

Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
14 Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Special Meeting
March 12, 2026

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
Lily Wong, absent
Roger Jinks, absent

Also Present

Robert Presuto, Superintendent of Schools
Raelene Sipple, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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 posted on the District Website on March 10, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance

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.

- Mr. Coslit asked if there would be staff cuts. Mr. Presuto responded that there would be no staff cuts if the district receives the amount of money that was requested from the County Commissioners.

On motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and on roll call vote, agenda items A and B as follows:

A. Adoption of the Tentative Proposed Budget – 2026-2027 School Year

The Board of Education approved and authorized submission of the tentative proposed 2026-2027 School Year Somerset County Vocational & Technical School District budget in the amount of \$20,785,385 to the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools which includes the County tax levy of \$14,523,019 and withdraw from capital reserve of \$916,950.

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Appropriations	\$19,597,960	\$1,187,425	\$20,785,385
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$ 5,074,941</u>	<u>\$1,187,425</u>	<u>\$ 6,262,366</u>
County Taxes	\$14,523,019	\$0	\$14,523,019

B. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement – 2026-27 School Year
The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

Whereas, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education recognizes school staff and board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or further the efficient operation of the school district, and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A23A-7.2 et. seq. requires board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the board, and

Whereas, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, which includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-State professional development activities for which the registration fee does not exceed the State-established CPI-adjusted threshold, where prior board approval shall not be required unless that annual threshold or a staff member exceeds \$1,500 in a given school year (July 1 through June 30), and

Whereas, the Board of Education established \$1,500 as the maximum travel amount for regular district business travel for each employee for the school year;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Board of Education approved travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq., to be in compliance with State travel regulations and consistent with guidelines established by the New Jersey Department of Education.

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

C. Waiver Requirements - Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program

On recommendation of Mr. Presuto and motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and on roll call vote, the Board of Education authorized the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent an appropriate waiver of requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026-27 school year.

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

Remarks from the Public

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- Ms. Sullivan thanked the board for working so hard not to have staff reductions.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Loper, seconded by Mr. Beder and passed, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Raelene Sipple
Business Administrator