

**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 23, 2020**

Staci Endicott, President, called the Somers Point Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:02 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.

Mr. Conover led the Board of Education and the members of the public present in the salute to the flag.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

**Public Forum – Agenda Items Only**

Mrs. Endicott called the meeting open to the public at 5:04 P.M.

No public comment

Mrs. Endicott called the meeting closed to the public at 5:04 P.M.

**Curriculum**

Motion by Dr. Dolton, seconded by Mrs. Samuelson that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has directed all School Districts to have students receive in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, and

WHEREAS, the Somers Point School District had their plan for hybrid instruction along with remote and in-person instruction approved, and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, under Executive Order 173 is currently allowing 25% capacity according to the square footage of indoor rooms, and

WHEREAS, the Somers Point School District has verified with the District Architect, Engineer, along with an independent Industrial Hygienist that the airflow and HVAC systems meet the expectations of the State of New Jersey requirements according to the Road Back Plan authored on June 26, 2020, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somers Point School District will continue with the current Hybrid Plan implementation for all schools on or about Monday, October 5, 2020, with a combination of Synchronous and Asynchronous learning either in-person or remote as per parent choice, AND

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all students whose parents/ guardians chose remote instruction will continue with this choice until the end of the marking period unless the principal of their child's building receives written notification of the change at least two weeks prior to the start of the new trimester pending open space for in-person attendance according to the current executive orders, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is fully authorized and directed to make such other adjustments and changes to instructional and programming formats as may be reasonably necessary.

### **Discussion:**

Mrs. Endicott questioned whether there would be equity in face time between those students who are in person versus those who chose remote.

Mrs. Endicott asked Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder to clarify part of the resolution which stated that parents/guardians who chose remoted in August will continue until the end of the marking period and that by written notification to the building principal at least two weeks prior to the start of the new trimester that a parent could request a change to in-person, pending open space for in-person attendance. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated that the district is still under the 113 square foot requirement per body and unless that changes, the district would still be required to limit the number of students per classroom accordingly.

Dr. Myers remarked about the number of hybrid and remote students and is there a possibility to change teachers to an all remote versus in-person and remote. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder stated that we may be limited to this possibility due to the number of teachers on staff.

Mrs. Platt questioned how will the district deal with the need for substitutes and what plan is in place? Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated that this a concern throughout the state. We currently are using Kelly Education Services; however other options would be to hire permanent subs, raise the substitute rate, and have staff create asynchronous plans for a short term need. Mrs. Laut indicted that in her district they doubled up classrooms and one of the teachers covered for the absence. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder stated that would definitely work at the elementary level but not at the middle school. She further indicated that principals are working with staff.

Dr. Dolton asked if districts were getting any feedback from Governor Murphy. Dr. CarneyRay-Yoder indicated they are meeting weekly as a county group.

Dr. Myers reminded everyone that we still have to contend with the upcoming flu season.

Being no further comments or questions Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote 9-0

### **Public Forum**

Mrs. Endicott called the meeting open at 5:35PM for the public.

J. Person – thanked the BOE and Administration for rescinding remote learning and going hybrid at the middle school. She stated her girls were elated that they would be going back to school, that there is nothing that can take the place of in-person learning.

Being no further comments from the public Mrs. Endicott closed the public forum to the public.

### **Board Forum**

Dr. Myers thanked the administration and teachers for their dedication to provide the highest level of education to the students of Somers Point.

Mrs. Endicott remarked that the teachers at Jordan Road will need to get into another rhythm and that we all need to be patient, that it will be continually shifting and moving.

Dr. Dolton stated that she has certainly been impressed with everyone's flexibility.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made at 5:42PM by Mrs. Laut, second by Dr. Myers that there being no further business to present the Somers Point Board of Education Executive Session meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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