

**The Somerset Hills School District  
 Regular Meeting Minutes - November 20, 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:	Absent:	Also Present:
Mr. Baker	Mr. Joyce	Dr. Brian Brotschul
Ms. Ballard		Dr. Coleen Butler
Ms. Cooper		Mrs. Jinnee DeMarco
Mrs. deGrandpré		
Mrs. Frenda		
Ms. Gils (arrived 6:35 pm)		
Ms. Nathans		
Mrs. Santoro		
Mrs. Wry		

**Board Norms**

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

- 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.

## District Goals

### **2024-2025 District Goals**

- **Academic**
  - 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**
  - To prioritize planning for STEM/Robotics/CTE curriculum, develop a prioritized long-range facility plan and cost estimates by November 2024.
- **Community Integration**
  - 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**
  - 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.

## Executive Session

Mr. Baker moved the following at 6:32 p.m., Ms. Ballard 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.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Representatives' Report - BMS representatives Sianna Ecklund and Sam Emery gave their reports. BHS representative Nora Jurczak gave her report.
2. Recognition of BMS Spelling Bee Champion- Ameya Ram

A Resolution honoring **Ameya Ram** for academic excellence as demonstrated by her Second Consecutive Spelling Bee Victory;

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

WHEREAS, **Ameya Ram** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Ameya Ram** for her dedication to studying and preparing for the Spelling Bee and for her overall stellar performance and good sportsmanship during the 2024 Bernardsville Spelling Bee.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Ameya Ram**.  
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 20th day of November 2024.

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

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

3. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Commended Students:
  - a. Lila Beckerman
  - b. Andee Costabile
  - c. Syl D'Amato

- d. Ella Damratoski
- e. Emma Grau
- f. Ayla Johnson
- g. Aidan Kinsey
- h. Kilian Schlager
- i. Gabriel Scotton
- j. Garrett Senior
- k. Maria Stephani

A Resolution honoring **BHS student** for academic excellence from the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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

WHEREAS, **BHS student** is part of Bernards High School and serves as an inspiration to his/her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **BHS student** for his/her strong academic accomplishments and recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Commended Student/Semifinalist.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **BHS student**.  
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 20th day of November 2024.

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

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

4. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist:  
a. Pradnesh Thoppay

A Resolution honoring **BHS student** for academic excellence from the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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

WHEREAS, **BHS student** is part of Bernards High School and serves as an inspiration to his/her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **BHS student** for his/her strong academic accomplishments and recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Commended Student/Semifinalist.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **BHS student**.  
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 20th day of November 2024.

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

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

5. Recognition of College Board National Recognition Program Awardees:

- a. Franco Escobar-Castro - National Hispanic Recognition Award
- b. Sophia Leal Dos Santos - National Hispanic Recognition Award

A Resolution honoring **BHS student** for academic excellence from the College Board National Recognition Program.

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

WHEREAS, **BHS student** is part of Bernards High School and serves as an inspiration to his/her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **BHS student** for his/her strong academic accomplishments

and recognition by the College Board in earning the  
National Hispanic Recognition Award.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so  
in honor of the achievements earned by **BHS student**.  
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 20th day of November 2024.

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

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

#### 6. Board Recognition - Retiree

a. WHEREAS, Phyllis DeStefano has been employed from September 1982 through June 2025 as an Elementary School 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 Phyllis DeStefano's retirement effective July 1, 2025, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

#### 7. Dr. Brotschul's Update

#### Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

None

Seeing no one from the public, Ms. Nathans moved to close public comments, Ms. Cooper seconded.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES\*

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

Item #1 - was approved by a 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 October 16, 2024, and Special Meeting and Executive meeting minutes for November 12, 2024.

#### FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The committee met on November 5, 2024.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved items #1-6, Ms. Nathans seconded.

Items #2,4-6 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Items #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 October 16, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

<u>School</u>	<u>Report #</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
BES	2	Unfounded
BES	3	Unfounded
BES	4	Unfounded
BMS	1	Founded
BMS	2	Unfounded
BMS	3	Unfounded
BMS	4	Unfounded

2. HIB Report\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on October 16, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

<u>School</u>	<u>Report #</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
BHS	4	Unfounded
BHS	5	Founded

3. Bus Evacuation Drills

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the Bus Evacuation Drill for the 2024-2025 School Year. Reports for drills are on file in the Business Office:

	<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>
a	Bedwell Elementary School	10/14/24
b	Bernardsville Middle School	10/22/24

4. Submission of Form M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan\*

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities are listed in the enclosed document for the various school facilities of the Somerville Board of Education are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their systems warranties valid,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the enclosed Form M-1 and

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Somerset Hills Board of Education in compliance with the Department of Education requirements.

5. Approve International Exchange Student\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the international exchange student from Italy to attend Bernards High School for the dates determined by the Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year.

6. Approve HIB Determination\*

RESOLVED, that the Board affirm the Superintendent's decision on HIB Case BHS #5 following a Board hearing of an appeal on behalf of the student, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(e).

C. Facilities & Operations Old Business / New Business: n/a

**FINANCE**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on November 5, 2024.

B. Finance Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-18, Mrs. deGrandpré seconded.

Items #1-13,15-18 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Items #14 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 October 2024 showing the following balances:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)</b>	<b>Treasurer Cash Balance (2)</b>
(10) General Fund	\$11,892,193.23	\$11,892,193.23
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$12,193.05	\$12,193.05
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$301,777.39	\$301,777.39
Total Government Funds	\$12,320,221.92	\$12,320,221.92

(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 September 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	\$1,869,966.83
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$4,078.26
(30) Capital Projects Fund	–
(40) Debt Service Fund	–
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$243.40
(90) Agency Fund	\$760,883.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,635,172.27</b>

3. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached October 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	\$4,324,966.74
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$168,768.29
(30) Capital Projects Fund	–
(40) Debt Service Fund	–
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$68,936.36
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,185,606.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,748,278.07</b>

4. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached November 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	\$2,263,368.32
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$57,740.25
(30) Capital Projects Fund	–
(40) Debt Service Fund	–
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$71,559.10
(90) Agency Fund	\$425,350.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,818,018.24</b>

5. Approve 2024-2025 Budget Transfers\*

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

6. Approve Special Education Schools\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following schools for the 2024-2025 school year and extended school year.

<b>Student ID#</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>

a	7191128366	Shepard School - Revised Contract	Kinnelon, NJ	\$88,857.16 (Prorated)
b	9284203066	Long Hill Township School District	Gillette, NJ	\$65,647.82
c	6650648709	Long Hill Township School District	Gillette, NJ	\$105,368.31
d	6650648709	Long Hill Township School District - ESY	Gillette, NJ	\$8,219.36

7. Approve Special Education Providers\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following providers for the 2024-2025 school year and extended school year.

	Provider	Services	Location	Cost	Not to Exceed Amount
a	WE Care Autism	ABA Services	Cranford, NJ	BCBA: \$150/hour RBT: \$120/hour	\$50,000
b	White Glove Community Care, Inc	Nursing Services	Brick, NJ	RN School Nurse: \$85/hr RN 1:1 \$68/hr LPN 1:1 \$58/hr	\$100,000

8. Approve 2024-2025 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:

	Non-Public School	Description	Amount
a	School of Saint Elizabeth	Logitech keyboard & mouse set, Hovercam Camera, Thinkvision monitor, Lenovo ThinkPad	\$987.93

9. Approve 2024-2025 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:

	Non-Public School	Description	Amount
a	Far Hills Country Day School	Verkada VX Subscription license, Server, Keypad, Video Intercom panoramic camera, Security Cloud, Rain Hood, surface mount	\$9,209.62

10. 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# 8924339740.

11. Approve SportCare Agreement\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve SportCare agreement to provide services for Bernards High School lower field enhancements not to exceed \$110,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

12. Approve the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the cancellation of the following outstanding checks:

General Fund Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount	General Fund Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount
1/27/22	72204	\$1,000.00	7/26/22	73518	\$69.99
2/25/22	72534	\$125.98	8/25/22	73676	\$22.50
3/30/22	72654	\$78.00	8/25/22	73698	\$21.98
5/26/22	72885	\$500.00	11/30/22	74174	\$129.00
5/26/22	72891	\$500.00			

Payroll Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount
1/30/2020	607647	\$43.58

Food Service Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount
6/30/19	1303	\$63.35
6/30/19	J/E	\$130.78
6/5/20	1375	\$10.85
3/4/22	1440	\$776.45

13. 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	Item	School	Amount/Value
a	BHS PAC Parents	Donation for microphones for the PAC	BHS	\$2,000
b	Community in Crisis	Donation for CIC Club Advisor Stipend	BHS	\$2,000

14. 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	Item	School	Amount/Value
a	Somerset Hills Garden Club	Donation for Butterfly Garden Revival	Bedwell	\$736

15. Approve Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) Wellness Grant\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the application and accepts the funds from the SHIF Wellness Grant to provide the district with a Wellness Program managed by Advanta for \$12,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

16. Approve Avanta Service Agreement\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the service agreement with Advanta to provide a Wellness Program to the district funded by the Schools Health Insurance Fund Wellness Grant for the 2024-2025 school year.

17. Approve 2025-2026 Budget Development Schedule\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached 2025-2026 Budget Development Schedule.

18. Approve School Office Solutions, LLC Agreement\*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the service agreement with School Office Solutions, LLC to provide Business Office consulting services for the 2024-2025 school year not to exceed \$50,000.

C. Finance Old Business / New Business: n/a

**CURRICULUM**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Cooper gave the report. The committee met on November 5, 2024.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved item #1-4, Mrs. deGranspré seconded.

Items #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

Items #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 2024-2025 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BMS	Adkins, Michele	Morris-Union Jointure Commission: Running Effective Intervention & Referral Services/NJ Tiered System of Supports Meetings	2/10/25	\$90
b	BMS	Boudreau, Derek	Literacy with Multilingual Learners: Strategies for Effective Literacy Instruction for K-12 Multilingual Learners	3/27/25	\$202.28

c	BES	Browe, Michelle	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0
d	BES	Collins, Jessica	Field Trip Chaperone	5/21/25	\$0
e	BES	Davis, Emma	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0
f	BES	DeRoberts, Theresa	Helping English Learners Exit Your ELL Program: Impactful Strategies to Accelerate Student Success (Grades K-8)	12/16/24	\$295
g	BMS	Fabregas, Kelly	Conquer Mathematics: Geometry	12/11/24	\$190
h	BES	Falzarano, Sarah	Field Trip Chaperone	5/21/25	\$0
i	BMS	Filieri, Michael	Rutgers Wrestling Clinic for Coaches	11/1/24	\$113.63
j	BMS	Fitzgerald, Marianne	Conquer Mathematics: Unpacking SLS Grade 6 Geometry	12/11/24	\$223.50
k	BES	Gelsinger, Allison	Field Trip Chaperone	5/21/25	\$0
l	BES	Jablonski, Holly	Understanding Theories of Language Acquisition and Learning to Plan with Deliberate Language Goals for Multilingual Learners	11/26/24, 1/16/25, 3/4/25	\$500 (part of TC contract)
m	BES	Jablonski, Holly	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0
n	BES	Jacobs, Jen	Field Trip Chaperone	5/5/25	\$0
o	BES	Johnson, Kim	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0
p	BMS	Jurgens, Allyssa	2025 NJ Music Educators Association State Conference	2/20/25, 2/21/25	\$200
q	BES	Landers, Kari	Field Trip Chaperone	5/5/25	\$0
r	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	Garden State Baseball Coaches Clinic	12/6/24	\$125
s	BMS	Petrie, George	Garden State Baseball Coaches Clinic	12/5/24, 12/6/24	\$125
t	BES	Rice, Taylor	Field Trip Chaperone	5/5/25	\$0
u	BMS	Richter, Michael	Community in Crisis Coalition Meeting	10/24/24	\$0
v	BES	Rivers, Denise	Field Trip Chaperone	5/5/25	\$0
w	BES	Rokosky, Debbie	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0

x	BES	Sheehan, Carolyn	Field Trip Chaperone	5/21/25	\$0
y	BMS	Walker, Carrie	Improving Learning Outcomes for All Students in Your Science Classroom	1/17/25	\$295
z	BES	Windisch, Mary Clare	Field Trip Chaperone	5/16/25	\$0
aa	BES	Ziolkowski, Maureen	Field Trip Chaperone	5/21/25	\$0
bb	BMS	Mahlik, Philip	Field Trip Chaperone	12/11/24	\$0
cc	BMS	Oliveira, Ashley	Field Trip Chaperone	12/11/24	\$0
dd	BMS	Kupper, Patricia	Field Trip Chaperone	12/11/24	\$0
ee	BMS	Jurgens, Alyssa	Field Trip Chaperone	12/11/24	\$0
ff	BMS	Gilly, Zoltan	Field Trip Chaperone	12/11/24	\$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 2024-2025 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	District	Brotschul, Brian	Special Education Directors' Toolkit	11/15/24	\$149
b	District	Brotschul, Brian	TCNJ Education Recruitment Program/Fair	3/5/25	\$0
c	BHS	Chedid, Christine	Raritan Valley Community College - Engaging Students in Practices Using Performance Tasks; and Using Explanation and Argument to Assess Student Learning	12/11/24, 2/26/25	\$300
d	BHS	Corbett, Michael	Anti-Bullying Specialist Certification Virtual Training	12/4/24, 12/18/24	\$0
e	BHS	Dolson, Margaret	Field Trip Chaperone	11/15/24	\$0
f	BHS	Falzarano, Jeffrey	Teaching Digital Reading and Writing in the Age of AI	2/6/25	\$180
g	BHS	Falzarano, Jeffrey	Garden State Baseball Coaches Clinic	12/5/24, 12/6/24	\$258.33
h	BHS	Johnson, Alec	NJ Institute of Technology Counselor Information Session	12/6/24	\$0
i	BHS	Lavalle, Alexa	Raritan Valley Community College Transition to College Event	3/11/25	\$13.91

j	District	Mehan, Kathy	TCNJ Education Recruitment Program/Fair	3/5/25	\$419.10
k	BHS	Neigel, Scott	Anti-Bullying Specialist Certification Virtual Training	12/10/24, 12/19/24	\$0
l	District	Riccio, Frank	NJ Public Employees Occupational Safety & Health/NJ Association of Designated Persons 2024-2025 Indoor Air Quality Training	11/22/24	\$0
m	District	Riccio, Frank	School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey	12/4/24	\$9.96
n	BHS	Sosely, Anna	Montclair State University Counselor Workshop	12/6/24	\$0
o	BHS	Stolarz, Lizabeth	The New School - School of Visual Arts and Parsons Campus Tour	12/4/24	\$34.78
p	BHS	Stolarz, Lizabeth	Montclair State University Counselor Workshop	12/6/24	\$19.74
q	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone	12/14/24	\$0
r	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone	12/8/24	\$0
s	BHS	Thatcher, Stephanie	Best, Most Powerful Strategies for Teaching World Languages	12/6/24	\$295
t	BHS	Walker, Jaime	Legal One - HIB Law Update	11/21/24	\$0

### 3. Approve Field Trips

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

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BES	Clinton Red Mill Museum - Clinton, NJ	68	7	12
b	BMS	Calvary Temple and Dorney Park - Allentown, PA	260	6	33
c	BES	Morristown Performing Arts Center - Morristown, NJ	26	6	0
d	BMS	Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ	52	2	0
e	BES	Fairview Farm at Raritan Headwaters - Bedminster, NJ	87	7	10
f	BMS	Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ	219	6	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	BHS Football Playoff Away Games - Locations TBD	18	3	0
b	BHS	Fairview Farms - Bedminster, NJ	37	3	0
c	BHS	DNA Learning Center - Wayne, NJ	46	4	0
d	BHS	Shoprite - Bernardsville, NJ	3	3	0
e	BHS	Five Below/Panera - Raritan, NJ	3	2	0
f	BHS	Bernardsville Center - Bernardsville, NJ	18	3	0
g	BHS	Liberty Park - Peapack-Gladstone, NJ	15	1	0

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business:

- Ms. Gils would like to re-visit the Opt Out v. Opt-In option for the curriculum.
- Dr. Brotschul will bring it up in next Committee meeting for discussion.

**PERSONNEL**

A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. deGranpré gave the report. The committee met on November 4, 2024.

B. Action Items: Mrs. deGranpré moved items #1-16, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Items #2,5,6,8,9,11,12 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Ballard, Cooper, deGrandpré, Gils, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Frenda. Absent: Joyce

Items #1,3,4,7,10 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:

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	DeStefano, Phyllis	BES	Teacher TCH.ES.ELEM.KD.02	7/1/25

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	DeMarco, Jinnee	District	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary ADM.DIST.BADM.NA.01	12/15/24

3. Accepts Resignation

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

	<b>Employee</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective</b>
a	Kaur-Sarullo, Dally	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional PARA.DIST.RR.NA.02	11/20/24

4. Approve Athletic and Co-Curricular Positions

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

	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
a	Brown, Lauren	BMS	Winter	Basketball Girls: Assistant	\$3,220.91
b	Nadolny, Tyler	BMS	Winter	Wrestling: Assistant	\$3,220.91
c	Petrie, George	BMS	Winter	Basketball Boys: Assistant	\$3,220.91
d	Evans, Greg	BMS	Winter	Volunteer Wrestling	\$0 Pending clearance

5. Approve Athletic and Co-Curricular Positions\*

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

	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
a	Garay, Janet	BHS	24-25 school year	Homework Club Funded by Muni Alliance	\$16.21/hour
b	Medina, Pilar	BHS	24-25 school year	Homework Club Funded by Muni Alliance	\$16.21/hour
c	Kotz, Caitlin	BHS	Winter	Fencing: Assistant	\$5,583.60 Pending clearance
d	Cava, Lauren	BHS	24-25 school year	CIC Club Funded by Community In Crisis	\$2,000
e	Evans, Greg	BHS	Winter	Volunteer: Wrestling	\$0 Pending clearance
f	Spiridakis, Nina	District	24-25 school year	District Wellness Coordinator Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant	\$1,000
g	Smith, Jodi	District	24-25 school year	District Wellness Coordinator Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant	\$1,000
h	Szostak, Dave	BHS	Winter	Track: Head	\$7,444.80
i	McDowell, Caroline	BHS	Winter	Track: Assistant	\$5,583.60 Pending clearance
j	Pfingst, Matt	BHS	Winter	Volunteer: Track	\$0

6. 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:

	<b>Type of Support</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Periods/ week</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>OVERLOAD Salary prorated based on 1 mkp</b>
a	Geometry A/BHS	Acuna, Heiner	11/11/24 - TBD	5	\$70,240	\$2,927.25
b	Geometry A/BHS	Anderson, Richard	11/11/24 - TBD	5	\$84,985	\$3,541.75
c	Algebra 2 A/BHS	Boyce, Nicole	11/11/24 - TBD	5	\$73,540	\$3,064.78

d	Math Concepts/BHS	Levine, Scott	11/11/24 - TBD	5	\$65,540	\$2,731.38
e	Geometry A/BHS	O'Brien, Kyle	11/11/24 - TBD	2	\$81,310	\$3,388.59

7. 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	STEM/BMS	Georgiana, Michael	MKP 2	5	\$100,585	\$4,191.88
b	STEM/BMS	Marashlian, Nicole	MKP 2	5	\$113,435	\$4,727.40
c	STEM/BMS	Porter, Shane	MKP 2	5	\$97,035	\$4,043.93
d	STEM/BMS	Rounsaville, Julie-Ann	MKP 2	5	\$84,985	\$3,541.75
e	STEM/BMS	Rizzuto, Rosemaire	MKP 3	5	\$116,710	\$4,863.89
f	STEM/BMS	Obert-Thorn, Carrie	MKP 4	5	\$116,710	\$4,863.89
g	STEM/BMS	Tchorz, Valerie	MKP 4	5	\$114,410	\$4,768.04
h	STEM/BMS	Boudreau, Derek	MKP 2,3,4	5	\$90,235	\$11,281.63
i	STEM/BMS	Escobar-Chaffee, Salome	MKP 2,3,4	5	\$77,690	\$9,713.19
j	STEM/BMS	Kimmel, Melissa	MKP 2,3,4	5	\$83,560	\$10,447.09

8. Amend Appointment Leave Replacement Certificated Staff\*

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

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Colina, Michelle	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.ART.LR.01	MA+15	3-4	\$75,090 <i>prorated</i>	9634	10/21/24-6/30/25

9. 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	9835	BHS	Counselor	Sick FMLA Anticipated Return	04/07/25-05/05/25 (paid w/ benefits) 05/06/25-05/20/25 (unpaid w/benefits) 05/21/25

10. 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	9095	BES	Teacher	Sick FMLA Anticipated Return	02/18/25-03/29/24 (paid w/ benefits) 03/30/25-06/21/25 (unpaid w/benefits) 09/01/25

11. Approve Permanent Substitute\*

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

	Name	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	Flood, Karen	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	12/2/24

12. 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	Nolt, James	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/21/24 <i>pending approval</i>
b	Wang, Junyi	Teacher/Paraprofessional	CE	11/21/24 <i>pending approval</i>

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business: n/a

**POLICY**

- A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. deGranpré gave the report. The committee met on November 4, 2024.  
 B. Action Items: n/a  
 C. Policy Old Business / New Business: n/a

**STUDENT SERVICES**

- A. Committee Report and Discussion. Ms. Ballard gave the report. The committee met on October 28, 2024.  
 B. Items: n/a  
 C. Policy Old Business / New Business: n/a

**Board Announcements**

- Mr. Baker thanked Mrs. DeMarco and expressed gratitude for her hard work and dedication.
- Mrs. Frenda also thanked Mrs. DeMarco for her service to the district.
- Mrs. Santoro also thanked Mrs. DeMarco.
- Ms. Cooper also thanked Mrs. DeMarco.

**Public Comments**

- Sama Habibi - resident, parent - spoke about Transgender Day and emphasized the importance of stopping hate.
- Heather Eckel - resident, parent - support needed for parent of Special Needs students.
- Allicen Librera - resident, parent - students are denied services.
- Megan Dooley - resident, parent, staff - thanked the committee for the work for policy 5756.

5. Michael Myers - resident, parent - policy 5756 is student centered rather than parent centered.
6. Michelle Dooley - resident, parent - urged the board to limit discussions about transgender students.
7. Ann Todd - resident, parent - thanked the board.
8. Smma Habibi - resident, parent - tired of the hypocrisy.

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

### Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn at 9:46 p.m. Ms. Ballard 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 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)