

**SOMERS POINT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOMERS POINT, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING  
January 7, 2021**

Dr. Michele D. Roemer, Interim Board Secretary, called the Somers Point Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. as a remote/virtual meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and as amended by P.L.2020, c. 11.

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two newspapers, posted on the bulletin board of City Hall and on the doors of the three schools as required in the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, and P.L.1975.

Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent of Schools led the Board of Education and the members of the public present in the salute to the flag.

**Appointment to Board of Education member vacancy**

At this time Dr. Roemer asked for a motion for the appointment to the vacancy of the Board of Education created by the resignation of Mrs. Platt, effective for the remainder of her term to December, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Endicott, second by Dr. Myers to appoint Mr. John Conover to the vacancy created by Mrs. Platt's resignation effective for the remainder of her term to December 2021,

Roll Call vote of 5 sitting board members:

Mrs. DeCicco – yes  
Mrs. Endicott – yes  
Mrs. Laut – yes  
Dr. Myers – yes  
Mrs. Samuelson – yes

**Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 5-0.**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Temporary Chair, Dr. Michele D. Roemer, Interim Board Secretary administered the required Oath of Office to the newly elected Board members:

Mrs. Stacie L. Brookbank  
Dr. Kathleen Dalton  
Mr. Michael Sweeder  
Appointed board member: Mr. John Conover

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**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stacie Brookbank, John Conover, Jenna DeCicco, Kathleen Dolton, Alice Myers, Heather Samuelson, Mike Sweeder, Courtney Laut, Staci Endicott

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools  
Michele D. Roemer, Ed.D., Interim School Business  
Administrator Board Secretary  
Lou Greco, School Solicitor

**TEMPORARY CHAIR**

Motion by Mrs. Endicott, second by Dr. Myers to appoint Dr. Michele D. Roemer, Interim Board Secretary to conduct school board officer elections.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. All in favor.**

*Nominations/Election for President*

Dr. Roemer asked for nominations for the office of the President to the Somers Point Board of Education.

Mrs. Staci Endicott was nominated by Mrs. Samuelson and second by Mr. Conover.

Dr. Roemer asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, motion by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco to close the nominations for Board President. **Motion carried unanimously**

The Board Members were instructed that each member would be asked for their individual vote for Mrs. Endicott for the office of President, through a roll call vote:

**Roll Call Vote**

S. Brookbank – Yes  
J. Conover – Yes  
J. DeCicco – Yes  
K. Dalton – Yes  
S. Endicott – Yes

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C. Laut - Yes  
A. Myers – Yes  
H. Samuelson – Yes  
M. Sweeder – Yes

The Board elected through a majority of the full membership of the Board, Staci Endicott as President of the Somers Point Board of Education for the 2021 calendar year.

Dr. Roemer turned the meeting over to the President.

*Nominations/Election for Vice President*

Mrs. Endicott asked for nominations for the office of the Vice President to the Somers Point Board of Education.

Mrs. Courtney Laut was nominated by Mrs. Samuelson and second by Mr. Sweeder

President Endicott asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, motion by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco to close the nominations for Board Vice President. **Motion carried unanimously**

The Board Members were instructed that each member would be asked for their individual vote for Mrs. Laut for the office of Vice President, through a roll call vote:

**Roll Call Vote**

S. Brookbank – Yes  
J. Conover – Yes  
J. DeCicco – Yes  
K. Dalton – Yes  
S. Endicott – Yes  
C. Laut - Yes  
A. Myers – Yes  
H. Samuelson – Yes  
M. Sweeder – Yes

The Board elected through a majority of the full membership of the Board, Courtney Laut as Vice President of the Somers Point Board of Education for the 2021 calendar year.

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**CODE OF ETHICS**

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 12-24.1 the members of the Somers Point Board of Education shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.

I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.

I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.

I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.

I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution (P.L. 2001, c.178, s.5).

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco that the Somers Point Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of, and understands, the aforementioned Code of Ethics for School Board members as outline in 18A: 12-24.1. **Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.**

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**Board of Education Representatives**

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers to appoint the following representatives of the Somers Point Board of Education:

Atlantic County School Board Association  
Delegate: Dr. Kathleen Dolton, Alternate: Staci Endicott

New Jersey School Board Association  
Delegate: Dr. Alice Myers Alternate: Courtney Laut

**Committee Appointments**

Mrs. Endicott indicated that the committees for the upcoming year are as follows. She will provide administration with membership. Dr. Dolton requested that she be placed on the policy committee.

- Finance
- Instruction
- Student and Community Affairs
- Policy
- Ad-Hoc – Negotiations

Discussion was held with regards to Committee of the Whole versus Committees. After considerably input from members it was determined to continue with the Committee structure, with the Chairs using Board Docs to provide minutes from all meetings.

**FACILITIES**

**Award of Contract – Jordan Road Chiller**

Motion by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. Laut to award a contract to Kisby Shore Corp in the amount of \$131,300 for the replacement of the Chiller at Jordan Road as per the recommendation of the Architect, Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthrie, P.C. and as reviewed by Board Solicitor.

**Motion carried on roll call vote 8-0-1 (Mr. Sweeder Abstained).**

**Public Comment**

Motion by Mrs. Endicott to open the meeting to the public at 6:17pm

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1. Mrs. Gloria Kelly asked who was the initial constructor on the chiller project?

Being no further comments, President Endicott closed the public portion of the meeting at 6:19pm.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco at 6:19pm that the following resolution be adopted:

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the City of Somers Point in the County of Atlantic, NJ that upon passage of this resolution they go into Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

Personnel and Contract Matters

Be it further resolved that discussions held in private session regarding said matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as a decision is made upon the same.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Re-Open to Public**

Motion was made at 8:25pm that the meeting be reopened to the public. Mrs. Endicott stated that while in Executive Session that the Board of Education had discussed:

Personnel and Contractual Matters

**Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote 9-0.**

**FINANCE**

**FFRCA Voluntary Extension**

Motion by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers that the Somers Point Board of Education not participate in the FFCRA Voluntary Extension Program (Effective January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021) on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder.

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Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Samuelson – No  
Dr. Dolton – No  
Mr. Sweeder – Abstained  
Mr. Conover – yes  
Dr. Myers – No  
Mrs. DeCicco – No  
Mrs. Brookbank – Yes  
Mrs. Laut – Abstained  
Mrs. Endicott – No

**Motion fails 2 Ayes, 5 Nays, 2 Abstentions.**

**Board Forum**

- Mrs. Samuelson congratulated Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Leonardo on their retirements. Mrs. Endicott echoed the sentiments.
- Mrs. Laut welcomed Mrs. Brookbank to the board and is looking forward to working with the entire board.
- Mr. Conover thanked the board for the appointment.
- Mrs. Endicott asked if Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder would look into starting the Think Team up sooner in the upcoming years.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers that at 8:25 PM there being no further business to present the Somers Point Board of Education meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried unanimously. 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele D. Roemer, Ed.D.  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary