

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 20, 2020

Staci Endicott, President, called the Somers Point Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 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.

Staci Endicott, President, led the Board of Education and the members of the public present in the salute to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenna DeCicco, John Conover, Kathleen Dolton, Alice Myers, Sarah Platt, Heather Samuelson, Courtney Laut, Staci Endicott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Sweeder

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, second by Mrs. Samuelson, that the following meeting minutes be approved as presented, amended and available for release to the public upon request and according to policy:

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2020

Executive Session of July 23, 2020

Special Meeting of August 06, 2020

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Public Forum - *Agenda Items Only*

Meeting was opened to the public at 6:05 P.M.

- *Josh Tostevin* - to Public

Good evening administrators and Board of Education members. My name is Josh Tostevin, the president of the Somers Point Education Association. As you know, school districts across the state were charged with devising a reopening plan that includes an in-person scenario, hybrid scenario and fully virtual scenario. To that end, many stakeholders throughout the district came together to formulate a comprehensive plan, with the final result is a

hybrid model of in-person and virtual learning with measures such as social distancing, mask wearing and sanitizing stations for both students and staff.

To be sure, we know that the administration has an insurmountable task in reopening our schools in these unprecedented and difficult times, and while these measures are well-intended, we are still concerned. As we prepare to embark on this hybrid opening, we know that although time and money has been invested to improve it, the Somers Point Schools have an HVAC system that has a history of failure, resulting in inconsistent temperatures, high humidity and mold. While concerning during any year, this is unacceptable during this pandemic, especially since particles from the virus can be transmitted through poor ventilation. Our students deserve to learn in a safe environment with minimal risk of transmission.. While we are looking forward to the engineer's inspection report, we have little confidence that the indoor air quality will be adequate throughout the year. Not to mention the disaster that can ensue by populating our hallways and classrooms with students and staff. We know that keeping young kids distanced and masked all day is next to impossible.

We all want what is best for our students. After discussing these factors, and considering the safety of students and staff, an overwhelming number of SPEA members feel that the district should re-evaluate the reopening plan to an all virtual model. In this model, you can expect the social-emotional and academic needs of our students to be met with an exceeding level of rigor, challenge and empathy our members exhibit on a daily basis. As a Somers Point Family, there are just too many variables, too many unknowns, and too many what-ifs to gamble with the health and safety of our students and staff.

Don't just take our word for it. After the Governor's announcement last week, allowing districts the ability to open virtually, other districts in the area have recently taken this step to open the school year remotely. Districts such as EHT, Atlantic City, Pleasantville, Avalon / Stone Harbor, Dealsea Regional, Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton have announced they are opening remotely. And as others are strongly considering taking this step, the list keeps growing.

If the decision is made to go remote please know that it is our intention to deliver standards-aligned instruction that is structured, rigorous, and includes best teaching practices. As with anything, we have learned through trial and error and plan to rise to the occasion, challenge learners, and empower the children of Somers Point with the tools needed for success. A remote option ensures that our focus and emphasis is on ensuring equitable, differentiated instruction versus student and staff safety.

We urge you to join this group of districts and make the decision to open our schools remotely. We know it isn't an easy decision. We know it may not be a comfortable decision. But we also know it is the right decision.

Thank you.

- *Danielle Delaney* - to publiccomment

Good evening board,

My daughter is entering kindergarten at Dawes Avenue. As I try to prepare her for her new school year I have some questions.

1). Will there be any kind of open house or orientation for the kindergartens to tour the building and meet their teachers?

2). When will we be notified of who their teachers are, and which day or days they will be attending person school? And when will be given a supply list of what needs to be purchased for the upcoming school year? I would think given the fact the kids aren't supposed to share school supplies the parents will need to purchase some additional supplies this year.

I understand there times have been difficult and we appreciate the hard work you have all put in, but with the school year just a few weeks away these are some things I think a lot of parents would like to know to try and prepare.

Thank you

- *Darcy Broglin-Drutz*
8th grade Science

As of August 19, sixty-three school districts in the State of New Jersey have made the decision to keep their students, faculty, and staff safe by beginning the school year completely virtual. What makes Somers Point School District different? What protocols make Somers Point safer than other districts who have already chosen to go remote? Students, faculty, and staff have struggled with respiratory issues in our buildings during a normal school year due to poor HVAC systems, windows that don't stay open, air conditioning that doesn't work consistently, and mold in our buildings. Now we are going to add COVID-19 to an already bad situation. Think about how you would feel if a student, faculty, or staff member gets sick or dies due to a decision you're making, or effectively not making. What happens when someone from school brings the virus home to their family members and infects them? How many students, faculty, or staff is an acceptable number to get sick before you make the decision to keep us safe by going virtual? As Board Members, are you able to live with your decision?

Below is a list of school districts that have moved to remote learning as of August 19:

- Atlantic City
- Egg Harbor Township
- Pleasantville
- Edgewater
- Fair Lawn
- Garfield
- Hackensack
- New Milford
- Teaneck
- Burlington Township
- Chesterfield
- Palmyra
- Westampton
- Willingboro
- Camden
- Collingswood
- Eastern Regional
- Bridgeton
- Downe Township
- Millville
- Hamilton
- Lawrence Township
- Mercer County Special Services
- Princeton Township public schools
- Trenton
- Dunellen
- Edison
- Highland Park
- Middlesex Borough
- New Brunswick
- North Brunswick
- Old Bridge
- Perth Amboy
- Piscataway
- South Brunswick
- South Plainfield
- South River
- Asbury Park
- Freehold Borough

Freehold Township
Long Branch
Manalapan-Englishtown
Neptune Township
Boonton
Dover
Montville
Lacey
Plumsted
Toms River
Passaic
Paterson
Franklin Township
Hillsborough
Elizabeth
Hillside
Linden
Plainfield
Rahway
Roselle
Roselle Park
Scotch Plains-Fanwood
Springfield
Union Township

Meeting was closed to the public at 6:13 P.M.

Communications – Superintendent Report

HIB Reporting

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco to acknowledge there were no HIB incidents reported for the Somers Point School District from July 17, 2020 through August 12, 2020 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco to affirm there were no HIB Reports dated June 17, 2020 through July 17, 2020 according to N. J. A. C. 6A:-7.1. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Enrollment Report

Somers Point School District Enrollment Report of 843 students as of August 20, 2020.

Student Safety Data System Certification

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. Platt to accept the Student Safety Data System Certification. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Communications – Committee Reports

- **Student and Community Affairs – Chair – Courtney Laut**
ReOpening Plan
- **Instruction Committee – Chair – Heather Samuelson**
Data Presentation, GoGuardian, and EL Education

- **Finance Committee – Chair – Michael Sweeder**
Contract to assess HVAC systems, lunch balances, Change Orders for Jordan Road Secure Entrance, Digital Divide Grant in the amount of \$53,112, Auditors recommendation to dissolve CER Proprietary Fund as of August 31, Update on chiller for 4th grade wing at Jordan, and discussion of unemployment reimbursable versus contributory.
- **Policy Committee – Chair – Sarah Platt**
No Report
- **Negotiation Committee – Chair – Michael Sweeder**
No Report
- **Foundation for Education Liaison – Michael Sweeder**
No budget has been set. Will go on an as needed basis.
- **City Council Liaison – Staci Endicott**
No Report

Agreements/Applications/Contracts

Commission for the Blind

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Dolton to approve a contract with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for the 2020-2021 School Year for Education Level 1 Services at a fee of \$2,100 and a fee of \$13,900 for Level 3 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

1:1 Aide ACSSSD

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Colton to approve two (2) contracts to ACSSSD for 1:1 Aides for the 2020-2021 School Year for students 998092 and 997739 in the amount of \$43, 920. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Facilities

Change Order #5181 Secure Entrance Renovations at Jordan Road School

Motion was made by Mrs. Laut, second by Mrs. Platt to approve Change Order #5181 Secure Renovations at Jordan Road School in the amount of \$(3,488.51) to the General Construction contract of Capri Construction Company, Inc. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Change Order #001 Chilled Water piping Insulation Replacement Jordan Road School

Motion was made by Mrs. Laut, second by Mrs. Platt to approve Change Order #001 for the Chilled Water Piping Insulation Replacement at Jordan Road School in the amount of \$5,000) contractor Falasca Mechanical. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Assessment of Existing HVAC Ventilation Air Systems – FVHD Architects

Motion was made by Mrs. Laut, second by Mrs. Platt to approve a contract with Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie P.C., at a fee not to exceed \$7,500 for the following services:

Assessment of Existing HVAC Ventilation Air Systems

Hands Free Plumbing Fixtures

Lighting Control Systems.

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Finance

Digital Divide Grant

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the Digital Divide Grant in the amount of \$53,112. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Dissolution of the CER Proprietary Fund

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to dissolve the CER Proprietary Fund effective 08/30/2020. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Adjusted Preschool Education Aid

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the adjusted PEA Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year, including an additional \$13,780.

<i>Account Number</i>	<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Original Appr</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Current Appr</i>
20-218-100-101-00-0000-060	PreSch. Educ.Salaries	357,885	10,846	368,731
20-218-100-101-00-L000-060	PreK – Salary Sub	5,000	0	5,000
20-218-100-106-00-0000-060	PreSch Educ SalAides	143,538	-23,294	120,244
20-218-100-106-00-A000	PreK Sub Aides	0	0	0
20-218-200-103 -----	Salaries of Principals	0	28,500	28,500
20-218-200-104-00-0000-060	PK Exp Other Prof Sal	57,945	-13,559	44,386
20-218-200-105-00-0000-060	PK Exp Sec Support	24,466	0	24,466
20-218-200-110-00-0000-060	PK Expansion Other Sal	97,528	-14,009	83,519
20-218-200-173-----	PEA Ss Cmty Parent InvS	22,008	0	22,008
20-218-200-176-----	PEA Ss Master Teachers	35,000	0	35,000
20-218-200-200-----	Personal Serv Empl Ben	211,950	-61,499	150,451
20-218-200-200-00-0000-060	Prescho Educ Ben FICA	0	0	0
20-218-200-325-----	Purch Educ Serv Headst	212,656	13,780	226,436

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

CARES Transfer – St. Joseph Regional School

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the following transfers for the CARES grant for St. Joseph School District for the purchase of Chrome Books:

Account From	Account to	Amount
20-477-200-600	20-477-100-600	\$13,000
20-477-200-100	20-477-100-600	\$27,504

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote 8-0

School Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the breakfast and lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year.

Paid Breakfast \$1.25 Free/Reduced Breakfast \$0.00
Paid Lunch \$3.25 Free/Reduced Lunch \$0.00.
Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Donation of school supplies for all three schools by Staples

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson to accept the donation of school supplies for all three Somers Point Schools by Staples. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Personnel

Additional Hours for ESY Staff

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve additional 2 hours for the following Extended School Year staff to attend meetings at \$21.88 per hour on June 23, 2020, July 9, 2020, July 20, 2020 and July 30 2020.

Carley Decker, Martel Harper, Chelsi Johnson, Kathy Swift
Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote 8-0

CST members to attend ZOOM Training

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve Child Study Team member to attend 3.5 hours Zoom training to conduct student evaluations at a rate of \$39/hr. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Revised Custodial Salaries for the 2020/2021 School Year

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the revised salaries for the following custodial staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

Frank Brunetti - \$48,728

Steve Fonte - \$52,597

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Long-term Substitute

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve Danielle Naoum as a long-term substitute for Jacqueline Krome, special education teacher at Dawes Ave. School, effective September 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020 at the per diem rate of \$170 per day, as recommended by Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent of Schools, Ed.D. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Speech Externship

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve the following to do a Speech Externship with Karen Flowers at Dawes Ave. School for the 2020 Fall semester, as recommended by Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools.

Bianca Trenard-The Katz School for Science & Health, Yeshiva University. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Appointment of School Security Officers

Motion was made by Mrs. Platt, second by Mrs. Samuelson to approve Walter Wroniuk and Timothy Williams as School Safety Specialists for the 2020-201 school year at an hourly rate of \$25 per hour for 7 hours per day at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Michele CarneyRay-Yoder. Motion carried on roll call vote 7-0 with abstention by Mr. Conover.

Professional Services

EUS Appointment of Insurance Broker

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Dolton to approve Brown and Brown Benefit Advisors as Health Benefits Insurance Broker for the 2020-2021 school per LFN AU 2002-2, N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.2 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.3(b). Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Policies

6173.1 Remote Learning

Motion was made by Dr. Myers, second by Mrs. Samuelson for the second reading of Policy 6173.1 – Remote learning. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote 8-0

Transfer of Funds

Monthly Transfers and Cash Reports for the Month of May

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson second by Mrs. Platt to approve the Adjustments for the Budget as presented and made a part of these minutes,

	<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Account Number</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount</i>
To	Other Purchased Prof NYA	11-000-218-319-00-0000-060	79.78	
From	Std. Serv. Supplies DWS	11-000-218-610-00-0000-050		79.78
To	Communication	11-000-230-530-00-0000	360.00	
To	Gen Admin Workshops	11-000-230-580-00-0000	2,245.50	
From	Gen Admin Tech Services	11-000-230-340-00-0000		2,605.50
To	Other Purch SvS Technology	11-000-252-590-00-0000	568.16	
From	Tech Communications	11-000-252-530-00-0000		568.16
To	Care Upkeep Grounds JRS	11-000-263-420-01-0000	5,655.30	
From	Care Upkeep Grounds Supp	11-000-263-610-00-0000		5,655.30
To	Employ Benefits- Work Comp	11-000-291-260-00-0000	1,218	
From	Employ Benefits – Health	11-000-291-270-00-A000		1,218.00
To	Undistributed Expenditures	12-000-100-730-----	6,000.00	
From	Regular Prog – Instr. DWS	11-190-100-610-18-0002-050		6,000.00

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Cash Report

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson second by Mrs. Platt to approve the Cash Report for the month of July 2020. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote 8-0.

Secretary’s Financial Report

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson second by Mrs. Platt to approve the Report of the Secretary for the month ending July 30, 2020, as presented, pursuant to N. J. A. C. 6A:23A-16.1 (c) 3, and that they certify that as of July 30, 2020, after review of the Secretary’s Monthly Financial Report

(Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23A16.10 (c) 4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Treasurer's Financial Report

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson second by Mrs. Platt to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 2020, as presented, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c), and that they certify that as of July 30, 2020, after review of the Treasurer's Monthly Report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23A16.10(c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Bills List

Motion was made by Dr. Myers second by Mrs. Samuelson that the Somers Point Board of Education approve the Bills List as presented and made part of these minutes.

June 30, 2020

General \$646,777.87
Payroll \$170,621.76
TOTAL \$807,399.63

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Public Comment – Non Agenda Items – The following comments were received via district email:

'alyson carroll' via Public Comments <publiccomments@sptsd.org> Thu, Aug 20, 9:38 PM (5 days ago)

to publiccomment

Can you clarify something, will Dawes & NYA start hybrid, then go remote? Wouldn't students need the devices for hybrid as well?

Tiffany <tifpotts@hotmail.com>

Thu, Aug 20, 9:37 PM (5 days ago)

Will we have ability to pick days based on work schedule and are they half or full days for pre-K
Sent from my iPhone

Devon Osler <devonlynmoore@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 20, 8:14 PM (5 days ago)

to publiccomment@sptsd.org

With over 200 families still missing registration information, what is the deadline for the letters to be sent out? I know a lot of parents are eager to prepare schedules and purchase supplies and would prefer not to do so last minute.

Lesine Johnson' via Public Comments <publiccoi

Thu, Aug 20,
7:07 PM (5
days ago)

to publiccomment

When will families be informed of the the days they are to report to school and who their assigned teachers will be ?

Nicole Barnabei <nbarnabei@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 20,
6:47 PM (5
days ago)

to publiccomment

Dr. Cry mentioned keeping a log of what your child is doing at home. Is this for all virtual children? What needs to be in the log? What format? How much detail?

Erin Albrecht

722 W Pine St, Galloway

6th Grade ELA Teacher

Recently, during the Parent Town Hall Meeting, it was mentioned that the K-8 ELA curriculum would be changing from the current Readers and Writers Workshop model to a program called EL Education. In speaking with some fellow ELA teachers, we agree that the work put into the reopening plan by the committee is noticed and appreciated, but the introduction of a brand new program has raised some concerns. As it stands, all educators are facing a new challenge in September. Whether we successfully continue with the plan of hybrid teaching or eventually end up virtual again, this new school year has several impending changes. Those changes in Somers Point currently include: the switch from the Marzano to the Danielson Framework for evaluation, the mandatory incorporation of OnCourse Classroom Learning Management System, use of a new program called GoGuardian, departmentalized teachers rotating and teaching in various classrooms throughout the day, and the implementation of hybrid teaching. To then also add in a brand new ELA program that the vast majority of teachers have never seen nor used before seems like an unnecessary addition during unprecedented times.

With less than two weeks before teachers report to school for three days of professional development, the ELA teachers have not yet received any training in implementing this new program and, as a result, will have very little time to prepare. As I'm sure many of you know, Somers Point educators want to see students succeed. The students will be facing a very different school experience, whether they choose to attend hybrid or virtually. Given the shortened class times and limited in-person learning days, it will be extremely important for the teachers to have a firm grasp on what they are teaching, delivering the essentials in as seamless a way as possible while also adhering to social distancing and safety guidelines. With only three days of Professional Development and many different training needs, the learning and planning of a new program is incredibly overwhelming. The original daunting task of revising the previous curriculum to fit into this new learning environment, is minimal in comparison to learning and planning for an entirely new program in such a short amount of time.

A big issue here with adopting a brand new program is not so much the change itself, but the timing. To add a new ELA curriculum to the ever-growing list of changes for this school year would be detrimental to the students and staff. How many changes do we expect our students and teachers to endure during this unprecedented and unpredictable time? I feel that a reasonable plan for implementing a new curriculum should include adequate training as well as some time later this school year spent piloting the EL Education program, while utilizing it within our already established curriculum as possible in September.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my concerns and for reconsidering adopting this program as a pilot.

Erin Albrecht

Danielle Levine

4008 Alexander Drive, Mays Landing
7th Grade ELA Teacher

Recently, during the Parent Town Hall Meeting, it was mentioned that the K-8 ELA curriculum would be changing from the current Readers and Writers Workshop model to a program called EL Education. In talking with other ELA teachers, we have discussed our concern of our voice and expertise being taken out of the development of our curriculum. According to our new teacher evaluation model, Danielson, there are four key domains to effective teaching. Domain one focuses on the crucial importance of planning and preparation. According to this framework, it is critical that teachers do the following as a best practice, “demonstrate knowledge of content and pedagogy, set instructional outcomes, demonstrate knowledge of resources, and design coherent instruction.” Prior to this curriculum change, Somers Point has effectively given teachers the ability to communicate their knowledge of content into curriculum in order to design coherent instruction.

However, this abrupt curriculum change brings up concerns that directly impact the effectiveness of the content I am teaching. I want our students and parents to succeed this school year in this new virtual world that we’re all encountering and that responsibility will inevitably fall on the shoulders of teachers. Teachers need to be set up to succeed, with a curriculum they are confident in. In order to successfully communicate with parents and students, teachers need to be experts in their curriculum so they can answer parent questions and modify as needed. With no training and only two weeks before school starts, I am extremely concerned about a curriculum change. Communication is key in not only developing a successful curriculum but specifically one that is appropriate for the students of Somers Point. Moving forward, I hope that it will not become a norm to take the stakeholders out of the planning and preparation of curriculum.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my concerns and for reconsidering adopting this program as a pilot.
Danielle Levine

Jennifer Rowe

2705 Erie Avenue, Northfield
7th Grade Teacher

About a month ago, during the Parent Town Hall Meeting, the teacher learned that the K-8 ELA curriculum would be changing from the current Readers and Writers Workshop model to a program called EL Education. After speaking with some of my colleagues, we are hoping that the goal this school year will be to pilot this program at some point and discuss in ELA PLC’s to provide feedback before completely adopting it. As a special education teacher and ELA in-class support teacher, I feel it would be best to continue the best practices that we already have in place and work collaboratively to incorporate this new program as a pilot.

In just a couple of weeks, students will return to school, some working all virtually and some in a hybrid setting. Even if students do return in a hybrid setting, they will have minimal in-person learning hours. With the large amount of virtual learning that will take place, it is inevitable that the curriculum will need to be adjusted, modified and differentiated even more than it normally is. It is beneficial to do so with our current curriculum, as we are extremely comfortable with the content and are able to alter lessons as needed to best accommodate our students and their parents. Whether in a special education classroom or a general education classroom, making modifications to curriculum on the fly is critical to the art of teaching. With a new and unfamiliar curriculum, teachers would not have the concrete knowledge to make these changes or adjustments for content skills, pacing, assessments, etc.

I understand that the goal with this new curriculum is to create equity for all. However, it seems that the attention to personalizing student engagement and rigorous lessons within a curriculum we're familiar with will be a unnecessarily difficult task, as the focus will be on learning a new curriculum as we go. Students will be at a disadvantage to have their teachers already juggling a lot of new aspects of teaching, while also having to understand a new curriculum. Through a pilot and discussions in PLCs, perhaps the curriculum will become more equitable by strengthening all programs, including the ones that are already producing great results. By using a portion of this year as a chance to officially pilot EL Education, we can meet in ELA PLC's to strengthen our understanding of the curriculum, gather resources, and adapt the curriculum to meet our district's needs.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my concerns and for reconsidering adopting this program as a pilot.

Jennifer Rowe

Nicole Magnotta

205 E. Pacific Ave, Cape May Court House
8th Grade ELA Teacher

At the virtual Town Hall Meeting for parents on July 29th, my colleagues and I learned that the district ELA curriculum would be changing to EL Education. It is clear that over the years administration has tried to improve school climate and culture. Morale, the emotional reaction of a person to their job, is an important component to an effective learning environment. Positive school culture lends itself to high morale amongst staff, which contributes to student achievement. One important aspect of positive school culture includes collaborative efforts from all stakeholders-- administrators, educators, students and parents. The implementation of the Renaissance program is one step taken towards positive school culture and increased morale. That being said, the addition of a completely new ELA program without input from those who would be teaching the program during a global pandemic, does not help with the goal of increasing morale. Furthermore, the expectation to be fully trained in a new program only days before students are welcomed into the buildings, also goes against that goal. If ELA staff is trained properly and effectively in those first days of professional development, they will still be required to use much of their own time during the following weekend to make sure they have planned, printed, copied, revised and digitized the content along with acquiring and reading accompanying texts.

While this is specifically in regards to the ELA curriculum change, it is important to note that morale affects all members of a school community. To conclude, the goal of this statement is to encourage everyone to consider the importance of school climate and culture when it comes to the overall effectiveness of our district, to ensure that, in the future, a positive environment can be maintained with open lines of communication between administration and staff.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my concerns and for reconsidering adopting this program as a pilot.

Nicole Magnotta

Executive Session

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Dolton at 7:01 P.M 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
 - Safety and Security
- 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 by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. Laut at 8:05 P.M that the meeting be reopened to the public. Ms. Endicott stated that while in Executive Session, the Board of Education had discussed:
 - Personnel
 - Safety and Security

Motion carried unanimously. 8-0.

Mr. Conover left the meeting.

Curriculum

2020-2021 Reopening Plan – Remote Learning Option

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers to approve the revised Re-Opening Plan to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools:

WHEREAS, the Somers Point Board of Education has submitted a revised Re-Opening Plan to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, this plan has been revised accordingly per the Executive County Superintendent of Schools; and

Whereas, included in the plan are the three (3) scenarios for providing educational services to the students in the Somers Point School District; and

WHEREAS, the three plan options include a hybrid, all remote, and normal school day; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the Road Back from the DOE and the documentation from Atlantic County BOE;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, based on the recommendations of the Chief School Administrator, the BOE directs that the Somers Point School District operate according to the remote learning plan that includes New York Avenue and Dawes attending in a hybrid schedule until students are 1:1 technology and Jordan Road fully remote effective September 8, 2020 through October 23, 2020; with a start date for the Hybrid Plan on Monday, November 2, 2020;

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, decision is based upon the following safety reasons:

Social Distancing concerns on buses and classroom

Waiting on results from an Industrial Hygienist who is performing a review of the HVAC Flow Measurement

Conflicting state-level guidance that makes minimum requirements difficult to clearly attain.

Supervision of students by properly certified staff due to insufficient documentation on the number of

students requesting in-person versus remote learning, as well as the number of staff members who will participate in in-person instruction.

Motion carried on roll call vote. 5-2 with a no vote by Mrs. Samuelson and Mrs. Laut.

Personnel

Full Time Nurse for New York Avenue Preschool Center

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Mrs. DeCicco to approve Kristen Boyle as the Full Time Nurse for the New York Avenue preschool (Step1 + BA). Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote. 8-0

Rescission of Extra Curricular Appointments

Motion by made by Mrs. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers to rescind the athletic, activities, and coaching appointments previous made for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder.

Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote, 7-0.

Board Forum

Mrs. Endicott thanked the administration and Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder and all responsible for the solutions.

Mrs. Endicott announced that there will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Samuelson, second by Dr. Myers that at 9:45 PM there being no further business to present the Somers Point Board of Education meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

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

Two Comments – Open to public

Mario Montanero, Teacher

How many positive covid cases will it take to shut down school once it opens? Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent of schools responded that the guidance we have received is 2 or more within a 14 day period.

Did we hire additional staff to help complete the various tasks outlined in the reopening plan? Dr. CarneyRay Yoder, Superintendent of Schools responded that we have advertised for a full time nurse for the NYA school through the PEA Grant and additional custodial help is budgeted in the CARES grant.

Josh Tostevin, President SPEA

My name is Josh Tostevin, I live at 5 Alex Drive in Millville and I am the president of the Somers Point Education Association. On behalf of the SPEA, I would first like to thank all of the stakeholders who collaborated to develop the current plan to reopen the schools. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the process alongside the administration.

Our teachers have notoriously worked above and beyond their contract to ensure the social, emotional and academic needs are met of all students in a safe, equitable and welcoming environment. This upcoming school year will be no different.

It's important to note that all members want to be back in school under normal circumstances. It's no secret that the 2020-2021 school year is far from normal.

With that, we understand there isn't a one size-fits-all solution. While some of our members are high risk, others are going home to young children or elderly relatives who are also at high risk, others have spouses who work on the front lines causing them to be exposed at home on a daily basis, while others just aren't comfortable. In fact, they're scared! As professionals, we opt to keep our reasons personal. As such, we have no qualms ensuring rigorous teaching and learning happens regardless of the mode of delivery.

I'm sure we are all in agreement that the safety of our staff and students should be the number one priority. In this current environment, that means having an HVAC system that operates correctly and is correctly filtered. It means having the proper PPE on hand and in place at all times. It means setting clear guidelines and following through with them. In short, it means valuing everyone's humanity first. Teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn, if they are sick. We care about the kids of Somers Point as if they were our own!

There is a lot of information about the virus that is still unknown. However, what is known, is that the teachers, secretaries, nurses, counselors and paraprofessionals of The Somers Point School District will continue to challenge, empower and meet all needs of our students; in person, virtually, or a combination of both, given the proper means to do so.

As more studies are conducted at the state and local level, and more guidance is released about what "the new normal" looks like, we look forward to continuing to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure our students and Staffuly are safe.

Thank you.

Questions re: Reopening Plan after moved by Dr. Dolton and seconded by Heather Samuelson

Staci Endicott asked will the schedule be the same for those students choosing hybrid versus virtual?
Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder responded yes.

If remote option will teachers teach from the classroom – Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated that a determination will be on a case by case basis.

Dr. Dolton asked if the lessons will be recorded? Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder replied yes.

Staci Endicott asked about sports and activities. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated that there will be no fall sports or activities, would rather be safe than sorry and hopefully all districts will be able to begin to transition into sports and activities.

Mrs. DiCicco asked if the county was able to coordinate the same virtual day. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated it was considered, but no.

Did the Governor’s announcement alter anything in the plan? Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated that it may change the number of students and staff in a room if the children must wear masks from door to door. It is something that we are awaiting guidance.

Mrs. Platt stated that she, along with the other members appreciate her efforts, as well as the other stakeholders. She also indicated that she would echo the comments and sentiments that Mr. Tostevin stated.

ROLL CALL VOTE 7-1-1 (Mrs. Samuelson voting no; Dr. Myers absent)

PUT A COPY OF THE PLAN IN THE MINUTES – USE THE ONE THAT IS IN BOARD DOCS

First reading of policy – moved by Heather Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. Platt 8-0-1 (Dr. Myers abs)

Board Forum

Mr. Sweeder asked that the link to the meeting be placed on the front screen. He also asked if parents will be notified of the students’ schedules, especially if they will be rotating. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder stated that the plan is to send home the weekly schedules.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:39pm Mrs. Laut/Sarah Platt AIF