

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes - Special Meeting  
July 19, 2006 - 7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium**

1. Call to Order:

First Selectman David Pinney called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Members Present:

Selectmen David Pinney and Ernie Allsup

**Library Board:**

Shirley Warner, Dee Moak, Charlotte Stopa, Roberta Provencher, Library Director Francine Aloisa

**Library Employees:**

Donna Sepe, Kirk Pierce

**Board of Education:**

Tim Potrikus, Angelo Vespe, Superintendent of Schools

Although invited, no member of the Recreation Commission was present.

3. Meet with members of the Board of Education, Library Board, Recreation Commission, and Somers PTA and PTSA to discuss activities of and responsibilities for children after school, especially as regards their presence in and around the library.

- Shirley Warner reviewed concerns regarding children, primarily from the middle school, being in and around the Library after school. Problems arise when the children behave inappropriately and the library staff have to speak to these children or upon occasion even expel some children from the library. Another problem is that parents call the library anticipating that library staff are keeping track of what children are at the library and when they come and go. Beyond disruption to library staff, there are concerns about the general safety of these children as they move about the campus areas in an unsupervised environment.

There was considerable discussion about the procedures that the middle school uses in dismissing children at the end of the school day. More information is needed to clarify the role the middle school plays in restricting where the children go after school. The Superintendent and the School Board will be reviewing procedures and policies in this regard.

There was also discussion about what programs and activities are available or desirable for

middle school children after the school day is completed. While additional programs could be offered, there remains a concern that some parents and children are not looking for organized activities. There was agreement among all present that parents are

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responsible for the safety and activities of their children after they are released from school but are concerned that some parents assume the library or other town staff will take on that responsibility while the children are in the library or on town property.

The participants felt that a number of issues had been raised that warrant continued discussion. The selectmen will plan to continue that discussion - most likely in September - once the school administration and the school board have had a chance to review some of the issues that pertain directly to them.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, First Selectman  
TOWN OF SOMERS

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.