

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
14 Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Regular Meeting
December 16, 2024

Call to Order

Mr. Lalevee called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Lalevee, President
Adam Beder, Vice President
Matthew Loper, absent
Lily Wong
Roger Jinks

Also Present

Robert Presuto, Superintendent of Schools
Raelene Sipple, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Hector Montes, High School Principal
Douglas M. Silvestro, Board Attorney
Douglas Singleterry, Somerset County Commissioner Liaison, absent

Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the requirement of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, Ch. 231, P.L. 1975 and published in The Courier News on January 9, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Ms. Wong, the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on November 25, 2024 were approved.

Correspondence

- None

Matthew Loper arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Presentations/Recognitions

Student of the Month

- Taylor Robertson, Graphic Communications, Grade 10

Business Partner of the Year Award

- Shade Tree Garage – John O'Connor, Owner

Old or Unfinished Business

Construction Projects

- Mr. Heinbach reported on the completed and current work orders. He also reported that the QSAC facility walkthrough went very well. Mr. Heinbach updated the board on the construction projects. We are still waiting on the delivery of the last two pumps that were incorrectly sent for the pump replacement project.

The driveway was repaved due to the PSE&G gas line replacement. An update on the New CTE Building and Gym Replacement project included the completion of the interior and exterior framing, plumbing rough-ins and electrical conduit is in process, elevator equipment has been delivered, stairwells are completed, mechanical equipment curbs have been installed on both buildings, exterior sheathing is complete, the roofing insulation is complete and the membranes are being installed.

Committee Reports

- Board of School Estimate – Mr. Lalevee, Mr. Beder
- NJSBA (Delegate) – Ms. Wong
- SCESC (Representative) – Mr. Lalevee; (Alternate) – Mr. Loper
- SCJIF – (Commissioner) – Ms. Sipple; (Alternate) – Mr. Beder
- SSRHIF – (Commissioner) – Mr. Beder; (Alternate) – Ms. Sipple

School Communications Report

- Dr. Wallace presented the monthly school communication report.

Open to the Public – Action Items Only

Individuals and/or groups are invited to present their comments regarding the following action items to the Board of Education at this time. In accordance with Board policy, members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board for a maximum of three (3) minutes during this period of the meeting.

Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. There may be times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about personnel or hiring decisions. New Jersey Statutes do not permit the Board to discuss personnel issues in Public Session.

- None

Superintendent's Report

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Ms. Wong, seconded by Mr. Beder and on roll call vote, agenda items A through C as follows:

A. Employment of Part-Time Personnel - 2024-25 School Year

The Board of Education approved the following part-time personnel for the 2024-25 school year:

High School

Brandy Hercules	Temporary Aide – Culinary Arts (Average-29 hours/week)	\$ 35.14/hour (11-310-1-106-011-0000)
-----------------	---	---------------------------------------

Performing Arts – Dance

Walter Cupit	Technical Director (120 hours)	\$ 43.88/hour (11-310-100-101-10-0000)
--------------	-----------------------------------	--

B. Volunteer

The Board of Education approved the following volunteer:

Brian Karabinos	Baseball athletic program
-----------------	---------------------------

C. Extra-Curricular Appointments – 2024-25 School Year

The Board of Education approved the following for extra-curricular activities for the 2024-25 school year:

Maura Gillooly	Varsity Girls Basketball Coach	\$6,000.00
Amy Patryn	Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach	\$4,000.00
Gregg Filep	Junior Varsity Boys Baseball Coach	\$4,000.00

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

D. Field Trips

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Jinks, seconded by Ms. Wong and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved field trips for high school students as they appear on Addendum #1.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

E. Curriculum

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Jinks, seconded by Ms. Wong and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the updated curriculum in the following program:

Theater Arts

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	abstain	

F. Resolution – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Decision – Case #2425-003

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the following:

Whereas, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education has received and accepted the HIB Investigation Report (Case #2425-003) at its regularly scheduled meeting held on November 25, 2024; and

Whereas, the HIB Investigation Report indicated each reported case of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying and the results of the investigation known as the Superintendent’s decision – including any services provided, training established or discipline imposed; and

Whereas, the parties involved in those cases reported were notified of the results of the investigation, Superintendent’s decision, and the rights of those parties to request a hearing before the Board of Education;

and

Whereas, no requests for a hearing before the Board of Education have been received; and

Whereas, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights provides the Board of Education the opportunity to affirm, modify or reject the Superintendent’s decisions on reported cases of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent’s decision in the case (#2425-003) listed in the HIB Investigation Report previously accepted by the Board at its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting held on November 25, 2024.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	abstain	

G. Resolution – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Decision – Case #2425-004

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Ms. Wong and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the following:

Whereas, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education has received and accepted the HIB Investigation Report (Case #2425-004) at its regularly scheduled meeting held on November 25, 2024; and

Whereas, the HIB Investigation Report indicated each reported case of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying and the results of the investigation known as the Superintendent’s decision – including any services provided, training established or discipline imposed; and

Whereas, the parties involved in those cases reported were notified of the results of the investigation, Superintendent’s decision, and the rights of those parties to request a hearing before the Board of Education; and

Whereas, no requests for a hearing before the Board of Education have been received; and

Whereas, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights provides the Board of Education the opportunity to affirm, modify or reject the Superintendent’s decisions on reported cases of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent’s decision in the case (#2425-004) listed in the HIB Investigation Report previously accepted by the Board at its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting held on November 25, 2024.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	abstain	

H. Resolution – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Decision – Case #2425-006

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Mr. Loper and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the following:

Whereas, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education has received and accepted the HIB Investigation Report (Case #2425-006) at its regularly scheduled meeting held on November 25, 2024; and

Whereas, the HIB Investigation Report indicated each reported case of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying and the results of the investigation known as the Superintendent’s decision – including any services provided, training established or discipline imposed; and

Whereas, the parties involved in those cases reported were notified of the results of the investigation, Superintendent’s decision, and the rights of those parties to request a hearing before the Board of Education; and

Whereas, no requests for a hearing before the Board of Education have been received; and

Whereas, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights provides the Board of Education the opportunity to affirm, modify or reject the Superintendent’s decisions on reported cases of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent’s decision in the case (#2425-006) listed in the HIB Investigation Report previously accepted by the Board at its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting held on November 25, 2024.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks		abstain

Superintendent’s Update

- HIB Report – New cases submitted for December review = 0; HIB cases submitted month prior for Board decision in December = 3; Total YTD reports submitted for review = 6.

• Student Suspension Report

Incident Number	Grade	Out of School/In School Suspension	Total # Days	Suspension Dates	Reason
1220201634	10	Out	2	11/27/24, 12/2/24	Misconduct

• Student Enrollment Report

Enrollment Report - December 13, 2024	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Totals
Full-Time Students Enrolled	71	97	86	78	332
Shared-Time Students Enrolled	107	108	79	64	358
Totals	178	205	165	142	690

• School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report

Date Conducted:	December 11, 2024
Time Conducted:	9:00 a.m.
School name/location of drill:	Somerset County Vocational-Technical H.S. 14 Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, NJ
Route number included in the drill:	N/A (SCVTS Owned/Operated)
Name of assigned staff overseeing drill:	Susan Santiago

- Strategic Plan - Meeting 3 (final) Update

Submission of Bills

On motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Mr. Jinks and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the bills list for December 16, 2024 which was included in the Board packet and is attached to the regular meeting minutes.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

Report of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

A. Board Secretary Report/Cash Report

On motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Mr. Loper and on roll call vote, the Board of Education adopted the monthly financial statement reports for the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Cash Report for the month of November 2024, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major fund has been overextended in violation to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Addendum #2)

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

B. Budget Transfers – October 2024 and November 2024

On motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Mr. Jinks and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved the October 2024 and November 2024 budget transfers for the 2024-25 school year as they appear on Addendum #3.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Lalevee	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

C. High School Tuition Rates – 2025-26 School Year

On motion by Mr. Jinks, seconded by Mr. Beder and on roll call vote, the Board of Education approved high school tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year as follows:

	Tuition	
	Full Time	Shared Time
Academy for Health and Medical Sciences	\$ 1,550.00	N/A
Alternative School	\$28,650.00	N/A
Vocational Programs	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 775.00
Nonresident Fee	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Laveve	X	
Mr. Beder	X	
Mr. Loper	X	
Ms. Wong	X	
Mr. Jinks	X	

New Business

- None

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education will be held:

January 27, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools

14 Vogt Drive

Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Remarks from the Public - Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, the Board President or Superintendent may address the comment. There may be times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about personnel or hiring decisions. New Jersey Statutes do not permit the Board to discuss personnel issues in Public Session.

- Mr. Coslit, President of the SCVTEA, asked why the new telephone system does not have the ability to make an announcement and he is concerned that Title I Funding is running out.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Vocational Board of Education of the County of Somerset that:

- This Board will go into closed session for the purpose of discussing matters within the provisions of 7A(11)c231.
- The general nature of matters to be discussed relates to potential litigation. Action may or may not be taken.
- Under the provisions of the above stated laws, the public shall be excluded from attendance at the portion of the meeting relating to the above matters.
- It is anticipated that the items discussed will be made public when the matters discussed are resolved.

Closed Session

On motion by Mr. Beder, seconded by Mr. Loper and passed the Board of Education went into closed session at 5:49 p.m.

- Mr. Jinks left the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Open Session

On motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and passed, the Board of Education went into open session at 7:13 pm.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and passed, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Raelene Sipple
Business Administrator/Board Secretary