

The Somerset Hills School District
Regular Meeting Agenda - August 21, 2024
Executive Session - 6:30 P.M.
Public Input & Action - 7:30 P.M.
Bernards High School - Community Room

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Welcome to a meeting of the Board of Education of Somerset Hills. Please be advised that this and all meetings of the Board are open to the public and media, consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act: (Chapter 231 Laws of 1975), and that advance notice required therein has been provided. This is a meeting of the Board of Education of Somerset Hills at which formal action may be taken. The public will have an opportunity to be heard as shown on the Agenda.

II. Roll Call

III. Board Norms

Before a Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrive on time and prepared (read agenda and all attachments, including committee minutes in advance). ● Understand the placement of items on the agenda and understand why. ● Observe the board chain of command and respect the distinction between the role of the superintendent and the board. ● Understand what our role as members of the board is, including what items are executive session discussions versus public meeting discussions. ● Be problem solvers by working through issues and seeking advice and clarity from fellow board members and NJSBA if there are points of concern or contention.
During a Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No active use of phones in executive sessions or at the board table. ● Why speaking/why not? ● Value all voices; everyone has a chance to respond while being respectful of others. ● Non-repetition of issues/debate by the same individual until all have had the opportunity to speak. ● Signal to the board president to speak, the board president acknowledges the next speaker to allow uninterrupted opinions with time in mind. ● No surprises to the board or administration.
After a Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the outcomes determined by the majority while ensuring that minority voices are acknowledged. ● Abide by your responsibilities as a board member and be respectful of administrative and board time constraints. ● Be dedicated to supporting and attending school functions.

- Strive to develop professionally as individual board members and as a Board.
- Remember that students are always at the center of our decisions.

IV. District Goals

2023-2024 District Goals

- Academic - Devise grade-appropriate K-12 opportunities to explore career choices, including access to experiences beyond the walls of the classroom. Solidify current academic pathways, considering summer programming, complementary professional development, and tiered systems of support.
- Culture & Climate/Social-Emotional Learning - Solidify the district's K-12 vision for Social-Emotional Learning, identifying additional growth opportunities for co-curricular outreach and opportunities among and across groups/buildings.
- Facilities - Develop a Long Range Facility Plan to recommend to the Board of Education, inclusive of developing a budget and operational plan to support the replacement of the track.
- Community - Devise a strategic communication process to solidify the district's favorable public image.

V. Executive Session

WHEREAS the "Open Public Meetings Act:" (Chapter 231 Laws of 1975) authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which specified topics are to be discussed under circumstances where the public consideration of such topics will clearly endanger the public, or where the personal privacy or guaranteed rights of individuals whose activities or affairs are to be discussed would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasions, and

WHEREAS the matters about to be presented for discussion clearly meet the "circumstances" test of such Act:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Somerset Hills now adjourns its public session to reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following: Personnel, Student Matters, Contracts, Negotiations and Litigation.

And, be it further,

RESOLVED that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed when the Board's consideration of the subject matter has been closed, or that such matter does not adversely affect the rights of prospective, current, or past public officers, or personnel of the Board, unless such individuals have in writing requested the disclosures of such discussion at a public meeting and provided such public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

VI. Pledge of Allegiance

VII. Report of the Superintendent

1. Claire Taylor - BHS Green Team
2. Board Recognition - Retirees

- a. WHEREAS, Douglas Lucas has been employed from August 1996 through August 2024 as a Facilities Director; and
 WHEREAS, he exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties;
 and
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Douglas Lucas' retirement effective September 1, 2024, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

3. Dr. Brotschul's Update

VIII. Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

We very much welcome input from the public. Public comments are welcome at this time on any actionable agenda item. Towards the end of the meeting, there is a second public forum on any topic. Please state your name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes. At three minutes you will be interrupted and asked to pause to allow any other members of the public who would like to speak an opportunity to do so. An individual may return to the podium to complete their statement after everyone else has had an opportunity to speak for a total of two times at the podium. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, the Board President or Superintendent may address the comment. In accordance with New Jersey Statute, the Board will not discuss matters regarding specific personnel. Public Comments will be limited to 30 minutes. A reminder for all parties in attendance to remain respectful and that there should be no interaction between the speaker and the audience. No members of the audience should interfere with or interrupt a speaker's comments. Thank you in advance for your input.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

1. Approval of Minutes*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for June 26, 2024, and Special meeting minutes for June 24, 2024, and July 22, 2024.

X. FINANCE

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Finance Action Items:

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of June 2024 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$10,584,787.46	\$10,584,787.46
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(\$587,901.46)	(\$587,901.46)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$0.43	\$0.43
Total Government Funds	\$10,110,944.68	\$10,110,944.68

(1) From Secretary's Report (2) From Treasurer's Report

WHEREAS in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A: 23-2.1(c)3 the secretary has certified that, as of the date of the report(s), no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced report and certifications and orders that they be attached to and made part of the record of this meeting, and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A: 23-3.11(c) 4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A: 23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

2. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached June 2024 check registers with the recommendation that the checks be paid, and Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the following bills be paid and an itemized list be filed with the minutes of this meeting:

FUND	
(10) General Fund	\$3,608,752.56
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$28,459.84
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$109,777.04
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,195,537.86
TOTAL	\$4,942,527.30

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached July 2024 check registers with the recommendation that the checks be paid, and Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the following bills be paid and an itemized list be filed with the minutes of this meeting:

FUND	
(10) General Fund	\$527,205.95
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$5,189.00
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-
(90) Agency Fund	-
TOTAL	\$532,394.95

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached August 2024 check registers with the recommendation that the checks be paid, and Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the following bills be paid and an itemized list be filed with the minutes of this meeting:

FUND	
(10) General Fund	\$182,684.77
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$38,563.59
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-
(90) Agency Fund	-
TOTAL	\$221,248.36

5. Approve 2023-2024 Budget Transfers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the attached list of budget transfers for June 2024.

6. Approve School Enrollment*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Student # 2772139535 to attend the DCF Regional School, Union Campus for the 2024-2025 school year.

7. Approve Parent Organization Fundraisers

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	Bedwell HSA	BES	Charleston Wrap Sale	Oct/Nov 2024
b	Bedwell HSA	BES	Book Fair Sale	11/4/24-11/6/24
c	Bedwell HSA	BES	Holiday Shoppe/Breakfast	12/7/24
d	Bedwell HSA	BES	Candy/Chocolate Sale	Jan/Feb 2025
e	Bedwell HSA	BES	Penny Wars	2/3/25-2/7/25
f	Bedwell HSA	BES	Art & Tile Sale	March 2025
g	Bedwell HSA	BES	School Supply Kit Sale	May/June 2025
h	Bedwell HSA	BES	Box Tops	2024-2025 SY
i	Bedwell HSA	BES	BES Family Picnic Concessions	2024-2025 SY
j	Bedwell HSA	BES	Spirit Wear	2024-2025 SY
k	Bedwell HSA	BES	Yearbook Sale	2024-2025 SY
l	Bedwell HSA	BES	Got Sneakers	Spring 2025
m	Bedwell HSA	BES	Graduation Lawn Signs - Grade 4	Spring 2025

8. Approve Parent Organization Fundraisers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	PAC Parents	BHS	Sweets/Bake Sale	Sept/Oct 2024
b	PAC Parents	BHS	Fall Play/Spring Musical 50/50 Sales	2024-2025 SY
c	PAC Parents	BHS	Bernardsville Cinema Movie Event	Fall 2024/Spring 2025

d	PAC Parents	BHS	Local Business Fundraisers	2024-2025 SY
e	Project Graduation	BHS	BHS Spirit Wear	2024-2025 SY
f	Project Graduation	BHS	Halloween Fundraiser	Oct 2024
g	Project Graduation	BHS	Tricky Tray	11/16/24
h	Project Graduation	BHS	Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser	Fall/Winter 2024
i	Project Graduation	BHS	Poinsettia Sales	Dec 2024
j	Project Graduation	BHS	Valentine's Day	Feb 2025
k	Project Graduation	BHS	Fashion Show	April 2025

9. Approve Joint Transportation Agreements*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year. Somerset Hills School District shall serve as the Lead Educational Authority and Host District:

District		Route Cost
Bernards Township School District	Various Athletic and School Related Trips	\$300.00 for the 1st three(3) hours \$90.00 per hour each additional hrs Billed in ¼ hour increments plus tolls and parking. Charges are based on time to and from the bus garage.
Bernards Township School District	Swim Practices	\$175.00 per trip.
Long Hill Township School District	Various Athletic and School Related Trips	\$300.00 for the 1st three(3) hours \$90.00 per hour each additional hrs Billed in ¼ hour increments plus tolls and parking. Charges are based on time to and from the bus garage.

10. Approve Joint Transportation Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement with Delaware Valley Regional High School to provide transportation services for the 2024-2025 school year. Not to exceed \$15,000.

11. Approve Transportation Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kennsington to provide transportation services for transportation services not to exceed \$10,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

12. Approve Capturing Kids' Hearts*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Capturing Kids' Hearts Leadership Blueprint Training for Administration Professional Development not to exceed \$15,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, funded by the Administrator's professional growth and development allowance.

13. Approve Qualtrics Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the K-12 Enterprise Management and Technical Ticketing software licenses from Qualtrics for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$23,281.51.

14. Approve YMCA Before/After Care Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Before/After Care Program with the Somerset Hills YMCA for the 2024-2025 school year.

15. Approve SYSTEMS 3000 Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 3-Year (s) Software License Agreement with SYSTEMS 3000 for Accounting/Personnel/Payroll 2024-2027 school years.

16. Approve 2024-2025 ESSA-ESEA Grant*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the application and approves funds for the 2024-2025 school year for the ESSA-ESEA Federal Grant Application as follows:

Grant	Somerset Hills (Public)	Far Hills (Non-public)	St. Elizabeth's (Non-public)	Total
Title I-A	\$78,772	\$0	\$0	\$78,772
Title II-A	\$25,296	\$3,167	\$2,344	\$30,807
Title III	\$25,672	\$0	\$0	\$25,672
Title III Immigrant	\$7,867	\$0	\$0	\$7,867

Title IV Part A	\$8,211	\$1,028	\$761	\$10,000
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17. Approve IDEA Grant for 2024-2025*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes application and approves funds for the 2024-2025 school year for the IDEA Federal Grant Allocation as follows:

IDEA Basic Public:	\$412,902
IDEA Basic Non Public:	\$ 30,895
IDEA Preschool Public:	\$ 18,172
TOTAL	\$461,969

18. Approve State Aid for Non-Public Schools*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following state aid for non-public schools for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Far Hills Country Day	School of St. Elizabeth
Nursing Service Aid	\$26,000	\$19,240
Textbook Aid	\$10,228	\$ 7,569
Technology Aid	\$ 9,800	\$ 7,252
Security Aid	\$41,000	\$30,340

19. Approve Truancy Officer Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve James Anthony as the District's Truancy Officer for the 2024-2025 school year not to exceed \$15,000.

20. Approve Elevate K-12 Services*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Elevate K-12 Services for Spanish leave instruction at BHS for the 2024-2025 school year amount not to exceed \$50,000.

21. Approve Atlantic Tomorrow Office Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Managed Print Services for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.

22. Approve 2024-2025 Professional Support/Non-Public Services Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Professional Support/Non-Public Services Agreement with the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for the 2024-2025 school year.

23. Approve Settlement Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Settlement Agreement for student ID 3957424154 for the 2024-2025 school year.

24. Accept Donations*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the following donations for the 2024-2025 school.

	Organization	Purpose	School	Amount
a	Mountaineer Booster Club	Wrestling Mats	District/BMS	\$4,000

25. Approve S.H.E.A. Memorandum of Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the Sidebar Agreement between the Somerset Hills Board of Education and the Somerset Hills Education Association (S.H.E.A.) for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 regarding addition of three Bernards High School Co-Curricular Positions for the 2024-2025 school year, and further authorizes Board President and Board Secretary to execute same on behalf of the Board.

26. Approve Co-Curricular Stipend Amount*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following stipend amount for the position board approved at the June 26, 2024 Board of Education meeting:

	Position	School	Stipend Amount
a	Volleyball: Assistant Coach	BHS	\$5,583.60

27. Approve Co-Curricular Stipend Amount

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following stipend amount for the positions board approved at the June 26, 2024 Board of Education meeting:

	Position	School	Stipend Amount
a	Wrestling: Head Coach	BMS	\$4,954.93
b	Wrestling: Assistant Coach	BMS	\$3,220.91

28. Approve change order for Bernards High School Track Replacement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve change order PCO#1 and PCO#2 for the Bernards High School Track Replacement in the amount of \$36,766.50 as a decrease to the contract allowance amount of \$50,000.00 The new contract allowance including this change order is \$13,233.50.

29. Approve Professional Service Contract*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following appointment for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Provider	Service	Hrly Rate/Est Amount Not to Exceed
a	T&M Associates	Engineering	\$198 - \$215 p/hr Not to exceed \$50,000
b	Flanagan, Barone & O'Brien, LLC	Legal	\$75 - \$185 p/hr Not to exceed \$40,000

30. Approve Appointment to the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, approve the following;

WHEREAS, pursuant to enacted legislation, P.L. 192-1989, Chapter 254, the Somerset Hills Board of Education elected Dr. Brian Brotschul to the Representative Assembly of The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey at their meeting held on August 21, 2024 from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

31. Approve 2024-2025 Unified Champion Schools Grant *

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the application and approves funds for the Unified Champion Schools Funding to run a Youth Athletes Program at Bernards High School in the amount of \$5,400 for the 2024-2025 school year.

32. Approve Substitute Rates*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitute rates for the 2024-2025 school year:

Credential	Rate
Teacher with Substitute Credential, CEAS or CE	\$130
Teacher with Standard Certificate	\$140
Teacher with Substitute Certificate - Extended Assignment 11-40 days	\$190
Teacher with Standard Certificate - Extended Assignment 11-40 days	\$210
Teacher Long Term Assignment – 41 plus days	\$265
Nurse	\$225
Nurse - Field Trip	\$260
Nurse – Overnight Field Trip	\$500
Secretary	\$17/hour
Confidential Secretary	\$22/hour
Paraprofessional	\$18/hour
Custodian	\$18/hour
Maintenance	\$20.50/hour
Technology	\$37/hour
Bus/Van Driver	\$32/hour
Bus Paraprofessional	\$20/hour
Athletic Games - Ticket Collectors	\$60/event

XI. FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

1. Amend Chapter 27, Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the District's Chapter 27, Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan.

2. Approve Mountaineers Booster Club Fundraiser*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Mountaineer Booster Club to conduct fundraising consistent with the Board of Education policy to enhance health and physical education facilities, specifically a fitness center at Bernards High School during the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Approve Mountaineers Booster Club Fundraiser*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Mountaineer Booster Club to conduct fundraising consistent with the Board of Education policy to feed student-athletes before and after athletic contests during the 2024-2025 school year.

4. Approve District Goals*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Somerset Hills School District Goal for the 2024-2025 school year:

2024-2025 District Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Show progress in decreasing achievement gaps by advancing academic performance through increased support in areas of instruction for academic subgroups. Evaluate progress annually using all available assessment data. ○ Identify staff to leverage existing education by assessing interest in obtaining further certifications to expand available dual enrollment and career and technical education (CTE) student course offerings. ● Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To prioritize planning for STEM/Robotics/CTE curriculum, develop a prioritized long-range facility plan and cost estimates by November 2024. ● Community Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To support the belief that every community member is a stakeholder, develop 2-3 avenues to expand community connectivity and engage with all community members to communicate district outcomes and opportunities for further engagement with those residents with and without school-aged children by June 2025. ● Culture & Climate / Social Emotional Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By June 2025 identify and implement tools and mechanisms to establish a baseline understanding of student and staff experience in Somerset Hills School District to develop a future strategic plan to enhance workplace and school culture, climate, and social-emotional learning.

XII. PUBLIC HEARING - NURSING SERVICES PLAN

1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING NURSING SERVICES PLAN

WHEREAS pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-13, the Board is required to conduct a public hearing for the 2024-2025 Nursing Services Plan; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board hereby opens the public hearing on the 2024-2025 Nursing Services Plan.

- Discussion
- Public Comments
- Motion to close public hearing and adopt the 2024-2025 Nursing Plan

2. Approve the Somerset Hills School District Nursing Services Plan 2024-2025*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

XIII. CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

1. Approve Professional Development/School Business

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following professional development/school business for the 2024-2025 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BES	Akauola, Jasmine	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
b	BES	Fischer, Taylor	Field Trip Chaperone	7/15/24	\$0
c	BES	Fischer, Taylor	Tools of the Mind Professional Development *Funded by IDEA Grant	12/4/24, 3/4/25	\$1,000
d	BMS	Garofalo, Lisa	School Safety Symposium - Northern Region	7/30/24	\$0
e	BMS	Garofalo, Lisa	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
f	BMS	Inclendon, Cassie	Field Trip Chaperone	7/15/24	\$0
g	BES	Kimmel, Melissa	Field Trip Chaperone	7/15/24	\$0
h	BES	Koellhoffer, Keith	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
i	BMS	McGovern, Danielle	Rutgers Speaker Series - When Kids Can't Read/What Teachers Can Do	10/24/24	\$180
j	BMS	Richter, Michael	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
k	BES	Rivers, Denise	Field Trip Chaperone	7/15/24	\$0
l	BES	Rivers, Denise	Tools of the Mind Professional Development *Funded by IDEA Grant	11/20/24, 3/25/25	\$1,000

2. Approve Professional Development/School Business*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following professional development/school business, for the 2024-2025 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	District	Brotschul, Brian	Morris Union Jointure Commission Monthly Meetings	7/25/24, 9/12/24, 10/10/24, 11/14/24, 12/5/24, 1/9/25, 2/13/25, 3/13/25, 4/10/25, 5/8/25, 6/5/25	\$0
b	District	Brotschul, Brian	Somerset County Association of School Administrators Monthly Meetings	9/13/24, 10/11/24, 11/15/24, 12/5/24, 12/6/24, 1/10/25, 2/7/25, 3/14/25, 4/11/25, 5/9/25, 6/13/25	\$0
c	District	Brotschul, Brian	Somerset County School Boards Association Meetings for 2024-2025	10/10/24, 11/18/24, 1/27/25, 3/3/25, 4/29/25	\$0
d	District	Brotschul, Brian	Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Monthly Meetings	9/20/24, 10/18/24, 11/22/24, 12/20/24, 1/17/25, 2/21/25, 3/21/25, 4/25/25, 6/6/25	\$0
e	District	Brotschul, Brian	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
f	District	Butler, Coleen	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
g	District	Catelli, Michael	NJ World Language Supervisors Meeting	10/4/24	\$0

h	District	Catelli, Michael	Sheltered Education Instruction	9/25/24, 10/9/24, 10/29/24	\$0
i	BHS	Corbett, Michael	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
j	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Middle School Athletic Scheduling	10/2/24, 1/8/25, 4/9/25	\$55.84
k	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Meeting	5/6/25	\$45.03
l	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	County Athletic Directors Meetings	11/15/24, 3/7/25, 6/6/25	\$43.15
m	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	New Jersey Interscholastic Hockey League Meetings	10/24 3/25 5/25 (Dates TBD)	\$55.84
n	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Skylands Athletic Directors Meetings	8/29/24, 9/12/24, 10/23/24, 11/20/24, 12/18/24, 1/22/25, 2/26/25, 3/19/25, 4/9/25, 4/28/25, 5/7/25, 6/4/25	\$229.27
o	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse League Meetings	10/18/24, 3/21/25, 6/20/25	\$29.33
p	BHS	LaBruno, Wendi	Princeton Lecture Series - Concept to Practice: Effective and Ethical Solutions	9/13/24	\$141.83
q	District	Lucas, Doug	North/South Facilities Training	7/10/24	\$0
r	District	Koransky, Jamie	Somerset County Directors of Special Services Meetings	9/20/24, 10/18/24, 11/22/24, 12/13/24, 1/17/25, 2/21/25, 3/21/25, 4/25/25, 5/30/25, 6/13/25	\$0

s	BHS	Neigel, Scott	LEGAL ONE: Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	TBD	\$500
t	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone	Dates TBD through- out the year	\$0
u	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone	10/23/24	\$0
v	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone	10/11/24	\$0
w	BHS	Malzone, Amy	NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Administrative Assistant Workshop	9/11/24	\$0

3. Approve Field Trips

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BES	Rocking Horse Rehab - Basking Ridge, NJ	11	4	0

4. Approve Field Trips*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BHS	Crescent City Music Festival - New Orleans, LA	100	5	2
b	BHS	Pocono Whitewater - Jim Thorpe, PA	25	1	1
c	BHS	Matheny - Peapack, NJ, Roxiticus CC - Mendham, NJ, Bernardsville Library - Bernardsville, NJ, and Center for Hope Hospice - Scotch Plains, NJ	25	1	1
d	BHS	St. Bernards, Bernardsville, NJ	25	1	1
e	BHS	United Reformed Church - Somerville, NJ	25	1	1
f	BHS	Bernardsville Middle School & Bedminster School - Bernardsville, Bedminster, NJ	100	3	5
g	BHS	Sacred Heart - South Plainfield, NJ	100	2	6
h	BHS	Tomorrow's Teachers - Classroom Observations	5	1	0

i	BHS	Tomorrow's Teachers - Classroom Observations	5	1	0
j	BHS	Kean University - Union, NJ	5	1	0

5. Approve Rutgers Summer Reading Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Rutgers Summer Reading Program for Summer 2024, grades 4-8, in the amount of \$259, with funding through ARP ESSER.

6. Adopt Curriculum Documents*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopt the newly revised and completed curriculum documents for the 2024-2025 school year.

7. Approve 2024-2025 Professional Development and Mentoring Plan*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Professional Development and Mentoring Plan for the 2024-2025 school year, on file in the Curriculum Office.

8. Approve 2024-2025 Anti-Bullying Specialists*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following Anti-Bullying Specialists for 2024-2025:

Jaime Walker- District Anti-Bullying Coordinator
 Lauren Cava - High School Anti-Bullying Specialist
 Chris Habermas & Michele Adkins- Middle School Anti-Bullying Specialists
 Megan Dooley - Bedwell Elementary School Anti-Bullying Specialist

9. Approve Affirmative Action Officers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following Affirmative Action Officers for 2024-2025:

Coleen Butler- District
 Scott Neigel- Bernards High School
 Lisa Garofalo- Bernardsville Middle School
 Keith Koellhoffer- Bedwell Elementary School

10. Approve 504 Coordinators*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following 504 Coordinators for 2024-2025:

Jamie Koransky- District
 Scott Neigel- Bernards High School
 Lisa Garofalo- Bernardsville Middle School
 Keith Koellhoffer- Bedwell Elementary School

11. Approve 2024-2025 School Improvement Panels (SciPs)*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following School Improvement Panels (SciPs) for 2024-2025:

Bedwell Elementary School
 Keith Koellhoffer- Principal
 Jasmine Akauola- Assistant Principal

Megan Dooley- Counselor
Dana Fischer- Teacher

Bernardsville Middle School

Lisa Garofalo- Principal
Michael Richter- Assistant Principal
Michael Georgiana- Teacher

Bernards High School

Scott Neigel- Principal
Mike Corbett- Assistant Principal
Christine Whitlock- Teacher
Ashley Teets- Teacher

12. Approve 2024-2025 School Safety/School Climate Teams*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following School Safety Teams for 2024-2025:

Bedwell Elementary School

Keith Koellhoffer- Principal
Jasmine Akauolo- Assistant Principal
Megan Dooley- Guidance Counselor
Maureen Ziolkowski- Teacher
Lee Eaton- Parent

Bernardsville Middle School

Lisa Garofalo- Principal
Michael Richter- Assistant Principal
Jaclyn Pasquarelli- Guidance Counselor
Phil Mahlik- Teacher
Ayesha Failey- Parent

Bernards High School

Scott Neigel- Principal
Lauren Cava- Substance Awareness Coordinator
Melissa Gomez- School Nurse
Matt Bale-Peña- Teacher
Debbie Infusino- Parent
Alec Johnson- Counselor

13. Approve 2024-2025 School Safety Specialist*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve Lisa Garofalo as the District's School Safety Specialist for 2024-2025.

14. Approve Benchmark Advance Elementary Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Benchmark Advance 2022 Grade K bilingual literacy materials from

Benchmark Education for Bedwell Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year, not to exceed \$6,000.

15. Approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the 2019-2023 Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2024-2025, on file in the Curriculum Office.

XIV. PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion.

B. Action Items:

1. Accepts Retirement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of the following employees:

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Lucas, Douglas	Olcott	Facilities Director MNT.DIST.FACL.NA.01	9/1/24

2. Accepts Resignation*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of the following employee:

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Kacanski, Jaclyn	Olcott	Business Office Assistant SEC.DIST.BKKP.NA.01	8/9/24
b	Zerjav, Karolina	District	Special Education Paraprofessional PARA.DIST.RR.NA.39	8/31/24

3. Accepts Resignation

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of the following employee:

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Acuna, Marixaza	BES	Teacher	10/15/24

4. Approve Appointment Administrative Staff

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following administrative staff for the 2024-2025 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Richter, Michael	BMS	Interim Assistant Principal ADMIN.MS.APRN.NA.01	\$ 416.66 per diem	Koellhoffer	8/1/24
b	Catelli, Michael	District	Director of Academic Support, Enrichment and Multilingual Education ADM.DIST.ASEM.NA.01	\$140,000	new	8/22/24
c	Riccio, Frank	Olcott	Director of Operations ADM.DIST.DOOP.NA.01	\$120,000	Lucas	9/1/24

5. Approve Appointment Certificated Staff

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following certificated staff for the 2024-2025 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Cronin, Sara	BMS	Special Education Teacher TCH.MS.RERM.NA.	BA	1-2	\$65,540	Nisch	9/1/24
b	Filieri, Michael	BMS	Physical Education Teacher TCH.MS.PHED.NA.04	BA	1-2	\$65,540	Shemon	9/1/24 <i>pending approval</i>
c	Turner, Samantha	BMS	LAL Teacher TCH.MS.ENGL.NA.04	MA	5-6	\$73,540	Andrews	9/1/24

6. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following non-certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Gomes, Yahaira	BHS	Secretary SEC.HS.SCHS.NA.03	5-6	\$58,850	Vaughan	8/1/24
b	Smith, Jodi	Olcott	Business Office Asst SEC.DIST.BKKP.NA.01	n/a	\$78,000	Kacanski	8/12/24
c	Galuppo, Julianne	Olcott	Accounts Payable SEC.DIST.APAY.NA.01	n/a	\$65,000	Smith	8/12/24 <i>pending clearance</i>

7. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following non-certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Wagner, Alekandra	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional	2	\$22.61/hour	Morin	9/3/24
b	Browe, Michelle	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional	2	\$22.61/hour	Zerjav	9/3/24
c	Mahlik, Annette	BES	Regular Paraprofessional	1	\$21.21/hour	Browe	9/3/24

8. Approve Leave of Absence

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following leave of absence:

Employee #	School	Position	Type of leave	Dated of Leave/Notes

a	9551	BMS	Teacher	Disability Sick FMLA Parenthood Leave Anticipated Return	11/20/24-01/06/25 (paid w/ benefits) 01/07/25-04/01/25 (unpaid w/benefits) 04/02/25-06/30/25 (unpaid w/o benefits) 09/01/25
b	9710	BHS	Teacher	Disability Sick FMLA Anticipated Return	09/10/24-10/22/24 (paid w/benefits) 10/23/24-01/22/25 (unpaid w/benefits) 01/23/25
c	9861	BMS	Custodian	FMLA	10/3/24-10/16/24 (unpaid w/benefits)

9. Approve Extended Year Transportation*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following employee for extended school year transportation:

	Employee	School	Position	Rate	Effective
a	DeJesus, Frances	District	Bus Driver	\$34/hour	ESY 2024

10. Approve Summer Work

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following summer work for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Name	School	Program	Dates	Effective
a	Volosin, Lauren	BHS	Tomorrow's Teachers Training	6/25/24- 6/26/24	\$60.31/hour

11. Approve Job Descriptions*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following job descriptions;

a	Director of Operations
b	Administrative Assistant to the Director of Operations
c	Director of Technology

12. Approve Administrator Title Change*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following administrator title change with no change in compensation:

	Name	School	Previous Title	New Title	Effective
a	Schwarz, Jeremy	District	Technology Manager	Director of Technology	8/22/24

13. Approve Fieldwork

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following fieldwork for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Name	School/Subject	Mentor	Program	Effective
a	Blackburn, Rebecca	Library/Media Specialist	Margaret Dolson	Masters of Library and Information Science Rutgers University	Fall 2024

14. Amend Clinical Practice Internship

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following clinical practice internship for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Name	School/Subject	Mentor	Program	Effective
a	Lodato, Claire	BES: P-3 & TOSD	L Jastrabek (Fall) J Bohr (Spring) C Arce (Spring)	Centenary University Education Clinical Internship	2024 - 2025 School Year

15. Rescind Summer Curriculum*

RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the following teachers for the 2024 summer curriculum projects:

	Writer	Course	Project	Days
a	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language K	Standards Revision	.25
b	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 1	Standards Revision	.25
c	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 2	Standards Revision	.25
d	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 3	Standards Revision	.25
e	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 4	Standards Revision	.25
f	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 5	Standards Revision	.33
g	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 6	Standards Revision	1
h	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 7	Standards Revision	1
i	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 8	Standards Revision	1
j	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 4A	Standards Revision	1
k	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Modern World Language 4H	Standards Revision	1
l	Falzarano, Jeff	BHS English II H	Course Revision new ELA Standards	3

16. Approve Summer Curriculum*

RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teachers and days for the 2024 summer curriculum projects in order to update documents to meet New Jersey Standards and Course Requirements. As per SHEA contract, 1 day is defined as 5 hours of work at \$40/hour:

	Writer	Course	Project	Days
a	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language K	Standards Revision	.25
b	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 1	Standards Revision	.25
c	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 2	Standards Revision	.25
d	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 3	Standards Revision	.25
e	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 4	Standards Revision	.25
f	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 5	Standards Revision	.33
g	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 6	Standards Revision	1
h	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 7	Standards Revision	1
i	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 8	Standards Revision	1
j	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 4A	Standards Revision	1
k	Ciocco, Jared	Modern World Language 4H	Standards Revision	1
l	Venezio, Maria	BHS English II H	Course Revision new ELA Standards	3

17. Rescind Co-Curricular & Athletic*

RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the

Superintendent, rescind the following co-curricular and athletic positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Stipend
a	Pasqua, Jaclyn	BHS	Class Advisor: Freshman	\$2,998.60
b	Gajewski, Brittany	BHS	Volleyball: Women JV	\$5,583.60

18. Approve Co-Curricular & Athletic*

RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following co-curricular position for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Stipend
a	Ciocco, Jared	BHS	Class Advisor: Freshman	\$2,998.60

19. Approve Mentors

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following mentors for the 2024-2025 school year Provisional Teacher Program:

	Name	School/Subject	Certificate	Mentor	Rate of Pay
a	Cronin, Sara	BES/Special Ed	CE	Michele Clark	\$1,000.00
b	Filieri, Michael	BMS/PE	CE	Paterno, Amy	\$1,000.00
c	Lourenco, Emma	BES/Elem Teacher	CEAS	Laurie Heppes	\$550.00

20. Approve Mentors*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following mentors for the 2024-2025 school year Provisional Teacher Program:

	Name	School/Subject	Certificate	Mentor	Rate of Pay
a	Wierzbicki, Kyle	BHS/Special Ed	CEAS	Ashely Teets	\$550.00

21. Approve Overloads*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following overloads for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Type of Support	Teacher	Term	Periods/week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Geometry A	Acuna, Heiner	MKP1	5	\$70,240	\$2,927.25
b	Geometry A	Anderson, Richard	MKP1	5	\$84,985	\$3,541.75
c	Algebra 2 A	Boyce, Nicole	MKP1	5	\$73,540	\$3,064.78
d	Math Concepts	Levine, Scott	MKP1	5	\$65,540	\$2,731.38
e	Geometry A	O'Brien, Kyle	MKP1	2	\$81,310	\$3,388.59

22. Approve Substitutes*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	Cantor, Luisa	Custodial	n/a	8/1/24
b	Andrus, Mary	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24 <i>Pending Clearance</i>
c	Sooy, Kevin	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24
d	Leka, Nicole	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24 <i>Pending Clearance</i>
e	Wang, Junyi	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24 <i>Pending Clearance</i>
f	Sakin, Alyssa	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24
g	Robinson, Stephanie	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/24 <i>Pending Clearance</i>
h	Kimball, Caroline	Secretary/Regular Paraprofessional	n/a	9/1/24 <i>Pending Clearance</i>

XV. POLICY

A. Committee Report and Discussion.

B. Action Items:

1. Second Reading*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the second reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
R5530	Substance Abuse (M)
P0164	Conduct of Board Meeting
P0155	Board Committees
P5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)

XVI. Public Comments

Public comments are welcome at this time on any topic. Please state your name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes. At three minutes you will be interrupted and asked to pause to allow any other members of the public who would like to speak an opportunity to do so. An individual may return to the podium to complete their statement after everyone else has had an opportunity to speak for a total of two times at the podium. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, the Board President or Superintendent may address the comment. In accordance with New Jersey Statute, the Board will not discuss matters regarding specific personnel. A reminder for all parties in attendance to remain respectful and that there should be no interaction between the speaker and the audience. No members of the audience should interfere with or interrupt a speaker's comments. Thank you in advance for your input.

XVII. Supplementary Matter

The views and opinions that are/may be expressed by individual members of the Somerset Hills Board of Education during Supplementary Matters are solely those of the individual Board members, and do not reflect the views, opinions, policies, regulations and/or positions of the Somerset Hills Board of Education and/or any other individual members of the Board.

XVIII. Adjournment

***Note: The areas of permitted voting for the Bedminster district representative of the Board of Education are: (a) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district; (b) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils; (c) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; (d) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district; (e) Any matter directly involving the sending district pupils or programs and services utilized by those pupils; (f) Approval of the annual receiving district budget; (g) Any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by sending district pupils; (h) Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district pupils; and (i) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education including, but not limited to, the selection of the board president or vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of education.**

(cf: P.L.1996, c.103, s.1)