

**The Somerset Hills School District  
 Regular Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2024  
 Executive Session - 6:30 P.M.  
 Public Input & Action - 7:30 P.M.  
 Bernards High School - Community Room**

**Call to Order & Welcome**

Mrs. Frenda called the meeting to order 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Mr. Baker  
Ms. Ballard  
Ms. Cooper  
Mrs. deGrandpré  
Mrs. Frenda

Ms. Gils  
Ms. Nathans  
Mrs. Santoror  
Mrs. Wry

Absent:

Mr. Joyce

Also Present:

Dr. Brian Brotschul  
Dr. Coleen Butler  
Mrs. Jinnee DeMarco  
Mr. Adam Weiss, Esq.

**Executive Session**

Ms. Cooper moved the following at 6:33 p.m., Mrs. Wry seconded.

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.

The Board returned to Public Session 7:30 p.m

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Report of the Superintendent**

1. Student Representatives’ Report - BMS representatives Abby Renz and Luke Sachsel and BHS representatives Gabrielle DeNicola and Madison Ferruggia gave their report.
2. Ayla Johnson, NJSIAA North II Group II Sectional Champion - pole vault

|  |
|--|
| A Resolution honoring <b>Ayla Johnson</b> for winning the NJSIAA,<br>North II, Group II, Winter Track, Sectional Championship. |
|--|

|  |
|--|
| WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and |
|--|

commendation to those who perform at the highest athletic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **Ayla Johnson** is part of the Bernards High School Winter Track Team and has distinguished herself as a true champion of whom we can all be proud;

WHEREAS, **Ayla Johnson** was named Pole Vault Sectional Champion with an achievement of an 8 foot jump.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Ayla Johnson** for her strong athletic accomplishments, talent, and skill, and for the honor of being crowned Sectional Champion by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Administration.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Ayla Johnson**. The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 13th day of March 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Frenda  
Board of Education President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

3. John Richardson, NJSIAA North II Group II Sectional Champion - 1,600 and 800 meter run

A Resolution honoring **John Richardson** for winning the NJSIAA, North II, Group II, Winter Track, Sectional Championship.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform at the highest athletic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **John Richardson** is part of the Bernards High School Winter Track Team and has distinguished himself as a true champion of whom we can all be proud;

WHEREAS, **John Richardson** was named Sectional Champion for his 1600 meter run with a time of 4:24 minutes and 800 meter run with a time of 2:02 minutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of

Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **John Richardson** for his strong athletic accomplishments, talent, and skill, and for the honor of being crowned Sectional Champion by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Administration.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **John Richardson**. The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 13th day of March 2024.

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Samantha Frenda  
Board of Education President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

4. Trevor Sardis, NJSIAA North II Group II Sectional Champion - high jump

A Resolution honoring **Trevor Sardis** for winning the NJSIAA, North II, Group II, Winter Track, Sectional Championship.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform at the highest athletic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **Trevor Sardis** is part of the Bernards High School Winter Track Team and has distinguished himself as a true champion of whom we can all be proud;

WHEREAS, **Trevor Sardis** was named High Jump Sectional Champion with an achievement of a 5' 10" jump.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Trevor Sardis** for his strong athletic accomplishments, talent, and skill, and for the honor of being crowned Sectional Champion by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Administration.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Trevor Sardis**. The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 13th day of March 2024.

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Samantha Frenda  
Board of Education President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

5. Recognition of Winter Track, NJSIAA North II Group II State Sectional Championship
  - a. Alyssa Samson, Head Coach
  - b. Matt Pfingst, Assistant Coach
  - c. Eileen Shemon, Assistant Coach

A Resolution honoring (**Coach**) for excellence  
to the Somerset Hills School District student-athletes,  
resulting in the Boys Winter Track Team winning the NJSIAA,  
North II, Group II, Sectional Championship.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education recognizes that, as the world of coaching student-athletes continues to evolve, it requires hundreds of hours to make deep and broad advancements, and thus gives special commendation to those who perform coaching roles within the District;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education recognizes that student engagement is a critical outcome of the high school experience, and thus gives special commendation to coaches who consistently lead, guide, and inspire their athletes;

WHEREAS, (**Coach**) is part of an athletic leadership team, whose shared goal is to afford every student-athlete the opportunity to learn and work in highly competitive settings.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that:  
The members of the Board of Education hereby commend (**Coach**) for  
leading the Boys Winter Track Team to victory at the NJSIAA,  
North II, Group II, Sectional Championship.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so  
in honor of the achievements earned by (**Coach**).

The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution  
reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills  
Board of Education on this 13th day of March 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Frenda  
Board of Education President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

- d. Zachary Barral
- e. Julian Bonk
- f. Preston Chen
- g. Benjamin Connell
- h. Dean Connell
- i. Milo Consolla-Kutsuna
- j. Carson Crain
- k. Sean Cross
- l. Samuel Deutsch
- m. Michael Dooley

- n. Rhys Donahue
- o. Ari Dori
- p. Jacob Dusebout
- q. Maxwell Friedman
- r. Hudson George
- s. Sean Griffin
- t. Matthew Halliez
- u. Cody King
- v. Aidan Klaiss
- w. Daniel Nathans
- x. Jaden Phillips
- y. Daniel Richardson
- z. John Tober
- aa. Brody Watt

A Resolution honoring (**Boys Track Athlete**) for winning the NJSIAA, North II, Group II, Winter Track, Sectional Championship.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform at the highest athletic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, (**Boys Track Athlete**) is part of the Bernards High School Winter Track Team and has distinguished himself as a true champion of whom we can all be proud.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend (**Boys Track Athlete**) for his strong athletic accomplishments, talent, and skill, and for the honor of being crowned Sectional Champion by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Administration.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by (**Boys Track Athlete**). The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 13th day of March 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Frenda  
Board of Education President

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Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

6. Board Recognition - Retiree
  - a. WHEREAS, Karen Silva has been employed from September 1992 through June 2024 as Teacher; and  
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties; and  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Karen Silva's retirement effective July 1, 2024, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
7. Dr. Brotschul's Update and FY25 Tentative Budget Information

### **Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items**

1. Barbara Pitney - resident - regarding the Fairleigh Dickinson program for seniors.  
Mrs. Santoro moved to close public comments, Ms. Nathans seconded.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES\***

Mrs. Wry moved item #1, Mrs. Santoro seconded.

Item #1 - minutes was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

1. Approval of Minutes\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for February 21, 2024.

### **FINANCE**

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on March 6, 2024.
- B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-16, Ms. Cooper seconded.

Item #1-10,12-16, were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Item #11 was approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification\*

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

| <b>FUND</b>                | <b>Board Secretary<br/>Cash Balance (1)</b> | <b>Treasurer Cash<br/>Balance (2)</b> |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| (10) General Fund          | \$10,755,034.48                             | \$10,755,034.48                       |
| (20) Special Revenue Fund  | (\$270,153.34)                              | (\$270,153.34)                        |
| (30) Capital Projects Fund | \$114,058.25                                | \$114,058.25                          |
| (40)Debt Service Fund      | \$1,343,840.52                              | \$1,343,840.52                        |
| Total Government Funds     | \$11,942,779.91                             | \$11,942,779.91                       |

(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. Approve 2023-2024 Budget Transfers\*

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

3. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached February 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:

| <b>FUND</b>                |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (10) General Fund          | \$1,900,672.40        |
| (20) Special Revenue Fund  | \$4,999.63            |
| (30) Capital Projects Fund | –                     |
| (40) Debt Service Fund     | –                     |
| (60) Cafeteria Fund        | –                     |
| (90) Agency Fund           | \$741,714.46          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$2,647,386.49</b> |

4. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached March 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:

| <b>FUND</b>                |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| (10) General Fund          | \$264,321.62        |
| (20) Special Revenue Fund  | \$17,936.15         |
| (30) Capital Projects Fund | –                   |
| (40) Debt Service Fund     | –                   |
| (60) Cafeteria Fund        | \$498.10            |
| (90) Agency Fund           | –                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$282,755.87</b> |

5. Approve Tentative 2024-2025 Budget\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the 2024-2025 school year and that the Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline and to make all necessary adjustments to the budget to comply with State regulations.

| <b>2024-2025</b>   | <b>General Fund</b> | <b>Special Revenues</b> | <b>Debt Service</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Total Expenditures | \$46,644,742        | \$544,365               | \$2,966,870         | \$50,155,977 |

|                          |              |           |             |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Less Anticipated Revenue | \$11,160,432 | \$544,365 | \$286,938   | \$11,991,735 |
| Taxes to be Raised       | \$35,484,310 | \$0       | \$2,679,932 | \$38,164,242 |

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, approves the following capital project and the withdrawal of \$1,751,500 from the Capital Reserve account to provide funding for the following projects/equipment for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Bernards High School Track Replacement
- Bernards High School PAC Stage Lighting Upgrade
- Bernards High School Lower Field Upgrade
- Bedwell Elementary Cell Booster
- Scag Windstorm Stand on Leaf Blower
- Auto Scrubber - Custodial
- Burnisher - Custodial

Total costs for this project are \$1,751,500, which represent expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. And to advertise said tentative budget in the Bernardsville News or Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$174,209. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to support employee salaries and benefits costs.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 24, 2024 at 7:30 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 School Year.

6. Approve Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2024-2025\*

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:1.1 et. seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:1.1 et. seq. , but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of district Travel, and Reimbursement Forms; now

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure

of \$75,000 with \$11,308.72 expended as of March 1, 2024 for all staff and board member for the 2023-2024 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

7. Approve 2023-2024 Non-Public Technology Aid\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of funds for Non-Public Technology Aid for the following school:

|   | <b>Non-Public School</b> | <b>Description</b>        | <b>Amount</b> |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| a | Far Hills Country Day    | HP Chromebook X360 1164EE | \$7,298.85    |
| b | Far Hills Country Day    | HP Warranty               | \$2,176.07    |
| c | Far Hills Country Day    | Chromebook Upgrades       | \$845.00      |
| d | Far Hills Country Day    | Max Case for Chromebooks  | \$658.92      |
| e | Far Hills Country Day    | USB Flash Drive           | \$6.62        |

8. Approve 2023-2024 Non-Public Security Aid\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of funds for Non-Public Security Aid for the following school:

|   | <b>Non-Public School</b> | <b>Description</b>                 | <b>Amount</b> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| a | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada Video Intercom             | \$1,385.00    |
| b | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada Door Readers               | \$590.00      |
| c | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada CH52-E Security Camera     | \$9,165.00    |
| d | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada CM42 Mini Dome Camera      | \$1,130.00    |
| e | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada Security Cloud License     | \$1,455.00    |
| f | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada Command Cloud License      | \$330.00      |
| g | Far Hills Country Day    | Verkada Intercom License           | \$205.00      |
| h | Far Hills Country Day    | Cisco Meraki MX250 Firewall        | \$14,433.36   |
| i | Far Hills Country Day    | Cisco Meraki Advanced Security Lic | \$11,400.00   |

9. Approve Special Education Schools\*

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

|  | <u>Student ID</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|

|   |            |                          |                |                            |
|---|------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| a | 1403500697 | Shepard Prep High School | Morristown, NJ | \$24,628.74<br>(pro-rated) |
|---|------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|

10. Approve Disposal of Obsolete Music Equipment\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the disposal of obsolete music equipment for the 2023 - 2024 school year; list maintained in the Board of Education Office.

11. Approve Inspired Instruction, LLC

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve site licenses and professional development from Inspired Instruction, LLC for grades 5-8 for Bernardsville Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year, in the amount of \$3,891.00.

12. Approve Submit and Accept Title Grants Carryover\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission and acceptance of an amendment to add carryover funds to the existing ESEA grant that has been approved for the 2023-2024 school year:

| <b>Title Grant</b> | <b>Carryover Funding/Amendment</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Title IIA          | \$151                              |
| Title IV Part A    | \$2,349                            |

13. Approve Special Law Enforcement Officers Services\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the contract with the Bernardsville Police Department for Special Law Enforcement Officer Services in the amount of \$143,500 for the time period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

14. Approve Qualtrics Agreement\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the K-12 Enterprise Management software license from Qualtrics for the 2023-2024 school year, in the amount of \$3,439.00.

15. Approve Tri-Op Bernards High School Hockey\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Bernards Ice Hockey Team Tri-Op comprised of students from the Somerset Hills School District, Somerville Public School, and Middlesex Borough School District for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

16. Approve Send/Receive Educational Services Agreement\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Send/Receive Educational Services Agreement with Bedminster Township Board of Education in effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029.

**IX. FACILITIES & OPERATIONS**

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The committee met on March 6, 2024.  
 B. Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved items #1-4, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Item #2,4 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Item #1,3 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on February 21, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

| <u>School</u> | <u>Report #</u> | <u>Outcomes</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| BMS           | 18              | Unfounded       |
| BMS           | 19              | Founded         |
| BMS           | 21              | Unfounded       |
| BMS           | 22              | Unfounded       |

2. HIB Report\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on February 21, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

| <u>School</u> | <u>Report #</u> | <u>Outcome</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| BHS           | 8               | Founded        |
| BHS           | 9               | Unfounded      |

3. Approve change order for Bernardsville Middle School Media Center Renovations

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve a change order for the Bernardsville Middle School Media Center Renovations in the amount of \$8,941.22 as a decrease to the contract allowance amount of \$50,000.00. The new contract allowance including this change order is \$6,409.59.

4. Amend the 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.

**CURRICULUM**

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Cooper gave the report. The committee met on February 29, 2024.  
 B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-7, Ms. Ballard seconded.

Item #2,4-7 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Item #1,3 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

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 2023-2024 school year:

|   | School | Name                   | Workshop/Conference/School Business                               | Date(s)             | Est. Cost |
|---|--------|------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|
| a | BMS    | Andino, Alex           | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| b | BMS    | Calabrese, Eric        | DBQ Project Part 2 - Document Based Question Rubric & Consistency | 3/26/24             | \$0       |
| c | BMS    | Fitzgerald, Marianne   | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| d | BMS    | Garofalo, Lisa         | The Standard Reunification Method Reunification Exercise          | 3/27/24,<br>3/28/24 | \$0       |
| e | BMS    | Gori, Michelle         | Field Trip Chaperone  | 6/10/24             | \$0       |
| f | BMS    | Habermas, Chris        | Legal One: HIB Law Update   | 4/25/24             | \$150     |
| g | BMS    | LaChac, Luke           | DBQ Project Part 2 - Document Based Question Rubric & Consistency | 3/26/24             | \$0       |
| h | BMS    | Petrie, George         | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| i | BMS    | Porter, Shane          | DBQ Project Part 2 - Document Based Question Rubric & Consistency | 3/26/24             | \$0       |
| j | BMS    | Reilly, Kathryn        | Field Trip Chaperone  | 6/10/24             | \$0       |
| k | BMS    | Rounsaville, Julie-Ann | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| l | BMS    | Russo, Dawn            | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| m | BMS    | Wells, Kelly           | DBQ Project Part 2 - Document Based Question Rubric & Consistency | 3/26/24             | \$0       |
| n | BMS    | Wells, Kelly           | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |
| o | BMS    | Wertman, Suzanne       | Field Trip Chaperone  | 5/20/24             | \$0       |

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 2023-2024 school year:

|   | School   | Name               | Workshop/Conference/School Business   | Date(s)             | Est. Cost  |
|---|----------|--------------------|---|---------------------|------------|
| a | District | Brotschul, Brian   | 2024 Triad Conference: Labor & Employment Relations Association/International Labor & Employment Relations Association/Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service | 6/28/24             | \$598.43   |
| b | District | Brotschul, Brian   | Labor and Employment Association of NJ Labor Relations Update: 2024 Update  | 3/4/24              | \$75       |
| c | BHS      | Carmon, David      | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/26/24,<br>4/27/24 | \$118.50   |
| d | BHS      | Corbett, Michael   | The Standard Reunification Method Reunification Exercise  | 3/27/24,<br>3/28/24 | \$0        |
| e | BHS      | Daben, Jose        | Field Trip Chaperone  | 2/27/24             | \$0        |
| f | District | DeMarco, Jinnee    | Labor and Employment Association of NJ Labor Relations Update: 2024 Update  | 3/4/24              | \$75       |
| g | District | DeMarco, Jinnee    | NJ Association of School Business Officials 62nd Annual Conference  | 6/5/24-<br>6/7/24   | \$1,027.89 |
| h | BHS      | Koch, Kevin        | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/16/24             | \$0        |
| i | BHS      | Pietroluongo, Jade | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/8/24              | \$0        |
| j | BHS      | Pietroluongo, Jade | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/26/24             | \$0        |
| k | District | Riccio, Frank      | Efficiency Unleashed: Strategies for Maximizing Supply & Labor Savings for Facilities   | 4/26/24             | \$0        |
| l | District | Riccio, Frank      | Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance Fingerprinting and School Bus Safety Training  | 4/19/24             | \$0        |
| m | BHS      | Snyder, Allison    | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/12/24             | \$0        |
| n | BHS      | Szostak, David     | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/26/24,<br>4/27/24 | \$0        |
| o | BHS      | Volosin, Lauren    | Field Trip Chaperone  | 4/12/24             | \$0        |

### 3. Approve Field Trips

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

|   | School | Trip                                     | # of Students | # of Faculty | # of Chaperones |
|---|--------|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| a | BMS    | The Watershed Institute - Pennington, NJ | 25            | 3            | 0               |

4. Approve Field Trips\*

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

|   | School | Trip   | # of Students | # of Faculty | # of Chaperones |
|---|--------|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| a | BHS    | University of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, PA          | 5             | 2            | 0               |
| b | BHS    | Metropolitan Opera - New York, NY                      | 15            | 1            | 1               |
| c | BHS    | Sri Venkateswara Community Center -<br>Bridgewater, NJ | 8             | 1            | 0               |
| d | BHS    | Garden State Sikh Association -<br>Basking Ridge, NJ   | 8             | 1            | 0               |
| e | BHS    | Branchburg Sports Complex - Branchburg, NJ             | 20            | 2            | 0               |
| f | BHS    | Bedwell Elementary School - Bernardsville, NJ          | 45            | 2            | 0               |
| g | BHS    | STEM Competition - Hillsdale, NJ                       | 6             | 1            | 0               |

5. Approval of Anticipated BHS Summer History Support Program for Summer 2024\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Summer History Support Program for Summer 2024, grades 9-11, to commence on August 5, 2024 and to conclude on August 8, 2024 to be funded with Title III federal grant.

6. Approval of Anticipated BHS Summer Algebra Support Program for Summer 2024\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Summer Algebra Support Program for Summer 2024, grades 9-11, to commence on August 12, 2024 and to conclude on August 23, 2024 to be funded with Title III federal grant.

7. Approval of Anticipated BHS Summer Geometry Support Program for Summer 2024\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Summer Geometry Support Program for Summer 2024, grades 9-11, to commence on August 12, 2024 and to conclude on August 23, 2024 to be funded with Title III federal grant.

**PERSONNEL**

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. deGrandpré gave the report. The committee met on February 29, 2024.
- B. Action Items: Mrs. deGrandpré moved items #1-8, Ms. Nathans seconded.

Item #1,4,5,7,8 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Item #2,3,6 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

1. Accepts Retirement\*

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

|   | Name         | School | Position | Effective |
|---|--------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| a | Silva, Karen | BHS    | Teacher  | 7/1/24    |

2. Accepts Resignation

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

|   | Name              | School | Position                 | Effective |
|---|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------|
| a | Campagna, Valarie | BES    | Regular Paraprofessional | 3/22/24   |

3. Amend Leave of Absence

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

|   | Employee | School | Position | Type of leave   | Dated of Leave/Notes   |
|---|----------|--------|----------|---|--|
| a | 8642     | BES    | Teacher  | Disability Sick<br>FMLA<br>FMLA<br>Parenthood Leave<br>Anticipated Return | 04/29/24 - <del>06/18/24</del> <b>06/17/24</b> (paid; w/benefits)<br><del>06/19/24-06/21/24</del> <b>06/18/24-06/21/24</b> (unpaid; w/benefits)<br>09/01/24-11/16/24 (unpaid; w/benefits)<br>11/17/24-01/24/25 (unpaid; w/o benefits)<br>01/27/25 (first day of 3rd MKP) |

4. Amend Leave of Absence\*

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

|   | Employee | School | Position | Type of leave                                 | Dated of Leave/Notes  |
|---|----------|--------|----------|---|---|
| a | 9139     | BHS    | Teacher  | Disability Sick<br>FMLA<br>Anticipated Return | <del>05/21/24</del> <b>05/22/24</b> - 06/30/24 (paid; w/benefits)<br>09/01/24 - 09/02/24 (paid; w/benefits)<br>09/03/24 - 11/26/24 (unpaid; w/benefits)<br>11/27/24 |

5. Approve Athletic Positions\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following athletic positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

|   | Name          | School | Season | Position                              | Stipend    |
|---|---------------|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| a | Clark, Kelly  | BHS    | Spring | Tennis Men's Assistant 50%            | \$2,791.80 |
| b | Pfingst, Matt | BHS    | Spring | Track & Field Men's/Women's Assistant | \$6,204.00 |

6. Approve Co-Curricular Positions

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following co-curricular positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

|   | Name                    | School | Season                      | Position                                      | Stipend      |
|---|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| a | Rizzuto, Rosemarie      | BMS    | Spring<br>23-24 School Year | After School Math Lab:<br>Funded by ARP Grant | \$61.12/hour |
| b | Fabregas, Kelly         | BMS    | Spring<br>23-24 School Year | After School Math Lab:<br>Funded by ARP Grant | \$61.12/hour |
| c | Haenny, Alexandra       | BMS    | Spring<br>23-24 School Year | After School Math Lab:<br>Funded by ARP Grant | \$61.12/hour |
| d | Fitzgerald,<br>Marianne | BMS    | Spring<br>23-24 School Year | After School Math Lab:<br>Funded by ARP Grant | \$61.12/hour |

7. Approve Substitutes\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

|   | Name                  | Substitute Position      | Certification                                      | Effective |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| a | Urena, Eric           | Maintenance              | n/a  | 3/1/24    |
| b | Ritchie, Scott        | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate                      | 3/14/24   |
| c | Adams, Jennifer       | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate                      | 3/14/24   |
| d | Wagner, Aleksandra    | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate<br>Pending clearance | 3/14/24   |
| e | Grzeczkwicz,<br>Renee | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate<br>Pending clearance | 3/14/24   |

8. Approve Administrative Leave with Pay\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following administrative leaves with pay pending the outcome of an investigation:

|   | Employee | Effective        |
|---|----------|------------------|
| a | 9708     | 3/1/24           |
| b | 9862     | 2/23/24 - 3/4/24 |

**POLICY**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. deGrandpré gave the report. The committee met on February 29, 2024.

B. Action Items: Mrs. deGrandpré moved items #1, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

1. First Reading\*

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

| <b>Policy/Regulation #</b> | <b>Title</b>   |
|----------------------------|--|
| P1140                      | Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action (M)                           |
| P1523                      | Comprehensive Equity Plan (M)  |
| P1530                      | Equal Employment Opportunities (M)   |
| R1530                      | Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure (M)                         |
| P1550                      | Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices (M)                           |
| R2200                      | Curriculum Content (M)   |
| P2260                      | Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M)                                 |
| R2260                      | Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure (M)             |
| P2411                      | Guidance Counseling (M)  |
| P2423 & R2423              | Bilingual Education (M)  |
| P2431.4 & R2431.4          | Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M) |
| P3211                      | Code of Ethics   |
| R5440                      | Honoring Student Achievement   |
| P5570                      | Sportsmanship  |
| P5750                      | Equitable Educational Opportunity (M)  |
| P5755                      | Equity in Educational Programs and Services (M) - ABOLISHED                  |
| P5841                      | Secret Societies   |
| P5842                      | Equal Access of Student Organizations  |
| P7610 & R7610              | Vandalism  |
| P9323                      | Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition                           |

### **Public Comments**

1. James Emery - resident, parent - asked Board President to diffuse the situation regarding the the incident during the November 2023 board election.
2. Kelly Hunt - resident, parent - thanked the board for their service, and appreciated the budget highlights and all that Bedwell has to offer students.
3. Chris Caponigro - resident, parent - thanked the administration and board for supporting wrestling and all the additional activities and supplemental curricula.

4. Bob Weible - resident, parent - regarding streaming board meeting and policy 2200.
5. Anne Ferrante - resident, parent - regarding the contentious atmosphere of the recent board meetings.
6. Janie Adee - resident - thanked the board for their work and hopes that the community will come together to focus on what is important.
7. Marianne Rivello - resident, parent - believes that BOE's goal is to serve every student. Recent board meetings have been the mission of the board derailed, disrupted, and devalued.
8. Barbara Pitney - resident - wishes "I'm sorry" were part of everyone's vocabulary.
9. Kathleen Shepard - resident - have a procedure to address the board issues.
10. Nicholas DeLuca - resident, parent - asked Mrs. Frenda to apologize to Holly and resign.
11. Alicen Librera - resident, parent - a woman should not have to apologize for her husband and asked Sam not to resign.
12. Holly Clark-Emery - resident, parent - is asking the board and the community not to let this incident regarding the November 2023 board election campaign be a future distraction to the district's primary mission.
13. James Emery - resident, parent - we appreciate the board and appreciate the comments that state we should come together.

Mrs. Wry moved to close public comments, Mrs. deGrandpré seconded.

#### **Supplementary Matter**

1. Mrs. Wry - would like to apologize for addressing a member of the public from the board dias.
2. Mrs. deGrandpré - thanked the board for supporting the band's trip to Orlando to perform.
3. Ms. Gils - the board attended a budget retreat last Saturday. The administrators deserve credit for budget preparation.
4. Ms. Cooper - the board does take part in the budget creation through committee meetings.
5. Mrs. Santoro - grateful for the STEM competition invitation. Somerset County's unsung hero award on March 18th.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Mrs. deGrandpré seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jinnee DeMarco  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**\*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**

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**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)**