
**The Somerset Hills School District
Reorganization Meeting
January 2, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Bernards High School - Community Room**

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Vlietstra called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Welcome

Welcome to the annual reorganization 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 reorganization 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.

IV. Outgoing Board Member Recognition

1. Kristen de Grandpre`
2. Ian Joyce

Dr. Brotschul recognized the outgoing board members, Ms. de Grandpre` and Mr. Joyce for their dedication and hard work. Both Mrs. Frenda and Mrs. Santoro both added they appreciated Ms. De Grandpre` and Mr. Joyce's commitment and time they put in and wished them the best.

V. Oath of Office

Mrs. Vlietstra administered the Oath of Office to the following elected officials:

1. Holly Clark-Emery
2. Nicole Cooper
3. Mindy Hoppe

VI. Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker	Ms. Gils : arrived 6:02 p.m.
Ms. Ballard	Mrs. Hoppe
Ms. Clark-Emery	Ms. Nathans
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Santoro
Mrs. Frenda	Mrs. Wry

VII. Organizational Procedure

1. Nomination and Election of President

Motion to nominate Mrs. Frenda by Mrs. Wry and seconded by Ms. Nathans.

Any other nominations None

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Frenda was approved as President by a roll call vote of 8-1-1

2. Nomination and Election of Vice President

Motion to nominate Mrs. Santoro by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Ballard.

Any other nominations

Motion made by Ms. Gils and seconded by Ms. Clark-Emery to nominate Ms. Ballard for Vice President.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Santoro was approved as Vice President by a roll call vote 8-2-0.

VIII. Organizational Action Items

Items #1-6 were approved by a motion from Mrs. Wry and seconded by Ms. Cooper with a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Ayes: Cooper, Gils, Hoppe, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery and Frenda.

1. Adoption of Code of Ethics for School Board Members*
(each Board Member reads one)

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopts the Code of Ethics for School Board members:

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
3. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
5. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

2. Re-Adopt All By-Laws & Policies*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all current Board Policies & By-Laws.

3. Re-Adopt All Program & Curriculum*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all existing Curriculum, on file.

4. Re-adopt All District Tradebooks, Software, Motion Pictures/Films*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts district tradebook list, software list, and media list, on file.

5. Board Committee Assignments*

Resolved, that the following Board Committees be re-established:

- Finance
- Facilities & Operations
- Personnel and Policy
- Curriculum
- Negotiations
- Student Services

6. Approve Authorized Signatures*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the authorized signatures on warrants as follows:

Accounts	Signatures
a) Payroll	Board Secretary & Board President
b) Agency	Board Secretary & Board President
c) General	Board Secretary & Board President
d) Cafeteria	Board Secretary
e) Unemployment	Board Secretary
f) Flexible Spending	Board Secretary
g) Scholarship Trust Account	Board Secretary

IX. Public Comment

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.

No Public Comment. Mrs. Santoro moved to close public comments at 6:30 p.m., Ms. Cooper seconded.

XI. Executive Session

Mrs. Wry made a motion at 6:30p.m. to go into Executive Session and Ms. Nathans seconded the motion.

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.

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.

XII. PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Wry made a motion to approve items 1 & 2, Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 9-0-1. Ayes: Cooper, Hoppe, Nathans, Santoro, Wry, Baker, Ballard, Clark-Emery, Frenda. Abstain: Gils

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business:

1. Accepts Resignation*

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Spiridakis, "Nina" Karen	District	Business Office Assistant: Payroll SEC.DIST.PAYR.NA.01	1/17/25
b	Galuppo, Julianne	District	Business Office Assistant SEC.DIST.BKKP.NA.01	1/17/25

2. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

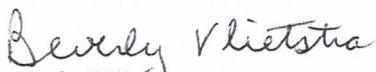
RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following non-certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Galuppo, Julianne	District	Business Office Assistant: Payroll SEC.DIST.PAYR.NA.01	\$77,500	Spiridakis	1/20/25

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. and Ms. Gils seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly Vlietstra

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Resolutions:

*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)