

**The Somerset Hills School District
Special Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2025
Public Input & Action - 6:00 PM
Bernards High School - Community Room**

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Mrs. Frenda called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker

Ms. Ballard

Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:08 pm)

Ms. Gils

Ms. Gomez

Mrs. Hoppe

Mrs. Santoro

Mrs. Frenda

Absent:

Ms. Cooper

Mrs. Wry

Also Present:

Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent

Dr. Coleen Butler, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Richard Liguori, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

None.

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

VII. BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Action Items: #1

Mrs. Santoro moved Item #1, Mr. Baker seconded.

Item #1 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Wry. Not Yet Arrived: Ms. Clark-Emery.

1. Approve Negotiations Services*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Patrick Duncan, Esq. to provide Negotiations services at the rate of \$170/hour.

VIII. CURRICULUM

A. Action Items: #1-2

Ms. Ballard moved Item #1-2, Mrs. Santoro seconded.

Items #1-2 were approved by a roll call vote of 6-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez. Absent: Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Wry. Not Yet Arrived: Ms. Clark-Emery.

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	Geyer, Julie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
b	BMS	Kimmel, Melissa	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
c	BMS	Obert-Thorn, Karrie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
d	BMS	Froysland, Megan	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
e	BMS	Marashlian, Nicole	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
f	BMS	Calabrese, Eric	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
g	BMS	Kleinstein, Mary	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
h	BMS	Rizzuto, Rosemarie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/16/25	\$0
i	BMS	Turner, Samantha	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
j	BMS	Russo, Dawn	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
k	BMS	Wells, Kelly	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
l	BMS	Fitzgerald, Marianne	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0

m	BMS	Rounsaville, Julie-Ann	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
n	BMS	Reilly, Katie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
o	BMS	Clark, Michelle	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
p	BMS	Haenny, Alexandra	Field Trip Chaperone	6/17/25	\$0
q	BMS	McMillan, Pat	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
r	BMS	Tresslar, Kristine	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
s	BMS	Heydt, Jaimie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
t	BMS	Freda, Michelle	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
u	BMS	LaChac, Luke	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
v	BMS	Walker, Carrie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
w	BMS	Fabregas, Kelly	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
x	BMS	Kupper, Patricia	Field Trip Chaperone	6/18/25	\$0
y	BMS	McGovern, Danielle	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
z	BMS	Cox, Brett	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
aa	BMS	Tynan, Jessica	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
bb	BMS	Georgiana, Mike	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
cc	BMS	King, Brian	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
dd	BMS	Porter, Shane	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
ee	BMS	Gilly, Zoltan	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
ff	BMS	Tchorz, Valerie	Field Trip Chaperone	6/19/25	\$0
gg	BMS	Venezia, David	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
hh	BMS	Chaffee, Salome	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
ii	BMS	Jurgens, Allyssa	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0

jj	BMS	Snyder, Jason	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
kk	BMS	Gash, Adriane	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
ll	BMS	St. Ours, Liz	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
mm	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
nn	BMS	Filieri, Mike	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
oo	BMS	Oliveira, Ashley	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0
pp	BMS	Boudreau, Derek	Field Trip Chaperone	TBD	\$0

2. 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	BMS	Bernardsville Pool - Bernardsville, NJ	108	8	0
b	BMS	Bernardsville Pool - Bernardsville, NJ	101	7	0
c	BMS	Bernardsville Pool - Bernardsville, NJ	94	8	0
d	BMS	Bernardsville Pool - Bernardsville, NJ	115	9	0

IX. Public Comments

None.

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

X. Executive Session

Ms. Gils moved the following at 6:08 pm, Mrs. Hoppe 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: Collective Bargaining, Student Matters, and Personnel Matters - CSA Evaluation.

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 a public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

Mrs. Hoppe recused herself at 6:50 pm.

Dr. Brotschul, Dr. Butler, and Mr. Liguori recused themselves at 8:02 pm.

Ms. Gils moved that the Board return to Public Session at 8:26 pm. Mrs. Santoro seconded.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 8-0. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Liguori
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)**