
August 29, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the August 27, 2025, Regular Public Meeting of the Somerset Hills Board of Education, I offered an update to the Somerset Hills community regarding an initiative to enhance all District schools without impacting the taxpayers in the Somerset Hills School District.

The Board of Education has approved and forwarded a *Long-Range Facility Plan* to the New Jersey Department of Education in advance of a public vote on March 10, 2026, where it will ask the community to raise funds to execute the following capital improvement projects:

Bedwell

- Renovation of Kindergarten classrooms, including updating for ADA accessible toilets
- Construct an exterior corridor to provide direct access to Kindergarten classrooms
- Construct a new security office to tie into the new security vestibule
- Upgrade and expand existing camera and security systems
- Installation of ballistic safety film on all lower-level windows
- Roofing system replacement - various sections
- Enhance the school community through school spirit and branding by installing graphics at core spaces such as cafeterias, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, and corridors.

Bernardsville Middle School

- Science Lab renovations
- Roofing system replacement - various sections
- Upgrade and expand the existing camera and security system
- Installation of ballistic safety film on all lower-level windows
- Enhance the school community through school spirit and branding by installing graphics at the core spaces such as cafeterias, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, and corridors.

Bernards High School

- STARS program renovation
- Culinary Arts Lab
- Science Lab, STEM, and Robotics renovations
- TV and Broadcasting studio renovations



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Enhance the school community through school spirit and branding by installing graphics at core spaces such as cafeterias, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, and corridors.

Financial Impact

The Board has debt expiring and seeks to replace all expiring debt with an equal amount of debt spread over a 20-year period. Additionally, the Board will receive direct state aid in the form of annual payments from the New Jersey Department of Education to help defray the costs of the proposed capital improvements. **The current tax impact for residents in Bernardsville, Far Hills, and Peapack-Gladstone will be \$0.**

What You Can Do Now

The District seeks to thoroughly prepare you to become informed voters between today and March 2026. Please refer to the ways to become acquainted with the capital projects supported by Referendum 2026.

Review the [District website](#)

Follow the Referendum 2026 Instagram account ([shsd_referendum2026](#))

Follow the Referendum 2026 Facebook account ([Somerset Hills School District Referendum 2026](#))

Attend public events posted to our Referendum website and social media feeds

[Request a personal or small group presentation](#)

Ask questions by emailing referendum@shsd.org

During the coming weeks and months, the District will host information sessions and community updates. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools