

**The Somerset Hills School District
Regular Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2025
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.

Mrs. Frenda called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker
Ms. Ballard
Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:34)
Ms. Cooper (arrived 6:33)
Ms. Gils (arrived 6:33)
Ms. Gomez
Mrs. Hoppe
Mrs. Santoro
Mrs. Wry
Mrs. Frenda

Also Present:

Dr. Brian Brotschul
Dr. Coleen Butler
Mrs. Beverly Vlietstra

III. Board Norms

Before a Meeting

- 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

- 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

- 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

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.

V. Executive Session

Ms. Cooper made a motion to go to Executive Session at 6:40 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.

The Board returned to Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

VI. Pledge of Allegiance

VII. Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Representatives’ Report - BMS Representatives Emily Mann and Katie Giebel and BHS representative Nora Jurczak gave their reports.
2. Recognition of BMS students in CJMEA Intermediate Honors Choir:
 - a. Ella Hunscher
 - b. Trinity Landry
 - c. Jillian Pooler

A Resolution honoring (Name of Student)

for her hard work and talent in the area of vocal music.

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

WHEREAS, (Name of Student) sees the merit of embodying the collaborative spirit, dedication, and high standard of excellence necessary to perform at an advanced level;

WHEREAS, (Name of Student) is part of Bernards Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 (Name of Student) for her extraordinary accomplishment of acceptance into the Central Jersey Music Educator Association's Honors Choir.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by (Name of 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 22nd day of January 2025.

Samatha Frenda

Board of Education President

Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

3. Recognition of BHS Crimson Editors:

- a. Colin Caggiano
- b. Jack Martin

- c. Evelyn Noonan
- d. Bailey Olson
- e. Ella Patel
- f. Ari Rosen
- g. Kilian Schlager
- h. William Simpson
- i. Claire Taylor
- j. Andrew Tropp

A Resolution honoring **(Name of Student)**

for his contribution to the extraordinary accomplishment
of being named a SNO Distinguished Site.

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

WHEREAS, **(Name of Student)** sees the merit in practicing the
skills of exceptional journalism,
as well as grit and determination, when applying principles of
journalism to both print and online publications;

WHEREAS, **(Name of Student)** is part of Bernards High School and serves
as an inspiration to 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
(Name of Student) for his extraordinary accomplishments, along
with his editorial team, being the 19th school in the country and
2nd in the state to complete the six badges of exceptional journalism
and be named as a SNO Distinguished Site.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so
in honor of the achievements earned by **(Name of 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 22nd day of January 2025.

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Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

4. Board Recognition - Retirees

WHEREAS, Jeannette Bracero has been employed from January 2008 through June 2025 as a High 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 Jeannette Bracero's retirement effective July 1, 2025, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

b. WHEREAS, John Hogge has been employed from September 2000 through June 2025 as a High School Teacher; 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 John Hogge's retirement effective July 1, 2025, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

c. .WHEREAS, Dana Fischer has been employed from September 1999 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 Dana Fischer's retirement effective July 1, 2025, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

5. 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.

None.

Mrs. Cooper moved to close public comments, Mrs. Santoro seconded.

IX. Recognition of Board

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Somerset Hills Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Somerset Hills Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Somerset Hills Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2025 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Somerset Hills Board of Education urges all New Jersey

citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children’s education.

X. 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 December 18, 2024.

The December 18th minutes was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-3. Mr. Baker moved item #1 and Mrs. Wry seconded. Voting: Ayes: Cooper, Gils, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Frenda. Abstain: Gomez, Hoppe, Clark-Emery.

XI. FINANCE

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on January 15, 2025. The items discussed were as follows:

- Update Long Range Facility Plan
- Budget 25-26
- Consider 2nd question on ballet along with Referendum
- Consolidation study

B. Finance Action Items: 1-9 Mr. Baker moved items #1-9, Ms. Cooper seconded. Items 1-9 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Gils, Gomez, Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Frenda.

C. Finance Old Business / New Business:None

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

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

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$11,999,805.26	\$11,999,805.26
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$72,526.05	\$72,526.05
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$748,432.00	\$748,432.00
Total Government Funds	\$12,934,821.56	\$12,934,821.56

(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

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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 December 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	\$719,139.66
(20) Special Revenue Fund	–
(30) Capital Projects Fund	–
(40) Debt Service Fund	–
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$66,020.44
(90) Agency Fund	–
TOTAL	\$785,160.10

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached January 2025 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	\$1,182,124.44
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$57,479.56
(30) Capital Projects Fund	–
(40) Debt Service Fund	–
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$53,145.26
(90) Agency Fund	–
TOTAL	\$1,292,749.26

4. Approve 2024-2025 Budget Transfers*

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

5. 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.

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	Student ID#	School	Location	Cost
a	7545309379	Shepard School	Kinnelon, NJ	\$33,305.04 (Prorated)
b	8305032998	Newmark High School	Scotch Plains, NJ	\$40,083.68 (Prorated)
c	6633482019	Hunterdon Prep School	Annandale, NJ	\$34,724.25 (Prorated)

6. 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 Security Aid for the following school:

	Non-Public School	Description	Amount
a	Far Hills Country Day School	CDW-G 3D printer and Supplies, Chromebooks, cases	\$9,308.79
b	Far Hills Country Day School	CDW-G Chromebook, Google upgrade	\$1,222.32

7. 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	Monmouth Telecom- PA Speaker and supplies	\$2,820.00

8. 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	Grant Requested	School	Amount/Value
a	Somerset Hills Education Foundation	Historical Video Project- Jon Simonau	BHS	\$1,000
b	Somerset Hills Education Foundation	Super Siblings Reading Program- Darcey Brooten	BES	\$1,000
c	Somerset Hills Education Foundation	Pug Mill initiative- Salome Chaffee	BMS	\$7,199

9. Approve change order for Bernards High School Track Replacement*
 RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve change order PCO#4 for the Bernards High School Track Replacement in the amount of \$4,030.05, as a decrease to the contract allowance amount of \$50,000.00. The new contract allowance including this change order is \$7,418.45.

XII. FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The Committee met on January 15, 2025.

- Update on lower athletic fields.
- Discussion on refinishing the tennis courts, possibly using capital reserve money.

B. Action Items: 1B read in, 1B, 2A, 2B read in.

C. Facilities & Operations Old Business / New Business:

1A. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on December 18, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BES	12	Unfounded
BES	13A	Unfounded
BES	13B	Founded
BES	14	Unfounded
BES	15	Founded
BES	16	Founded
BMS	9	Founded
BMS	10	Unfounded
BMS	11	Unfounded
BMS	12	Founded

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BMS	13	Unfounded
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Founded	HIBs to Date (24-25 SY)	Unfounded	Split	Total
3	BES	12	1	16
4	BMS	9	0	13

1A. Item 1A was approved by a roll call vote 9-0-1. Mr. Baker moved item 1A and Ms. Cooper seconded. Voting: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Frenda. Abstain: Gomez.

1B. RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on January 2, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent: BMS #6

Item 1B was approved by a roll call vote 9-0-1. Ms. Ballard moved item 1B and Ms. Cooper seconded. Voting: Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Hoppe, Frenda. Abstain: Gomez.

2A. HIB Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on December 18, 2024, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcome
BHS	9	Founded
BHS	10	Founded
BHS	11	Unfounded
BHS	12	Unfounded
BHS	13	Unfounded
BHS	14	Founded
BHS	15	Unfounded
BHS	17	Unfounded
BHS	16	Unfounded

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HIBs to Date (24-25 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Total
BHS	8	9	17

Item 2A was approved by a roll call vote 9-0-1. Mrs. Wry moved Item 2A and Mr. Baker seconded. Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Frenda. Abstain: Gomez.

2B. RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on January 2, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent: BHS #14

Item 2B was approved by a roll call vote 6-2-2. Mr. Baker moved Item 2B and Mrs. Wry seconded. Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Frenda. No: Clark- Emery, Gils. Abstain: Cooper, Gomez

XIII. CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Cooper gave the report. Met on January 14th.

- Bilingual program update
- Curriculum budget next year

B. Action Items: 1-5

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business: Geometry offered in the Summer.

The Board discussed bilingual for 1st grade, geometry for Bedminster students, Dual language learning and what that would look like.

Items # 2,4, & 5 was approved by roll call vote 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Gomez, Frenda.

Items #1,3 was approved by a roll call vote of 9-0-0 Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Frenda.

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	Boudreau, Derek	Field Trip Chaperone	2/12/25	\$0
b	BMS	Chaffee, Salome	Field Trip Chaperone	4/30/25	\$0

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c	BMS	Chaffee, Salome	Field Trip Chaperone	2/12/25	\$0
d	BMS	Clark, Michelle	Field Trip Chaperone	4/30/25	\$0
e	BMS	Geyer, Julie	Defusing Anger, Anxiety and Aggression: Improving Student Behavior	2/6/25	\$295
f	BMS	Inclendon, Cassandra	Field Trip Chaperone	2/12/25	\$0
g	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	Field Trip Chaperone	2/12/25	\$0
h	BES	McSpiritt, Kelly	Managing Sudden Traumatic Loss	3/4/25, 3/5/25	\$0
i	BES	McSpiritt, Kelly	Teacher Aide Support in IEPs - The Decision Making Process Analyzed with the Intent of Maximizing Student Independence	3/10/25	\$90
j	BES	Palmieri, Jeremy	NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance 2025 Annual Convention	2/24/25- 2/25/25	\$523.48
k	BES	Paterno, Amy	NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance 2025 Annual Convention	2/24/25- 2/25/25	\$523.48
l	BMS	Reilly, Kathryn	Field Trip Chaperone	4/30/25	\$0
m	BMS	Walker, Carrie	Field Trip Chaperone	4/30/25	\$0
n	BES	Zaborowski, Donna	NJ Branch International Dyslexia Association Winter Institute Food for Thought Virtual Conference	2/1/25	\$120

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	BHS	Carmon, David	Glazier Football Coaching Clinic	2/20/25- 2/22/25	\$493.68
b	District	Catelli, Michael	NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages 2025 Spring Conference	5/20/25	\$0

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c	District	Catelli, Michael	Insight Manville Professional Development Conference	3/7/25	\$0
d	BHS	Chang, Newstein	Next Generation Science Standards Workshop Series	3/19/25	\$150
e	BHS	Ferrara, James	Field Trip Chaperone	1/23/25, 3/20/25	\$0
f	BHS	Hogge, Jay	Field Trip Chaperone	2/20/25- 2/23/25	\$0
g	BHS	King, Brian	Field Trip Chaperone	1/23/25, 3/20/25	\$0
h	District	Koransky, Jamie	NJ Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Spring Conference	3/17/25	\$175
i	BHS	Mathus, Peter	Next Generation Science Standards Workshop Series	2/5/25, 2/26/25	\$300
j	BHS	Mountney, Cassie	Next Generation Science Standards Workshop Series	2/5/25, 2/26/25	\$300
k	BHS	Mountney, Cassie	Field Trip Chaperone	1/23/25, 3/20/25	\$0
l	BHS	Palmere, Lilian	Next Generation Science Standards Workshop Series	2/5/25, 3/19/25	\$300
m	BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Field Trip Chaperone	4/4/25	\$0
n	BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Field Trip Chaperone	2/20/25- 2/23/25	\$0
o	BHS	Pistilli-Urena, Jaclyn	Field Trip Chaperone	2/20/25, 2/21/25	\$0
p	District	Riccio, Frank	2025 NJ School Buildings and Grounds Association Expo/Conference	3/24/25, 3/25/25	\$938
q	District	Riccio, Frank	2025 NJ Pupil Transportation Conference and Equipment Show	3/26/25- 3/28/25	\$999.34
r	BHS	Simoneau, Jon	Glazier Football Coaching Clinic	2/7/25	\$377.06
s	BHS	Whitlock, Christine	Field Trip Chaperone	1/23/25, 3/20/25	\$0
t	BHS	Wierzbicki, Kyle	Glazier Football Coaching Clinic	2/20/25- 2/22/25	\$483.15
u	BHS	Young, Joseph	Field Trip Chaperone	1/23/25, 3/20/25	\$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
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a	BMS	The College of New Jersey - Ewing, NJ	20	6	0
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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	Boston Harvard Model Congress Conference - Boston, MA	32	4	0
b	BHS	Financial District - New York, NY	8	2	0
c	BHS	Ridge High School - Basking Ridge, NJ	40	4	0
d	BHS	Mount Olive High School - Mount Olive, NJ	40	4	0

5. Approval of the Extended School Year Program for Summer 2025*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Extended School Year Program for Summer 2025 to commence on July 7, 2025 and conclude on July 31, 2025 (Note: There will be no school on Fridays during this program).

XIV. PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion. Ms. Ballard gave the report. Met on January 14th.

- Update on Principal search
- Update on Business Administrator search

B. Action Items: 1-18

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business: None

Items #1,4,5,7,10,11,13,15,17,18 was approved 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Gomez, Frenda.

Items: # 2,3,6,8,9,12,14,16 was approved 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Hoppe, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Frenda.

1. Accepts Retirement*

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Bracero, Jeannette	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.SPAN.NA.02	7/1/25

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b	Hogge, John	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.HIST.NA.03	7/1/25
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RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the retirement of the following employee:

2. 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	Fischer, Dana	BES	Teacher TCH.ES.ELEM.04.01	7/1/25

3. 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	Gutierrez, Tatiana	BES	Title I Teacher TCH.ES.TITLE1.01	MA	9	\$76,590	9838	3/24/25 pending clearance

4. Approve Appointment Leave Replacement*

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

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Coleman, Christine	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.MATH.NA.03.LR	MA	9	\$76,590	8689	1/23/25 pending clearance

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
b	Vitale Shannon	BES	Teacher TCH.HS.ELEM..03.05.LR	BA	1-2	\$65,540	9095	Tbd pending clearance

5. Approve Staff Member Nonresident Student*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve nonresident student of the following staff member for the 2025-2026 school year:

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	Grade	Staff Member
a	Grade 9	Maureen Ziolkowski

6. Approve Staff Member Nonresident Students

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve nonresident students of the following staff members for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Grade	Staff Member
a	Grade 6	Jon Simoneau
b	Grade 7	Maureen Ziolkowski

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	English - SIP	Weltler, Lynn	MKP3*	5	\$115,960	\$4,832.64
b	Math - SIP	Camuto, Lisa	MKP3*	5	\$87,660	\$3,653.23
c	Social Studies - World History	Murphy, Theresa	MKP 2 & 3 (1/8/25 start)	5	\$87,660	\$4,530.01
d	Social Studies - World A	Clark, Kelly	MKP 2 & 3 (1/8/25 start)	5	\$108,510	\$5,607.47
e	Social Studies - World A	Cameron, Bradley	MKP 2 & 3 (1/8/25 start)	5	\$82,410	\$4,258.70
f	Social Studies - US 1 A	Zangara, Timothy	MKP 2 & 3 (1/8/25 start)	5	\$74,990	\$3,875.26
g	Social Studies - US 1 A	Kaplan, Daniel	MKP 2 & 3 (1/8/25 start)	5	\$71,960	\$3,718.68
h	Geometry A/BHS	Acuna, Heiner	MKP3*	5	\$70,240	\$58.55/diem
i	Geometry A/BHS	Anderson, Richard	MKP3*	5	\$84,985	\$70.83/diem
j	Algebra 2 A/BHS	Boyce, Nicole	MKP3*	5	\$81,310	\$67.77/diem
k	Math Concepts/BHS	Levine, Scott	MKP3*	5	\$65,540	\$54.63/diem
l	Geometry A/BHS	O'Brien, Kyle	MKP3*	2	\$73,540	\$61.30/diem

★ Per diem until completed as determined by Principal

8. Approve Appointment Leave Replacement Teacher

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

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	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Adams, Jennifer	BES	Teacher TCH.ES.ELEM.KD.03.LR	MA	7-8	\$74,990 <i>prorated</i>	2620	1/2/25 - 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	9878	BES	Teacher	Sick/Disability FMLA Anticipated Return	04/28/25-05/17/25 (paid disability w/ benefits) 05/18/25-10/18/25 (unpaid w/ benefits) 10/20/25

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	9355	BHS	Teacher	Sick/Disability FMLA Anticipated Return	05/27/25-06/19/25 (paid disability w/ benefits) 09/02/25-11/25/25 (unpaid w/ benefits) 11/26/25

11. Amend Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

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

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Step	Salary	Effective Date
a	Turner, Maribel	District	Custodian FT: Black Seal Boiler License	n/a	18	\$55,180 \$56,386	1/1/25

12. 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	Brooten, Darcey	School Library Media Specialist	CEAS	Margaret Dolson	\$550.00

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13. Amend Co-Curricular Position*

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

	Name	School	Season	Position	Stipend
a	Spiridakis, Nina	District	24-25 school year	District Wellness Coordinator <i>Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant (.25)</i>	\$1,000 \$500

14. Rescind Athletic Position

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the following athletic position for the 2024-2025 school year.

15. Approve Athletic and Co-Curricular Positions*

	Name	School	Season	Position	Stipend
a	Mahlik, Philip	BMS	Winter	Basketball: Boys Asst	\$3,220.91

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.

	Name	School	Season	Position	Stipend
a	Mahlik, Philip	BHS	Winter	Ice Hockey: Assistant	\$5,583.60
b	Simoneau, Jon	BHS	Winter	Track Assistant	\$5,583.60
c	Galuppo, Julianne	District	24-25 school year	District Wellness Coordinator <i>Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant (.25)</i>	\$500

16. 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.

	Name	School	Season	Position	Stipend
a	Liotard, Deanna	BMS	Spring	Softball: Assistant	\$2,825.92
b	Petrie, George	BMS	Winter	Basketball: Boys Asst	\$3,220.91

17. Approve Administrative Leave with Pay*

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

	Employee	Effective
a	8943	01/08/25 - TBD <i>as determined by the Superintendent pending investigation</i>

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18. 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	Cortigiani, Deborah	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate	1/2/25
b	Lucario, John	Maintenance/Custodian	n/a	1/23/25 <i>pending clearance</i>
c	Vera Ochoa, Victor	Maintenance/Custodian & Bus Aide	n/a	1/23/25 <i>pending clearance</i>
d	Altam, Scott	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Cert.	1/23/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
e	Ventura, Juanita	Regular Paraprofessional	n/a	1/23/25

XV. POLICY

A. Committee Report and Discussion. Ms. Ballard gave the report.

- Discussion on Policy 0155 Board Committee Bylaw - merging the Finance and Facility and Operations Committee to one Committee: Business Operations.
- Substance Abuse Policy
- Cell Phone surveys - discussion on survey. Survey of high school parents/students/staff. The Board and Dr. Brotschul discussed social media and the cell phone usage survey. Some board members would like to see the cell phone survey sent to the middle school parents.

B. Action Items: 1

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: Ms. Gils suggested changing the format of the meeting so parents can speak on non agenda items first. Dr. Brotschul stated there is a Board by-law which is how the agenda is developed and what the Policy committee will be looking at.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Mrs. Hoppe moved Item#1 and Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion. Voting: Ayes: Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Cooper, Gils, Gomez, Hoppe, Frenda.

1. First Reading*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the first reading of the following bylaws, policies & regulations:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
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P 0155	Board Committees
R 5530	Substance Abuse (M)

XVI. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. Santoro gave the report. Met on January 14th.

- Operations Responding for Excellence meetings, the dates are January 23, February 4th and February 25th. Parents and Staff to learn and communicate with each other. All parties to be heard in a constructive manner. Dr. Brotschul will be discussing the results of these meetings with the Committee.
- Look at co-curricular.
- Student satisfaction
- Culture/Climate - Capture Kids Hearts in Middle School.

B. Student Services Old Business / New Business: None

XVII. Board Announcements

The views and opinions that are/may be expressed by individual members of the Somerset Hills Board of Education during Board Announcements 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. 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.

- Allison LaBrett- spoke about her child being underserved.
- Lee Eaton - spoke of 4th grade classroom change and parents were not notified.
- Michele Gagliardi -echoed what Lee Eaton stated.
- Amy Shaver change of 4th grade teacher mid year and lack of communication to parents.
- Kathy Frugia- discussed changes made in the 4th grade inclusion classroom. Students are thriving in the classroom. Parents not notified of change.

- Maura McGrail feels the Child Study team is not collaborative. Took almost 2 years to receive services for her child.

Motion to close public comments was made by Mrs. Santoro and seconded by Ms. Cooper.

XIX. Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Ms. Gomez seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 10-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Vlietstra
Interim 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)