

**2. DONATION TO  
SOMERVILLE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept a donation of 21 backpacks and other supplies from the Verizon Corporation to support students with resources for the 2016-2017 school year.

**3. EDUCATION  
RESEARCH PROJECT**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the Education Research Project for Jessica Warner, Literacy Coach at Van Derveer School for two sessions per week, one hour per session for sixty sessions.

**4. 2016-2017  
QSAC STATEMENT  
OF ASSURANCE**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached QSAC Statement of Assurance for the 2016-2017 school year.

**5. DISPOSAL OF  
OBSOLETE  
MATERIAL**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached list from the Van Derveer 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.

**6. SUBMISSION OF  
FORM M-1 AND  
COMPREHENSIVE  
MAINTENANCE PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

**WHEREAS**, the required maintenance activities are listed in the enclosed document for the various school facilities of the Somerville Board of Education are consistent with these requirements,

and

**WHEREAS**, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their systems warranties valid,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Somerville Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the enclosed Form M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Somerville Board of Education in compliance with the Department of Education requirements.

**7. BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Griffin LeBlond, a junior at Somerville High School, as the Branchburg student representative to the Board of Education for the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 school years.

**8. FIELD TRIPS**

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

**9. 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. Chin introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution, Mr. Sergile seconded.

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

**REPORT OF BOARD ITEMS**

**A. Student Board Member Report**

Arthur J. Akins, Student Representative

**B. Finance Committee:**

Daniel Puntillo, Chairperson

Diane Durland, Member

Lucien Sergile, Member

It is recommended that Items 1 through 5 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 (September)
- B. Secretary's Report (September)
- C. Investments (September)
- D. Food Services (Not Available)

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

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

**3. PAYROLL**

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

DATE	PAYROLL
September 30, 2016	\$1,105,230.69
September 30, 2016	\$ 15,842.79 (FICA)

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible



Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	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 September 30, 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. Cornell referenced the Facilities Report prepared by acting Building and Grounds Supervisor, Jimmy Gabriel. He also reported on the installation of new lighting outside of the school buildings such as by the field house.

**D. Athletics and Student Activities Committee:**

Daniel Puntillo, Lucien Sergile, Chairpersons  
James Jones, Member

Mr. Sergile reported on various athletic program standings at Somerville Middle School and Somerville High School.

**E. Curriculum:**

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

It is recommended that Items 1 and 3 be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.



1. ADOPTION OF FIFTH GRADE BOOK

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the fifth grade book: *Wonder* by RJ Palacio to be used to address the theme, "Civic Liberties".

2. REVISED CURRICULUM MAPS

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the revision of the following curriculum maps:  
Elementary  
Music K-2  
Technology

3. BOOKS FOR SOMERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following books for Somerville Middle School:  
Sixth Grade: *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit - Interdisciplinary Social Studies topic, "Civics"  
Seventh Grade: *Crispin* by Avi - Interdisciplinary Social Studies topic. "Medieval Times"  
Eighth Grade: *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi - Interdisciplinary Social Studies topic, "American Democracy"  
*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

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

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

F. Policy:

John Prudente, Chairperson  
Dianne Durland, Member

No Report

G. Technology Committee:

Norman Chin, Chairperson  
Kenneth Cornell, Member

Mr. Chin reported that the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) project was recently

completed. The district is recruiting staff to serve on the technology committee to assist in assessing technology needs.

**H. Borough Council/BOE:**

Luc Sergile, Liaison

Mr. Sergile reported that the Borough Council met on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and there are no Board of Education matters to report. The Department of Recreation continues to look for runners and volunteers for the first Annual Somerville 5k Turkey Trot, a community event/fundraiser scheduled for November 24.

Dr. Purnell requested that Mr. Sergile communicate to the Council that the demography study is completed and that the district is confident with its findings. Dr. Purnell stated he would be happy to meet with members of the Borough's governing body on the subject.

**I. Somerset County Educational Services: Commission:**

Daniel Puntillo, Liaison

Mr. Puntillo reported that the Somerset County Educational Services Commission has a promotional video and newsletter posted on their website.

**J. New Jersey School Boards Association:**

Melissa Sadin, Delegate

Mrs. Sadin reported that the fall Delegate Assembly will be meeting in a few weeks.

**K. Somerset County School Association of Boards of Education**

Melissa Sadin, Delegate

Mrs. Sadin reported that Somerset is the first county in New Jersey to have representation from every school district at the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop in Atlantic City. She attended a state special education committee meeting that discussed the potential misalignment of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). Mrs. Sadin reported on other legislative updates. With respect to classified students, HIB clarification in the law will be forthcoming in a bulletin to the Superintendent and Director of Special Services.

**L. Ad Hoc Security Committee**

John Prudente, Chairperson

Mr. Prudente reported that the committee will be attending a seminar on school safety on October 13. Lt. Pat Kissane, Executive Director of NJ Association of School Security Task Force will be the speaker.

**M. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee**

Daniel Puntillo, Chairperson

Norman Chin, Member

John Prudente, Member

Melissa Sadin, Member

Mr. Puntillo reported that district administrators are in the process of being interviewed by Mr. Anthony Sciarrillo, legal council. Mr. Puntillo added that he would like to see the negotiation process conclude prior to the end of the term of the contract.

**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. Puntillo seconded by Mrs. Sadin that items **1 through 8** be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

**1. ROBOTICS CLUB  
AT VDV**

**APPROVE** a title change from the Computer Club to the Robotics Club at Van Derveer School for the 2016-2017 school year.

**2. TRISTAN  
MILLER**

**APPROVE** the appointment of Tristan Miller to the position of supervisor of the Robotics Club at Van

Derveer School for the 2016-2017 school year at no additional remuneration.

**3. LYNETTE DUNCAN**      **ACCEPT** the resignation of Lynette Duncan from the position of cafeteria/playground aide from Van Derveer School effective September 27, 2016.

**4. MELYANIE IREY**      **APPROVE** the appointment of Melyanie IreY to the position of cafeteria/playground aide at Van Derveer School for the 2016-2017 school year at the rate of \$14.50 per hour.

**5. JOHANN DERFLINGER**      **APPROVE** the appointment of Johann Derflinger to the position of Art Club supervisor at Van Derveer School for the 2016-2017 school year at no additional remuneration.

**6. JOSEPH MARTINELLI**      **APPROVE** the appointment of Joseph Martinelli to the position of volunteer for the cross country team at Somerville Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year.

**7. GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**      **APPROVE** the appointment of the following individuals to the position of teacher for the Gifted and Talented Program for grades two through eight at Van Derveer School and Somerville Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year at the rate of \$72.10 per hour:

<u>Van Derveer School</u>	<u>Somerville Middle School</u>
Sarah Liguori	Nicholas Petronko
Tristan Miller	Jennifer Ferguson(substitute)
Brittany Chiaffarano	
Holly Ehrnman (substitute)	
Lindsay Frevert (substitute)	

**8. TITLE I BEFORE SCHOOL READING PROGRAM**      **APPROVE** the appointment of the following staff members for the Title I Before School Reading Program being held Monday through Friday for one hour a session to begin October 17, 2016 at the rate of \$72.10 per hour:

<u>Van Derveer School</u>	<u>Somerville Middle School</u>
Brittany Chiaffarano	Courtney Ball
Andrea Dominko	Sarah Booth
Kerry Foote	Jocelyn Eckardt
Lindsay Frevert	
Lindsay Gottfried	

Lauren Harrsch  
 Karen Kucharski  
 Meghan Royack  
 Jennifer Setzer  
 Holly Ehrnman (substitute)  
 Leslie Hernandez (substitute)  
 Whitney Jenkins (substitute)  
 Megan Lazarte (substitute)

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

**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 Mrs. Sadin seconded by Mr. Sergile that items **9\* through 17\*** be moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

**9\* GLENN BOWDEN**      **APPROVE** the attached employment contract for Glenn Bowden, Support Specialist for Somerville Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

**10\* HANNAH HUGGER/LINDSEY LOCKWOOD**      **APPROVE** the appointment of the following staff members to the position of key club co-advisors at Somerville High School for the 2016-2017 school year:

Hannah Hugger	\$887.35
Lindsey Lockwood	\$887.34

**11\* JESSICA PRITCHARD**      **APPROVE** a paid maternity leave of absence for Jessica Pritchard, science teacher at Somerville High School effective March 1, 2017 to April 26, 2017 and an unpaid child care leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act effective April 27, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

\*Branchburg Vote Eligible

12\* MELISSA MCENTEE APPROVE the appointment of Melissa McEntee to the position of Emergency Management District Coordinator for the 2016-2017 school year at no additional remuneration.

13\* ARNE OLSEN APPROVE the appointment of Arne Olsen to the position of substitute teacher for the 2016-2017 school year at the rate of \$90.00 per diem.

14\* SHS VOLUNTEERS 2016-2017 APPROVE the appointment of the following individuals to the position of volunteers at Somerville High School for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Susan German Drama Club
- Theresa Joyce Marching Band and Choir
- Richard Sarles Mock Trial Team
- Paul Wickman Marching Band

15\* REMIGIO SANCHEZ APPROVE the appointment of Remigio Sanchez to the position of part-time bus aide for the 2016-2017 school year at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

17\* SALVATORE GAMBINO APPROVE a paid medical leave of absence for Salvatore Gambino, Director of Buildings and Grounds, effective September 2, 2016 to October 14, 2016.

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	YES

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Herb Hall, Somerville resident, commented that he will continue to recommend a joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Borough Council to discuss demography study findings.

Mr. Ben Weiland, 463 Lomerson Lane, Glen Gardner, SEA Grievance Chair stated that he wanted to make the Board of Education aware of the ongoing hostile and discriminatory work environment situation involving a support staff and district administration. He read aloud Board Policy 4351 and added that at this time, no remediation or disciplinary action has been taken.

Mr. Chin responded that the Board of Education is aware of the hostile workplace claim. He stated that the process will move forward when all parties are available.

Ms. Denise Lang, 201 Grandview Drive, Neshanic Station, Somerville Education Association Grievance Chair. She reiterated what has been reported by Mr. Weiland. She added the hostile work environment continues to take place and that the situation has not been handled by district administration in an appropriate manner.

Mr. Patrick Frain, 201 Scobee Lane, Somerset, Somerville Education Association President. Mr. Frain reported that the support staff requested an outside investigation but was denied. He added that the Board of Education must investigate and ensure that appropriate disciplinary action takes place.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education move to recess into executive session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss a legal issue. 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. No action will be taken.

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

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

Cornell	YES	Olson	YES
Durland	YES	Sergile	YES
Jones	YES	Sadin	YES
Prudente	YES	Chin	YES
Puntillo	YES	*Noto	N/A

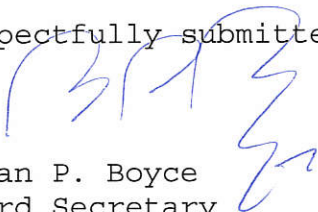
The Board of Education reconvened to public session at 9:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further, to be discussed, Mr. Chin motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Durland that the meeting be adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bryan P. Boyce  
Board Secretary