

Somers Board of Education Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:00 PM
Somers Board of Education Chambers, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the February 18, 2026 BOE Special Meeting Minutes 2
The Board to review and approve the minutes from the February 18, 2026 Special Board meeting.
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. SHS Student Representatives
Students from SHS will update the Board on recent events.
 3. Monthly Budget Report 10
Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget report.
 4. MBA Master Schedule Changes
Margot Martello, MBA Principal, will present the master schedule changes to the Board.
5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of February 23, 2026 11
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of February 23, 2026.
 2. 2nd Posting 2027-2028 SPS Calendar 15
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. Approval of Proposed SPS 2026-2027 Budget
The Board to approve the proposed 2026-2027 Board of Education budget to move to a public BOE Special Meeting on March 9, 2026 in the Board of Education Chambers and then to the Board of Finance. Dr. Galloway will be available to answer any questions.
 2. 2nd Posting MBA New Course - Creative Literacy 16
Discussion and possible approval of a new course, Creative Literacy, at MBA.
 3. 2nd Posting New MBA Course - General Music 18
Discussion and possible approval of a new course, General Music, at MBA.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. April 2026 Quebec Field Trip 20
Ms. Jennifer Meyers, SHS French Teacher, will present the Quebec field trip to the Board.
 2. Approval of 2026-2027 SPS Budget Flyer
The Board to review and approve the 2026-2027 SPS budget flyer.
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Curriculum
 2. Policy
 3. Planning/Finance
 4. Salary & Negotiations (next meeting 3/16/26, 5 p.m.)
 5. Building
10. **CIP/CREC/SEF**
11. **ADVANCE CALENDAR**
12. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Special Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
6:00 PM

(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau (7:02 p.m.), Shane Manning, Gina Olearczyk, Kim Radziewicz, Derek Zelek

Absent BOE Members: JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Mary Kate Tanguay, Melissa Mucci, Lynn Erickson, Erin Orvis, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Sharon Remington, Margot Martello, Dr. Michael Dietter, Oliver Roe, Lisa Horan

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Briggs at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the January 12, 2026 BOE Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of the January 12th, 2026 Board of Education Meeting. This motion, made by Gina Olearczyk and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick), Abstain: 1 (Kim Radziewicz)**

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Galloway attended the Board of Finance meeting on 2/2/26 and presented the proposed budget, which reflects a 3.68% increase for the upcoming year.

Somers Elementary School marked the 100th day of school on 2/6/26. Many students participated by dressing as older folks.

On 1/13/26, twenty-one students were inducted into the MBA Junior Beta Club. Eligibility for induction is based on academic achievement, character, leadership, and service.

Dr. Rechenberg and her administrative team completed the application process for the Connecticut Association of Schools High School of the Year award. Somers High School placed third, with the top two schools advancing to a site visit. The CAS representative shared that SHS's application was discussed positively and provided feedback to guide future submissions, with the next application cycle scheduled for December 2026. Superintendent Galloway noted that the application process fosters meaningful collaboration among administrators and teachers, encourages reflection on how the school supports students, and strengthens shared understanding of both accomplishments and areas for continued growth in student support and school culture.

On 2/6/26, Superintendent Galloway presented to Master's level students at the NEAG School of Education at UConn. District leaders will continue recruitment efforts by attending the UConn recruiting fair in April. Superintendent Galloway noted that NEAG graduates are among the most sought-after education candidates in the state.

4.2. Monthly Budget Report

Rationale: The monthly update will be provided to the Board.

Discussion: The Monthly Budget Report will be presented at the next meeting.

4.3. Presentation of the 2026-2027 Proposed SPS Budget

Rationale: Dr. Galloway will present the 2026-2027 proposed budget to the Board.

Discussion: Superintendent Galloway presented the 2026-2027 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. He noted that a follow-up FAQ document addressing questions raised during the presentation will be posted on the district website on 2/23/26. Superintendent Galloway thanked the Budget Subcommittee for its extensive work over the past several months. Many questions were addressed and figures vetted prior to the public presentation.

Superintendent Galloway reviewed the district's mission and vision, emphasizing a continued focus on student-centered decision-making and preparing students for success beyond graduation. He highlighted the Profile of a Graduate competencies, including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Superintendent Galloway outlined several district accomplishments. He highlighted strong family engagement efforts, such as Math, ELA, and STEM nights, Open House, and Meet and Greets. He noted the successful alignment of the K-8 math program and the establishment of district-wide K-12 Artificial Intelligence Committees. He referenced strong community partnerships with Somers SHINE and the Somers Education Foundation, as well as the district's use of crisis management tabletop exercises to strengthen preparedness.

Superintendent Galloway reviewed successes in athletics, recruitment, and staffing, noting that the district is fully staffed and actively participates in job fairs to attract candidates. He emphasized continued efforts to support students in

planning for their next steps, whether college, military service, or the workforce. Superintendent Galloway stated that staff members in Somers Public Schools deeply care about students and that maintaining focus on key priorities has contributed to positive outcomes.

Technology updates include continued compliance with student data privacy requirements, the implementation of multi-factor authentication, the resale of outdated technology equipment, and the transition of Grade 3 from iPads to Chromebooks.

At Somers Elementary School, new ELA and math curricula are being implemented with professional development to support high-quality instruction. Data-driven decision-making in literacy and math continues to be emphasized, and the district has partnered with EASTCONN to strengthen data team processes.

In Special Education, Superintendent Galloway reviewed increases in several budget lines to support student needs, including out-of-district tuition, transportation, contracted services, and required software.

As part of the budget development process, administrators advocate for the needs of their buildings and departments and provide rationale for specific requests, which initially reflected a budget percent increase of over 5%. Through efficiencies, attrition, and the absence of major new curriculum investments, the increase was reduced to 3.68%, totaling \$31,598,192, before being presented to the town.

Salaries and benefits account for approximately 81% of the total budget, which is typical for a school district, with the remaining 19% allocated across other operating categories. Salary increases total \$516,202 within the proposed budget. He reviewed how the budget is organized and explained the major expenditure categories. Grant funding was reviewed, totaling just under \$422,000 in anticipated funds. Staff counts were also reviewed by school, with a total of 266 staff members district wide.

Contractual obligations resulting from negotiated agreements with each bargaining unit were discussed. One hundred sixty-nine employees elect medical coverage. A 15% insurance increase is projected due to additional families enrolling in the medical plan.

Enrollment as of the 10/1/25 count is 1,297 students. Enrollment projections were shared. Kindergarten projections are typically based on birth rate data. The incoming kindergarten class is projected to be larger than the graduating senior class, which is particularly small this year. Vo-Ag program and magnet school enrollment and tuition figures were reviewed. Board Member Shane Manning inquired about homeschooling data.

Superintendent Galloway noted the hope of adding a high school teacher to

reinstate the culinary program, citing strong student advocacy and efforts to operate efficiently while responding to student interest. Board Member Ed DePeau commented that strengthening in-district programs may deter some students from leaving for agricultural programs and schools with other offerings.

Board Member Gina Olearczyk inquired regarding the contract length for the CKLA and Eureka Math programs. Superintendent Galloway responded that the math program is a three-year contract. He will follow up regarding whether the first year of CKLA was considered a pilot year.

Ms. Olearczyk also inquired about the \$42,000 Dues and Fees line item. Superintendent Galloway stated that it includes membership fees and that a detailed breakdown will be included in the FAQ document.

Superintendent Galloway reiterated that the proposed budget maintains program quality while meeting contractual and mandated obligations and continues to advance district priorities. The Board is scheduled to vote on the budget at its next meeting.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick)**

6.1. Warrant of January 26, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of January 26, 2026.

6.2. Warrants of February 9, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrants of February 9, 2026.

6.3. Retirements

Rationale:

- Kevin Nevins, MBA ELA Teacher, will be retiring at the end of the school year after 27 years of service at Somers Public Schools.
- Therese Kowalski, SES LMC Paraeducator, will be retiring at the end of the school year after 12 years of service at Somers Public Schools.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Approval of MBA Gym Scoreboards Donation

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the donation for two scoreboards for the MBA gymnasium.

Motion to approve MBA Gym scoreboard donation. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Gina Olearczyk, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick)**

Discussion: Two wireless scoreboards will be added to the MBA gymnasium. Nick Balestriere and the Somers Basketball Association raised \$15,000 to fund the purchase. Board member Gina Olearczyk inquired how ongoing maintenance costs would be addressed. The district will prioritize in-house troubleshooting, utilize warranty coverage, and implement careful maintenance practices to ensure the longevity of the scoreboards.

8.2. Open Choice Program -- Open Slots

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the 25 slots in the Open Choice program. This is an increase of five slots from the previous year.

Motion to approve open slots for the Open Choice Program. This motion, made by Ed DePeau and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 1 (Gina Olearczyk), Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick)**

Discussion: The Board reviewed a request to increase the number of Open Choice seats from 20 to 25. Enrollment in the program has grown from just over 10 spots to 20 over the last three years. There are currently 15 students enrolled in the Open Choice program. Superintendent Galloway explained that enrollment recently decreased after a family participating in the program relocated to Somers.

Board Member Gina Olearczyk noted that often when students enroll at the elementary level, they benefit from earlier access to curriculum and interventions and have historically demonstrated stronger outcomes than students who enroll at the secondary level. The open seats are currently available to all levels.

Chair Briggs inquired whether active recruitment efforts are underway to fill available Open Choice seats. Superintendent Galloway confirmed that recruitment is ongoing. Dr. Michael Dietter attended the Hartford Magnet and School Choice Fair. Connections were made with many families at the event. He noted that the primary challenge to enrollment is the driving distance between Hartford and Somers.

8.3. 1st Posting 2027-2028 SPS Calendar

Discussion: The proposed 2027-28 school calendar closely aligns with the current school calendar. Board Member Gina Olearczyk asked whether it provides sufficient professional development time to support the new curriculum. Superintendent Galloway stated that he believes the allotted time is adequate.

8.4. 1st Posting New Course - MBA Creative Literacy

Discussion: A Creative Literacy course will be added at MBA next school year. To support this addition, MBA will transition from eight 43-minute periods to

seven 50-minute periods and eliminate a double block of ELA. The revised schedule is intended to reduce study halls, increase access to elective courses, integrate reading and writing across content areas, and provide longer instructional periods to support the new math curriculum.

Principal Margot Martello explained that the schedule shift will better align MBA with middle school models across the state and increase daily instructional time. She noted an increased emphasis on literacy across the curriculum and a shared sense of staff ownership for reading and writing instruction. Feedback on the previous double ELA block indicated that student engagement declined during the extended period.

Board Member Gina Olearczyk expressed concern about approving the course without additional detail regarding implementation and teacher support. She requested further information about the shared responsibility for literacy instruction, noting concerns about content area teachers who may not have formal training in reading and writing instruction. Principal Martello responded that the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning model is being implemented school-wide to ensure consistency, with staff discussing the framework during common planning time. Interventionists are also supporting teachers by sharing best practices in reading and writing instruction.

8.5. 1st Posting New Course - MBA General Music

Discussion: A General Music class will be added to the course options at MBA next school year. Students will have the option to enroll in Band, Chorus, or General Music. Band and Chorus will have both beginner and advanced levels, with lesson opportunities built into the schedule. The General Music class will operate on a three-year rotation featuring varied music topics, such as guitar and music technology. The specific details of the rotation are still under development.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1. Curriculum (next meeting 2/23/26, 6 p.m.)

The next meeting will be held on 2/23/26 at 6 p.m. The agenda will include discussion of SAT results and MBA course proposals. Board Member Gina Olearczyk requested additional information regarding the MBA course proposals prior to the vote.

9.2. Policy

The next meeting will be held on 3/9/26 at 6 p.m.

9.3. Planning/Finance

There are no meetings scheduled at this time.

9.4. Salary & Negotiations

The next meeting will be held on 3/16/26 at 5 p.m.

9.5. Building

The last meeting of the Building Committee was canceled due to illness. Chair Briggs noted that the most recent version of the SES HVAC grant application has been submitted to the state and that the district anticipates a response within 30 days.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

The next SEF meeting will be held on 2/19/26 at 7 p.m. at MBA.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

The SHS drama production *The Music Man* is scheduled for 3/6/26 and 3/7/26. The Invention Convention will take place on 3/25/26 and 3/26/26. The SHS Trade Fair will be held on 4/2/26 in the SHS gym. Spring Capstone Presentations will take place on 6/2/26 in the SHS gym. Board members are encouraged to attend and consider serving as project evaluators.

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Community member Lisa Horan inquired about the cost comparison between adding courses at SHS and paying tuition to other districts or programs for students seeking specialized coursework. Dr. Rechenberg explained that the culinary arts courses the district is seeking to reinstate are funded through a Perkins Grant and are at no cost to the district.

Ms. Horan also inquired about how SPS staff salaries compare to neighboring towns and districts within the same DRG as Somers. Superintendent Galloway stated that SPS offers competitive salaries and continues to attract candidates who choose Somers for employment.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rationale: The Board to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation.

Motion to invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session at 7 p.m. to discuss his mid-year evaluation. This motion, made by Mike Briggs and seconded by Kim Radziewicz, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by Derek Zelek, Carried. **Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3 (JT Galloway, Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick)**

Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary Date

Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1236

Voucher Date: 02/23/2026

Prepared By:



Printed: 02/19/2026 10:29:46 AM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$172,988.85 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.



Stephanie Levin

Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund	Amount
10 GENERAL FUND	\$172,988.85
	<hr/>
	\$172,988.85

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 2/23/2026
From Check: 27208
From Voucher: 1236

To Date: 2/23/2026
To Check: 27260
To Voucher: 1236

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27208	02/23/2026	Amazon Capital Services	\$1,045.13	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27209	02/23/2026	Apple Inc.	\$869.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27210	02/23/2026	Avery Septic Service	\$150.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27211	02/23/2026	Bart Truck Equipment LLC.	\$262.94	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27212	02/23/2026	BSN Sports LLC	\$4,042.64	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27213	02/23/2026	Carolina Biological Supply Co.	\$26.96	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27214	02/23/2026	Cristina Reardon	\$29.99	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27215	02/23/2026	DBS Financial Services LLC	\$529.69	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27216	02/23/2026	Dime Oil Company LLC	\$23,041.37	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27217	02/23/2026	Ellington Board of Education	\$3,750.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27218	02/23/2026	Eversource Energy	\$60,674.25	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27219	02/23/2026	First Student, Inc	\$10,302.76	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27220	02/23/2026	Flores & Associates	\$105.45	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27221	02/23/2026	Garsal Industries	\$74.82	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27222	02/23/2026	Gateway Enterprise Corporation	\$938.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27223	02/23/2026	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	\$171.14	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27224	02/23/2026	Grainger	\$261.78	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27225	02/23/2026	Great Minds PBC	\$7,800.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27226	02/23/2026	Gregory Logan	\$337.50	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27227	02/23/2026	Hartford HealthCare Corporation SBO	\$8,604.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27228	02/23/2026	Herff Jones Inc.	\$217.31	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27229	02/23/2026	Hugh's Mechanical Equipment, LLC	\$4,012.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27230	02/23/2026	Intensive Education Academy, Inc.	\$8,694.98	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27231	02/23/2026	IVEY Industries	\$2,420.19	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Somers Board of Education

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Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

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From Date: 2/23/2026
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To Date: 2/23/2026
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 To Voucher: 1236

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27232	02/23/2026	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$99.39	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27233	02/23/2026	JP Climate Control LLC	\$1,225.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27234	02/23/2026	Junior Library Guild	\$784.76	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27235	02/23/2026	Kind And Custom LLC	\$360.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27236	02/23/2026	MagnaKleen Services	\$108.61	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27237	02/23/2026	Michael Savage	\$112.50	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27238	02/23/2026	Microbac Laboratories, Inc	\$143.88	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27239	02/23/2026	OMNI Group	\$20.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27240	02/23/2026	OTIS Elevator Company	\$275.60	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27241	02/23/2026	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	\$114.75	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27242	02/23/2026	Rainbow Resource Center	\$171.60	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27243	02/23/2026	Sarah Uyar	\$112.50	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27244	02/23/2026	School Specialty, Llc	\$72.12	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27245	02/23/2026	Sharon Ouellette	\$67.09	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27246	02/23/2026	Shipman & Goodwin, LLP	\$3,245.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27247	02/23/2026	Somers Star Hardware	\$105.20	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27248	02/23/2026	Soter Technologies, LLC	\$900.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27249	02/23/2026	Teachers Synergy, LLC	\$7.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27250	02/23/2026	The Hartford	\$4,957.33	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27251	02/23/2026	The Home Depot Pro	\$75.28	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27252	02/23/2026	Thermal Products Inc	\$1,095.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27253	02/23/2026	Tone Klear Communications LLC	\$295.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27254	02/23/2026	Town of Somers	\$5,500.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27255	02/23/2026	USA Waste and Recycling	\$2,365.20	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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To Voucher: 1236

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27256	02/23/2026	Van Pool Transportation LLC	\$6,273.75	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27257	02/23/2026	W.B. Mason Co., Inc.	\$607.75	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27258	02/23/2026	Williams Scotsman, Inc	\$100.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27259	02/23/2026	Willie Ross School of the Deaf	\$4,578.00	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27260	02/23/2026	Zoro Tools Inc	\$854.64	1236	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Total Amount: \$172,988.85

End of Report

2027-28 SOMERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

AUGUST '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

26-27, 30-31 Full Day PD

FEBRUARY '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

18 Full PD Day
21 Presidents' Day
22 Full PD Day

SEPTEMBER '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
6 Labor Day
24 Early Release - PD

MARCH '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

9-10 SES Early Release – PC
24 Early Release - PD

OCTOBER '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11 Columbus Day
15 Early Release – PD
29 Early Release - PD

APRIL '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

14 Good Friday
17-21 Spring Vacation

NOVEMBER '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

3, 4, 5 SES Early Release – PC
3&5 MBA Early Release – PC
4 SHS Early Release – PC
11 Veterans Day
24 Early Release
25-26 Thanksgiving

MAY '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

12 Early Release - PD
26 Early Release - PD
29 Memorial Day

DECEMBER '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

23 Early Release
24-31 Winter Vacation

JUNE '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

7 **Early Release: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** (tentative)
8 Full Day PD
19 Juneteenth

JANUARY '28						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

1 New Year's Day
14 Early Release - PD
17 M.L. King Day

Yellow Shade = No School
Green Shade = Early Release/Half-Day PD
Orange Shade = PC (Parent Conferences, Early Release)
Blue Shade = Full-Day PD (Professional Development)
Pink Shade = Early Release/Not PD

NOTE: Early release days may be canceled if school is on a delayed opening. Schools will have their normal dismissals.

BOE Approval:

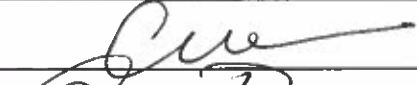



(4th Revision – 2/4/26)

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course

Proposed Course Title: Creative Literacy		Content Area: Humanities	
This course is designed for: Freshman Sophomores Juniors Seniors Middle School		Length of Course: Full Year Semester Quarter Trimester	
Prerequisites needed by students to take this course: Any student, Grades 6-8 can elect to take this course, barring scheduling conflicts.			
What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need? Creative Literacy will provide an opportunity for students to improve their analytical reading skills and writing skills. Students will deepen their understanding of various author's craft moves with book studies of classic and contemporary writers. The course will also cover writer's workshop units where students will develop their own writing skills in various formats. All of this work has a direct impact on a student's ability to think critically and demonstrate their analytical reading and writing skills on year-end assessments.			
Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course) Creative Literacy is an elective course that will provide students with the opportunity to explore literature and writing on a deeper level, and to expand their learning from English Language Arts and other interdisciplinary content areas including Social Studies and Science. Through workshop-based units of study, students will explore various genres of writing through text analysis, and creative and analytical writing.			
Who designed this course? Any student, grades 6-8		What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully? English Language Arts Teacher	
What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space? Schedule change will allow for one ELA teacher to run this course.			
Resources Needed for this Course: Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.			
<u>Materials/Resources</u>		<u>Cost</u>	
Various Texts (class sets, book club sets)		\$2000	

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
	6-12 Humanities IL	12-18-25
	ELA 8 th grade	12-18-25
	6 th grade ELA	12-18-25
	7 th grade ELA	12-18-25

Principal Signature: 

Date: 12/18/2025

Superintendent Signature: 

Date: 1/5/26

Director of Curriculum Signature: 

Date: 12/22/25

For Administrative Use Only

Building Administrators fill create the new course in PowerSchool & fill in the following sections:



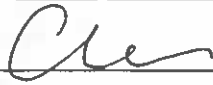
- Course Name:
- Course Number:
- Available School Years:
- Credit Hours:
- Credit Type:
- Grade Scale:
- GPA Added Value Points:
- Exclude from GPA: y/n
- Exclude from Class Rank: y/n
- Exclude from Honor Roll: y/n

Major Course Modification and New Course Proposal

Type of proposal: Major modification to existing course New Course


Proposed Course Title: General Music		Content Area: Humanities	
This course is designed for:		Length of Course:	
Freshman	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
	Middle School	Full Year	Semester
			Quarter
			Trimester
Prerequisites needed by students to take this course:			
Any student, Grades 6-8 can elect to take this course, barring scheduling conflicts.			
What need(s) does this course address? How was the need identified and who was involved determining the need?			
The General Music course is designed for any middle school student. The course will offer students an opportunity to build their skills in listening and reading, as well as critical thinking, and application of new skills.			
Give a general overview of what this course will cover (include updates if modifying an existing course)			
The General Music course provides students with an opportunity to explore music theory and history, as well as an introduction to guitar. The course places emphasis on music appreciation and analysis, and students will investigate the fundamentals of music such as rhythm, melody and sight-reading throughout the year. This course will help students to develop an appreciation and understanding of various genres, musical eras and artists, through critical listening and analysis.			
Who designed this course?		What, if any, special background/training would the teacher need to instruct this course successfully?	
Any student, grades 6-8		Music Teacher	
What, if any, implications does this course have on staffing, other curricular areas and or space?			
Schedule change will allow for the addition of the General Music course to each music teacher's course load.			
Resources Needed for this Course: Please list the materials/resources needed along with an estimated cost including PD.			
<u>Materials/Resources</u>		<u>Cost</u>	
Guitars & Materials (picks, strings, tuners, etc.) Method/Music Books Guitar Racks		\$11,000	

Signatures below indicate that the course proposal has been discussed and feedback has been elicited on the proposal prior to completion. Interdisciplinary proposals require the signatures of members of all involved in those content areas/departments.

Signature	Content Area	Date
	music	12/22/25
	music	12/22/25
	6-12 Humanities IL	12/22/25

Principal Signature: 

Date: 12/22/2025

Superintendent Signature: 

Date: 1/5/2026

Director of Curriculum Signature: 

Date: 12/22/25

For Administrative Use Only

Building Administrators fill create the new course in PowerSchool & fill in the following sections:

- Course Name:
- Course Number:
- Available School Years:
- Credit Hours:
- Credit Type:
- Grade Scale:
- GPA Added Value Points:
- Exclude from GPA: y/n
- Exclude from Class Rank: y/n
- Exclude from Honor Roll: y/n
- NCES Course Code:
- NCES Rigor:

4/1/19

FIELD TRIP REQUEST

(All Overnight trips are subject to Superintendent and Board of Education Approval)

School: Somers High School Date: 2/12/26

Requested by: JEN MEYERS Department: WL

Destination: Quebec, Canada Date of trip: April 23 - April 25

Departure time: 7:30 AM Approx. time of return: 10 pm April 25

Number of students involved: 30 - 35 Number of chaperones: 4

Teachers attending:

JEN MEYERS

Sub Needed: None Full Day Half Day

CHRIS MANGINI

Sub Needed: None Full Day Half Day

ALICIA SIMOES

Sub Needed: None Full Day Half Day

ADMINISTRATOR

Sub Needed: None Full Day Half Day

Sub Needed: None Full Day Half Day

Please enter into Frontline Absence Management AFTER your request has been approved.

Type of transportation: CHARTERED LUXURY MOTORCOACH

Expense to students: \$ 739 per student Expense to school system: 0

Specific Content/Unit(s) the field trip supports: SPEAKING + LISTENING IN FRENCH - ORDERING FOOD, SHOPPING, ASKING DIRECTIONS, CONVERSATION, GREETINGS

Describe how student learning will be assessed: 1) BASED ON STUDENT INTERACTIONS IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE: VOCAB USE, COMPREHENSION, SPEAKING SKILLS 2) TEACHER OBSERVATION CHECKLIST ->

Standards addressed (list by number and code - ex. CCSS:MP1):
COMMUNICATION GOAL (STANDARDS 1.1 - 1.3), THE CULTURES GOAL (3.1 - 3.2)
COMPARISONS GOAL (4.1 - 4.2), COMMUNITIES GOAL (5.1 - 5.2)
CONNECTIONS GOAL (3.1 - 3.2)

Written Objectives/Relationship to curriculum: BUILDING UPON STUDENT UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, PREPARING GLOBAL CITIZENS, CREATING PATHWAY TO PROFICIENCY IN FRENCH LANGUAGE + CULTURE

If approved, both the field trip activity and assessment need to be put into Atlas.

Approved by: [Signature]
Principal's Signature

Approved by: [Signature]
Director of Curriculum

CENTRAL OFFICE USE ONLY

[Signature]

Approved

Disapproved

Superintendent or Designee's Signature Date

Rev. 4/1/2019

A copy of this request will be forwarded to the Business Office

Student learning will be assessed :

- ① BASED ON STUDENT INTERACTIONS IN FRENCH
- ② BASED ON TEACHER OBSERVATION CHECKLIST
- ③ BASED ON STUDENT DAILY REFLECTION SHEET

VOYAGE À QUÉBEC - Thursday April 23 - Saturday April 25, 2026

PRICE: \$739 per student (for a group of 25 students)

\$609 per student (for a group of 35 students)

CONTACT INFORMATION

We are staying at the Holiday Inn Express Québec

In the event of an emergency, you can call my cell phone at (860) 541-0507

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express Québec

3145 Avenue des Hôtels

Québec

418-653-9321

ITINERARY

Thursday, April 23, 2026

07:30 AM Departure from SHS via chartered luxury motorcoach
(stops and lunch en route at individual expense)

04:00 PM Scheduled Arrival in Quebec City. Our Québécois tour guide will meet us upon arrival.

08:30 PM Hotel check-in

09:00 PM Dinner in downtown Quebec.

- Québec Trip
- ① Parent Hand-out (itinerary)
 - ② Consent form
 - ③ Medical/Allergy Disclosure form
 - ④ Student Behavior Contract
 - ⑤ Jumpstreet tour schedule

Friday, April 24, 2026

08:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel.

09:00 AM Activities and fun accompanied by Québécois tour guide.

09:30 AM Visit to the Upper Town to see the St-Louis Gate, the Château Frontenac, the Dufferin Terrace, and the Assemblée Nationale Building.

10:30 AM Visit to the Musée de la Civilisation

12:00 PM Visit to Old Québec. Supervised free time on la Rue St Jean (shops, cafés, souvenirs)

02:00 PM Visit to Côte-de-Beaupré to explore the region's rich heritage.

02:45 PM Visit to the Sainte Anne de Beaupré Shrine

04:00 PM Visit to Parc de la Chute-Montmorency and see the highest waterfall in Québec.

05:00 PM Visit to the SUGAR SHACK to enjoy some traditional maple sugar candy!

06:00 PM Dinner at Érablière du Cap. Feast on a 17th century Québécois meal, enjoy traditional music and dances.

09:00 PM Departure to the hotel

Saturday Apr 25, 2026

07:30 AM Breakfast at the hotel

09:00 AM Join Quebecois tour guide

09:30 AM Visit to la Promenade des Gouverneurs to take in the sites

10:30 AM Visit to the Martello Tower

12:00 PM Return to Old Québec for some more SHOPPING and LUNCH.

01:35 PM Board the luxury motorcoach and head back. We will stop for dinner and rest area breaks along the way.

10:00 PM Arrival at SHS and parent pick-up

LUGGAGE

Remember, we will only be away for 2 nights. PLEASE PACK LIGHT. The motorcoach will have limited baggage space. The temperature in Québec at this time of year ranges between a high of 45 - 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and a low of 34 degrees Fahrenheit.

WHAT TO PACK

- a warm jacket
- a warm hat
- gloves (just in case)
- t-shirts
- 2 extra long-sleeve shirts
- 2 sweatshirts/ sweaters
- 1 extra pair of pants (sweat pants, jeans, etc)
- 2 pairs of socks
- underwear
- personal toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, brush/comb, etc)
- pajamas/robe
- slippers
- credit/debit card or cash

SNACKS

Students may bring lunches, snacks and drinks for the minibus and train rides.

In regard to sharing snacks, we request that food items be individually wrapped packages (by manufacturer) to ensure that there has been no cross contamination of ingredients. Thank you for your attention to this, as we want to ensure a safe trip for everyone.

GRATUITIES

Mme MEYERS is collecting gratuities for the motorcoach charter bus driver at the parent meeting prior to departure. This will be approximately \$10 per traveler. If possible, please submit to Mme MEYERS by Thursday, April 2, 2026.

While staying at the hotel, the housekeeping staff will work very hard to keep our rooms clean. We would like to remind our students to be respectful of the hotel staff by keeping the rooms tidy. We do not want to jeopardize our relationship with the hotel or tour company.

CONSENT LETTER, MEDICAL FORM, AND BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

Please complete and return the consent letter (for border crossing), medical form, and behavior agreement, signed by both parent and student.

For the border consent letter, please have both parents sign, if possible.

FOOD ALLERGIES AND MEDICAL ISSUES

Please fill out the paperwork pertaining to medical issues, including allergies.

If there are any food allergies, please let Mme MEYERS know ASAP if you haven't already.

It is important for the teacher chaperones to be apprised of any medical issues, so that we can keep everyone safe and happy on the trip.

It is very important that all medications be transported in their properly labeled prescription bottle or container. If your child must have medication administered during the trip (and a parent will not be traveling with the group) please be sure to complete paperwork for authorization of self-administration. Please submit this paperwork to Mme MEYERS by Thursday, April 2nd.

PASSPORTS

Passports or *passport cards* will be necessary to acquire before the trip. Passport cards are less expensive at \$15 for children (16 and under) and \$30 for adults and can be used for land and sea travel, but not for air travel. Mme MEYERS will collect all passports/passport cards by Thursday, April 2nd and they will be kept in the school safe prior to departure. Also, during the tour, Mme MEYERS will hold the passports/passport cards which will be locked in the hotel safe. More information on how to apply for a passport or passport card can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/card.html>

SPENDING MONEY

Students will need money for snacks and meals en route to Canada and home. We typically stop at fast food restaurants / convenience stores for these meals.

However, once we arrive in Canada, I recommend that students use either a credit card or debit card (put through as a credit card) for the best exchange rate. Currently, 1 US dollar = 1.37 Canadian dollars.

*There is no need to exchange money prior to departure. If students don't have a credit or debit card, most retailers accept American currency, and students will be able to exchange money in the city upon arrival. Also, students may opt to take money out at an ATM, where they would get an excellent exchange rate.

Students will need money for souvenir shopping and/or "snacks in between meals."

Typically, a good sweatshirt runs around \$40. As for snacks in between meals, I encourage students to try some local Québécois cuisine, such as *poutine* so they should plan on spending between \$10 to \$15 for such foods.

BEHAVIOR

It goes without saying that positive behavior is expected on the trip. All Somers Board of Education policies are in place during this trip.

The tour company has cultivated strong relationships with the hotels it uses. We remind students to keep noise levels down while at the hotel, and to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in the lobby and hallways of the hotel.

There will be a security guard in the hallway to ensure that students remain in their rooms, or to alert me should a problem arise during the night.

BAGGAGE CHECK

Please be advised that students' bags will be checked prior to departure.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at jen.meyers@somers.k12.ct.us

CONSENT FORM for QUEBEC TRIP

To Whom It May Concern,

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of
_____, born on _____.

I hereby give my full consent for my child to travel with **Somers High School** on a school-sponsored trip from Somers, Connecticut, United States, to Quebec, Canada.

Trip Details:

Destination: Quebec, Canada

Departure Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Return Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Mode of Transportation: Chartered Luxury Motor Coach

Supervising Teacher(s)/Chaperone(s): Mme Meyers, an administrator, and 3 or 4 school chaperones.

- I authorize the supervising school staff to act *in loco parentis* for my child during this trip. I also grant permission for my child to receive emergency medical treatment if necessary, and I accept responsibility for any related costs.

My child is a U.S. citizen and will be traveling with the following documents:

- Passport
 Passport card

I can be reached during the trip at:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Student Medical Information & Allergy Disclosure Form

This form must be completed by a parent or legal guardian for each student attending the Quebec, Canada trip. The information will be used only in case of illness or emergency.

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Secondary Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Medical Conditions

Does your child have any medical conditions?

Yes No

If yes, please list and explain (asthma, diabetes, seizures, heart conditions, anxiety, etc.):

Allergies

Does your child have any allergies?

Yes No

If yes, please check and describe:

Food Allergies:

Nuts Dairy Eggs Shellfish Gluten Other: _____

Details: _____

Medication Allergies:

Environmental Allergies (bee stings, pollen, latex, etc.):

Medications

Is your child currently taking any medication?

Yes No

If yes, list all medications, dosage, and instructions:

Medication Name: _____ Dose: _____

Instructions: _____

Medication Name: _____ Dose: _____

Instructions: _____

Medical Devices

Does your child use any medical devices?

Yes No

If yes, please specify (inhaler, EpiPen, glucose monitor, etc.):

Insurance Information

Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____

Emergency Authorization

I authorize school personnel and designated chaperones to obtain emergency medical treatment for my child if necessary while traveling in Quebec, Canada. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me in the event of an emergency.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

For School Use Only:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Notes: _____

Student Behavior Contract

Participation in this school-sponsored trip to Quebec, Canada is a privilege. Students are expected to represent Somers High School positively and to follow all school rules, trip guidelines, and laws while traveling.

Student Expectations

By signing this contract, I agree to:

1. Follow all Somers High School rules, policies, and the Student Code of Conduct at all times during the trip.
 2. Follow all instructions given by teachers, administrators, chaperones, bus drivers, hotel staff, and tour guides.
 3. Demonstrate respectful behavior toward classmates, staff, chaperones, members of the public, and property.
 4. Remain with the assigned group at all times unless given explicit permission by a chaperone.
 5. Observe all curfews, room assignments, and hotel rules.
 6. Behave appropriately on the bus and during all travel activities.
 7. Abide by all local, provincial, and federal laws of Canada.
 8. Refrain from the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal substances, or any prohibited items.
 9. Understand that bullying, harassment, vandalism, theft, or unsafe behavior will not be tolerated.
 10. Understand that failure to follow expectations may result in disciplinary consequences.
-

Consequences

I understand that violations of this contract may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- Immediate restriction from trip activities
- Parent/guardian notification
- School disciplinary action upon return
- Early dismissal from the trip at parent/guardian expense

Serious violations may result in removal from the trip without refund.

Acknowledgment

I understand that participation in this trip is contingent upon my compliance with this behavior contract. I agree to accept responsibility for my actions and understand the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

Student Information

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have reviewed this behavior contract with my child and understand the expectations and consequences outlined above.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____