

**The Somerset Hills School District
 Regular Meeting Agenda - August 27, 2025
 Executive Session - 6:30 pm
 Regular Public Meeting - 7:30 pm
 Bernards High School - Community Room**

Call to Order & Welcome

Board President Mrs. Frenda called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. Baker | Mrs. Gomez (arrived 6:56 pm) |
| Ms. Ballard | Mrs. Hoppe |
| Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:34 pm) | Mrs. Santoro |
| Ms. Cooper | Mrs. Wry |
| Ms. Gils | Mrs. Frenda |

Absent: None.

Also Present:

- Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent
- Dr. Coleen Butler, Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Richard Liguori, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board Norms

Before a Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.

District Goals

2025-2026 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.
- **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.
- **Culture & Climate / Social Emotional Learning**
 - 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

Mrs. Santoro made a motion to go to Executive Session at 6:34 pm. Ms. Cooper 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: Student Matters and Negotiations.

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.

Mrs. Hoppe recused herself at 6:56 pm.

Ms. Gils made a motion to return to Public Session at 7:13 pm. Ms. Santoro seconded.

Mrs. Hoppe returned to the dais at 7:13 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Report of the Superintendent

1. Recognition of Webmaster - Connor Flynn:

A Resolution honoring **Connor Flynn** for his role as Webmaster, as demonstrated by the new Somerset Hills School District website;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform with dedication, motivation, organization, and perseverance;

WHEREAS, **Connor Flynn** is part of the district Technology Team who uses his knowledge and expertise to help district staff and stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Connor Flynn** for his project management, implementation of migration, and continued maintenance and support of the district website.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Connor Flynn**.
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 27th day of August 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

2. Superintendent Report: NJSBA Training on Referendum - the Board was joined by Charlene Peterson from NJSBA, who presented "Referendum Blueprint for Blending Community Engagement with Legal Compliance."
3. Superintendent Report: Dr. Brotschul raised awareness of several timely and pertinent District issues, including various summer preparations for return to school in September, a review of Referendum 2026, Advanced Placement testing results, a review of Access 2.0 at all three schools, and updates on the updated cell phone policy and the school regionalization study.
4. Semi-Annual School Safety Report: Dr. Brotschul detailed a semi-annual review of the Student Safety Data System Submission within his Superintendent Report.

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items - none.

Seeing no one from the public, Mrs. Hoppe moved to close public comments. Ms. Cooper seconded. All voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for June 16, 2025.

Ms. Ballard moved to approve, and Mr. Baker seconded.

The minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0-2. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, and Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry.

ANNUAL NURSING SERVICES PLAN - 2025-2026

A. Action Items:

1. **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING NURSING SERVICES PLAN**

WHEREAS pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-13, the Board is required to conduct a public hearing for the 2025-2026 Nursing Services Plan; and now

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board hereby opens the public hearing on the 2025-2026 Nursing Services Plan.

- Discussion was held.
- Mrs. Frenda opened for public comments specific to the 2025-2026 Nursing Services Plan. No one offered public comment.
- A motion to close the public hearing on the 2025-2026 Nursing Services Plan was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Santoro. All voted in favor.

2. **Approve the Somerset Hills School District Nursing Services Plan 2025-2026***

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Hoppe moved to approve, and Mrs. Wry seconded.

Item #2 was approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, and Mrs. Frenda.

NEGOTIATIONS

A. Action Item: #1

1. Approve Memorandum of Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education hereby ratifies and approves the memorandum of agreement between the Board and the Somerset Hills Administrators Association, dated August 27, 2025 and covering the period of time between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President, Superintendent, and Board Attorney to draft the new collectively bargained agreement, covering the period of time between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2028, and thereafter, authorizes the Board President to execute same.

Mrs. Santoro moved to approve, and Mr. Baker seconded.

During discussion, Mrs. Frenda thanked the Somerset Hills Administrators Association (SHAA) for their collaboration.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, and Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Hoppe.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Mr. Baker gave the report. The Committee met on August 12, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- Conclusions reached:
 - The high school lower gym improvement project will begin this fall. The entire floor will be refinished and a vinyl cover will be purchased to protect the floor for non-athletic events. The project is funded by an anonymous donation of \$50,000, plus \$6,000 from the capital project funds. This may affect PE classes for a few days, but other locations are available for short time.
 - Two classrooms in the lower level of Bedwell are being cleared of old equipment that can be discarded or relocated. They have been used as storage space the last few years and now they can be returned to usable instructional space. A resolution will be on the next board agenda to authorized the discard of various equipment and furniture.
 - The state has notified us of our Extraordinary Aid for special education for the coming school year. It will be \$293,843. We do not budget for this aid, since it changes every year based on the number of students that qualify. We apply each year and then the state uses a formula to allocate the funds.
 - The high school football team will be practicing some of the time on the lower grass field to allow field hockey and scorer teams to access to the turf field for some of their practices. A shared scheduled has been developed for the entire season. Only the far section of the lower field will be used to avoid damaging the main parts of the baseball and softball fields.
 - A bubble appeared on one spot of the new running track around Olcott Field. This was repaired by the original track resurfacing company at no cost.
 - To improve public service, several departments in the Olcott Building have been relocated. The entire business administration office is now entirely on the second floor and the registration office is on the first floor.

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- We received a \$7,000 rebate from AmeriHealth Insurance Company for excess premium charged for coverage during 2017. It is our choice on how to use the money. We can either give every staff member who had coverage at the time a pro-rated amount or use the money to fund other school expenses, such as lowering the cost of the current healthcare premium expenditure. Since the rebate is for five years ago and it is a very small amount, it would be too complicated to figure a rebate for staff member, plus many staff members who were working in 2027 are gone. So, it was decided to use the money the best way we see fit.
 - Dr. Brotschul is recommending that we issue a Requests for Proposals for our Healthcare benefits broker. We have been with our current broker for more than five years and it is good practice to solicit RFPs for every one of our service providers on a regular basis. The committee agreed and a formal resolution is not needed for a service provider RFP.
 - Ongoing issues still under consideration:
 - Dr. Brotschul reported on the status of the Olcott Field lighting project. All equipment was delivered this week and excavation started today for the foundations of the four towers. Most of the work is expected to be complete by August 22 with final completion on August 29. This will be just in time for the first home football game scheduled for that night.
 - Mr. Liguori reported on the status of the high school PAC improvement project. All new lighting has been completed along with a new sound system. The main stage curtain was also replaced. The only outstanding item is to sync the old body mics with the new body mics. This will require a software change, but should be completed before the start of the fall drama practice.
 - The district received a \$130,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs for the Bedminster regionalization study. We can use \$65,000 up front now to get started. Dr. Brotschul is planning to schedule a presentation from the Rowen School Regionalization Institute which is part of the Steve Sweeny Center for Public Policy at Rowan University. Bedminster is aware and he is targeting an early October joint meeting between the two Board of Educations entities to move this work forward and to apprise everyone of the process.
 - The reconciliation of last year's tuition paid by Bedminster was been completed. They owe us more than expected due to the increases in health benefit costs and the amount of capital projects that have taken place at the high school. Dr. Brotschul will be communicating the increase to them shortly.
 - The Ad Hoc referendum committee is developing a calendar of events/forums where we can provide information to educate the public about the referendum. Some of these events include borough council meetings, HSA meetings, sporting events, etc. A formal calendar will be distributed shortly.
 - Several parents who live on Old Colony Road in Bernardsville are asking that we declare their street and Childsworth Avenue a hazardous route for walking to Bedwell and BMS. Dr. Brotschul asked for input from the police department and they feel it does not rise to that category. The committee agreed with the police department's assessment. Dr. Brotschul will do more research on the matter, before informing the parents as to his decision.
 - Recommendations:
 - The three SLEO contracts are up for renewal. The hourly rate will remain the same at \$42.50/hour for the coming year. There will be a resolution on the agenda for the next board meeting.

- Mr. Liguori presented the budget calendar for 2026 – 2027 to the committee. It is very similar to last year’s calendar, except the date for the budget retreat has been set for Saturday, March 14, 2026. This calendar will be on the next board agenda for approval.
- Since there are times when Mr. Liguori, Board Secretary, may not be present at an executive session or the public portion of a board meeting, a resolution will be on the next board agenda to approve Dr. Brotschul as a substitute Board Secretary for the coming school year and retroactively back to June 16, 2025.

Discussion - There was no further discussion after the committee report.

B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-38, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Items #1-19, 21-30, 32-36, 38 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

Items #20, 31, 37 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

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

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$9,312,704.51	\$9,312,704.51
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$253,190.39	\$253,190.39
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	(\$116,058.06)	(\$116,058.06)
Total Government Funds	\$9,563,895.09	\$9,563,895.09

(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. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

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

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
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(10) General Fund	\$9,780,873.91	\$9,780,873.91
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$293,244.47	\$293,244.47
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$142,901.61	\$142,901.61
Total Government Funds	\$10,331,078.24	\$10,331,078.24

(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.

3. Approve 2024-2025 Budget Transfers*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for June 2025.

4. Approve 2025-2026 Budget Transfers*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for July 2025.

5. Approve 2024-2025 Budget Transfers Exceeding Ten Percent (10%)*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve budget transfers in account lines #11-000-230-XXX and #11-000-251-XXX as approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10.

6. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached final June 2025 check register 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	\$4,102,081.25
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$39,810.92
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$130,182.93
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,247,264.99
TOTAL	\$5,519,340.09

7. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached final July 2025 check register 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	\$3,220,134.22
(20) Special Revenue Fund	-
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-
(90) Agency Fund	\$333,525.43
TOTAL	\$3,553,659.65

8. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached August 2025 check register 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	\$1,285,538.78
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$400.00
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-
(90) Agency Fund	\$107,467.79
TOTAL	\$1,393,406.57

9. Approve Substitute Rates*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitute rates for the 2025-2026 school year:

Credential	Rate
Teacher with Substitute Credential, CEAS or CE	\$130
Teacher with Standard Certificate	\$140
Teacher with Substitute Certificate - Extended Assignment 11-40 days	\$190
Teacher with Standard Certificate - Extended Assignment 11-40 days	\$210
Teacher Long Term Assignment – 41 plus days	\$265
Nurse	\$225
Nurse - Field Trip	\$260
Nurse – Overnight Field Trip	\$500
Secretary	\$17/hour
Confidential Secretary	\$22/hour
Paraprofessional	\$18/hour
Custodian	\$18/hour

Maintenance	\$20.50/hour
Technology	\$37/hour
Bus/Van Driver	\$34/hour
Bus Paraprofessional	\$20/hour
Athletic Games - Ticket Collectors	\$60/event

10. Approve Special Education Schools*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following schools for the 2025-2026 school year and extended school year.

	Student ID#	School	Location	Cost
a	6365497884	Hunterdon Prep - SY	Annandale, NJ	\$63,180.00
b	7191128366	Shepard School - ESY	Kinnelon, NJ	\$14,610.50

11. Approve Special Education Evaluations*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following facilities to conduct evaluation services for the 2025-2026 school year.

	Evaluator	Services	Location	Cost	Not to Exceed Amount
a	Kid Therapy	OT & Speech Evals	Chester, NJ	\$160/Eval	\$3,000
b	Therapy Source	Speech Evals	Plymouth Meeting, PA	\$550/hr	\$3,000

12. Approve Special Education Providers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following providers for the 2025-2026 school year and extended school year.

	Provider	Services	Location	Cost	Not to Exceed Amount
a	Aveanna Healthcare	Nursing Services	Clark, NJ	\$70-\$75/hr	10,000.00
b	Bayada	Nursing Services	Morristown, NJ	\$69/hr	10,000.00
c	High Rise Healthcare Services	Nursing Services	Middlesex, NJ	\$98-\$103/hr	\$3,000
d	Invo Healthcare	Speech & Language Pathology and Psychology	Doylestown, PA	\$97.44-\$99.89/hr	\$5,000
e	Kid Therapy	OT & Speech Services	Chester, NJ	\$89-\$132/hr/	\$3,000

f	Therapy Source	BCBA, OT & Speech Services	Plymouth Meeting, PA	\$91.90- 119.90/hr	\$3,000
g	We Care Autism	ABA & BCBA Services	Cranford, NJ	ABA - \$120/hr BCBA - \$160/hr	\$1,500

13. Approve Joint Transportation Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement with Delaware Valley Regional High School to provide transportation services for the 2025-2026 school year, at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

14. Approve 2025-2026 ESSA-ESEA Grant*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission and acceptance of funds for the 2025-2026 school year for the ESSA-ESEA Federal Grant Application as follows:

Grant	Somerset Hills (Public)	Far Hills (Non-public)	St. Elizabeth's (Non-public)	Total
Title I-A	\$77,539	\$0	\$0	\$77,539
Title II-A	\$25,739	\$3,178	\$2,491	\$31,408
Title III	\$21,601	\$477	\$0	\$22,078
Title III Immigrant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Title IV Part A	\$8,195	\$1,012	\$793	\$10,000

15. Approve IDEA Grant for 2025-2026*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes application and approves the submission and acceptance of funds for the 2025-2026 school year for the IDEA Federal Grant Allocation as follows:

IDEA Basic Public:	\$388,556
IDEA Basic Non Public:	\$34,084
IDEA Preschool Public:	<u>\$17,838</u>
TOTAL	\$440,478

16. Approve State Aid for Non-Public Schools*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following state aid for non-public schools for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Far Hills Country Day	School of St. Elizabeth
Nursing Service Aid	\$27,518	\$21,549
Textbook Aid	\$10,512	\$8,232

Technology Aid	\$7,501	\$5,874
Security Aid	\$38,745	\$30,340

17. Approve Substitute Board Secretary*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Dr. Brian Brotschul as substitute Board Secretary for the 2025-2026 school year.

18. Appoint One-Time Board Secretary*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Dr. Brian Brotschul as Board Secretary for the second Executive Session on June 16, 2025.

19. Approve Truancy Officer Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve James Anthony as the District's Truancy Officer for the 2025-2026 school year, at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

20. Approve YMCA Before/After Care Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Before/After Care Program with the Somerset Hills YMCA for the 2025-2026 school year.

21. Accept Donations*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following donations:

	Organization	Purpose	School	Amount
a	Bernards Lions Club, Inc.	Portion of Summer Support breakfast costs	District	\$300
b	Somerset Hills Chiropractic LLC	Portion of Summer Support breakfast costs	District	\$200
c	Anonymous	Portion of Summer Credit Recovery costs	BHS	\$2,205

22. Approve School Health Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Richard Liguori as Fund Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund, effective July 1, 2025, to represent the Somerset Hills School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kathy Mehan is appointed as Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund effective July 1, 2025.

23. Approve WeatherWorks Renewal Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the renewal of the Weather Service Renewal Agreement with WeatherWorks for 2025-26 in the amount of \$2,125.00.

24. Approve Change of Use Submission to DOE*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the Application for Change of Use of Educational Space for the 2025-2026 School Year to the DOE for the BHS Podcast Studio.

25. Approve Updated Bid Threshold*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, had designated its bid threshold at \$44,000 at its May 13, 2025 public meeting, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a, and be it further

RESOLVED, that for contracting units that avail themselves of the related higher bid threshold pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-3 and 18A:18A-3, the maximum bid threshold has been increased from \$44,000 to \$53,000, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the threshold for soliciting quotations, which is 15% of the bid threshold in accordance with 40A:11-6.1(a) and 18A:18A-37(a), is correspondingly increased from \$6,600 to \$7,950.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4, establishes and sets the updated bid threshold amount of \$53,000 for the Board of Education, while continuing to authorize Richard Liguori as the Temporary Purchasing Agent to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount.

26. Approve Renewal Agreement for Class III Special Police Officers (SLEOs)*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the renewal of the Class III Special Police Officers (SLEOs) agreement for the 2025-26 school year with the Borough of Bernardsville, continuing at the rate of \$42.50 per hour, at an amount not to exceed \$205,000.

27. Approve JAG-One Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve year 3 of the JAG-One 3-year agreement to provide athletic training services for the 2025-26 school year, at an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

28. Approve Professional Service Contract*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Ronald M. Frank, MD from Green Brook Family Medicine as school physician for the 2025-2026 school year, at an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

29. Approve FY27 Budget Calendar*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the FY27 Budget Calendar; *Attachment A*

30. Approve NJSBA Workshop Fee*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the early bird group registration fee for the NJSBA Workshop 2025, to be held October 20-23, 2025, in the amount of \$2,200.

31. Approve Disposal of Old Assets

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the disposal of the following unusable assets at Bedwell Elementary School:

	Item	Quantity
a	Projectors	2
b	Projector Screens	3
c	Children's Kitchen Set	1
d	Dehumidifier	1
e	Lunch Tables	2
f	Chairs	17
g	Desks	2
h	Tables	13
i	Student Desks	54
j	CRT Television	1
k	Rolling Cart	1

32. Approve Revised Not to Exceed Amounts*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised not to exceed amounts for the 2024-25 school year:

	Vendor	Description	Amount Not to Exceed
a	360 Translations	Translation Services	\$8,500
b	Anderson & Shah Law	Legal Services	\$50,000
c	Atlantic Tomorrow's Office	Print Management Service	\$27,000
d	Behavior Therapy Associates	Behavioral Evals & BCBA Consults	\$5,500

e	Benchmark Education	Bilingual literacy materials	\$12,500
f	Best Choice	Nursing Services (RN & LPN)	\$325,000
g	Borough of Bernardsville	Gasoline	\$47,000
h	Educere, LLC	Home & Bedside Instruction	\$40,000
i	Green Brook Family Medicine (Ronald Frank)	School Physician	\$10,500
j	Horizon Healthcare Staffing	Healthcare Staffing	\$7,500
k	Hunter Technologies	Phone Systems	\$50,000
l	IXL	Reading & Math Assessments	\$2,200
m	Learnwell (EI US, LLC)	Home & Bedside Instruction	\$15,000
n	Lift As We Climb Consulting, LLC, (Dordoni, Kiina)	PD - Sheltered instruction and bilingual program coaching	\$23,000
o	National Geographic / Cengage Learning	Math Curriculum	\$41,000
p	Pediatric Workshop (Cindy Argiro)	Physical Therapy & Evaluations	\$64,000
q	Qualtrics	Software Licenses	\$32,500
r	School Office Solutions	Business Office Consulting	\$77,500
s	Silvergate Prep	Home & Bedside Instruction	\$10,500
t	Swank Film Services	Film Services	\$3,200
u	We Care Autism	ABA Services	\$74,000

33. Approve Revised Not to Exceed Amounts*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised not to exceed amounts for the 2025-26 school year:

	Vendor	Description	Amount Not to Exceed
a	Heinemann Publishing	Reading & Writing K-2	\$32,000

34. Approve Waiving of Outstanding Food Service Debt*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, waives an outstanding food service debt in the amount of \$11,605.33, inclusive of students identified as free or reduced, who have accumulated debt through June 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a transfer from the general fund to the food service fund will occur in this amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that immediately thereafter the Board of Education will continue to enforce policy 8550.

35. Approve Atlantic Tomorrow Print Services*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Atlantic Tomorrow for managed print services for the 2025-2026 school year, at an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

36. Approve Parent Organization Fundraisers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	PAC Parents	BHS	Concession & Program Ad Sales for Fall Play and Spring Musical	2025-2026 SY
b	PAC Parents	BHS	Bernardsville Cinema Movie Event	Fall 2025/Spring 2026
c	PAC Parents	BHS	Local Business Fundraisers	2025-2026 SY

37. Approve Parent Organization Fundraisers

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	Bedwell HSA	BES	BES Family Picnic Concessions	Sept 2025
b	Bedwell HSA	BES	Charleston Wrap Sale	Oct 2025
c	Bedwell HSA	BES	Book Fair Sale	11/3/25-11/5/25
d	Bedwell HSA	BES	Holiday Shoppe/Breakfast	12/6/25
e	Bedwell HSA	BES	Wreath Sale	Sept/Oct 2025

f	Bedwell HSA	BES	Spirit Wear	2025-2026 SY
g	PE Dept	BMS	Color Run	2025-2026 SY

38. Approve NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Placement Results*
RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following NJQSAC placement results:

NJQSAC Areas	Initial Placement (August, 2025)
Instruction and Program	85%
Fiscal Management	98%
Governance	100%
Operations	100%
Personnel	95%

C. Business Operations Old Business / New Business - none.

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on August 13, 2025. The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DECISIONS/CONCLUSIONS REACHED:

- ELL update, including standardized test results (M. Catelli)
 - Mr. Catelli joined us to present ACCESS results for K-12 ML students. ACCESS 2.0 is an annual test required by the NJDOE to measure English language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
 - Students can score from 1-6 and can exit the program at 4.5. Each student has an individual growth goal that is set by the state.
 - In Bedwell, 56% likely met the growth goal.

All Exploremos students met their proficiency goals, with strong growth in reading. Among students who received services from our Title 1 teachers, 88% met growth targets and 52% showed double growth.

The committee was thrilled with the progress in this population and thanked the administration and the staff and Bedwell making this progress possible.
- At BMS, 21% likely met growth targets.

Students showed strong growth in speaking but improvement in reading was slower than expected. In the future, ML goals will be targeted using Ellevation to ensure consistency of support.

- At BHS, 25% likely met the state goal. However, SIFEs need 8 to 10 years for proficiency. If the goal was modified to account for the time needed for SIFEs to achieve proficiency, 47% would be expected to meet the updated goal.

While newcomer students showed strong growth, growth was slower among upperclassman and long-term MLs, which is prompting the team to re-evaluate the supports and curricula for these students.

2. ELL new student(s)—paraprofessional support and new position

- The district will be hiring additional paraprofessional support for new ELL students at Bedwell.

3. Math at BMS (Olga Edgerton)

- In response to student needs and the board's request, students at Bedwell and BMS will be receiving additional instructional time in math.

At Bedwell, students will be receiving 15 extra minutes of instruction in math per day.

At BMS, students will be receiving an extra class period of math every 3rd day (resulting in an extra 15 minutes of instruction per day) from a different teacher than their typical math teacher.

For the extra period, students will be grouped with students at similar levels as much as possible. Grade 5 will be receiving an additional class period in math once per week.

- Some committee members asked whether a more holistic approach to enhancing math time at BMS might be more effective (eg, changes to the master schedule to accommodate additional math time with the same teacher), recognizing the complexities of scheduling.

Dr. Brotschul explained that adding additional time with the same teacher would require additional teachers and a reduction in ELA time.

One committee member asked how other neighboring districts were able to provide additional time in math instruction with the same teacher.

The committee hopes that discussions on math time and BMS scheduling will continue.

4. Seton Hall University MOA

- The district has signed an MOA with Seton Hall which will allow BHS to offer dual enrollment for the following courses in 2025-2026: French 4H, Spanish 4H, Latin 4H, Journalism 2A and Music Theory A (1&2) in 2026-2027.
- Seton Hall has less stringent requirements regarding high school teachers eligible to teach these classes compared to other institutions.
- Students are eligible if they are juniors or seniors and have a 3.0+ GPA. Tuition is \$330 for a 3-credit course (eg, Journalism) but will cost more for the World language courses since they are full-year courses.
- For the 2025-2026 year, BHS is now able to offer 7 dual enrollment courses (up from 0 just a few years ago).

5. Atlas

- The district is now moving forward with using Atlas as a repository for our curriculum. By next September (2026), all lesson plans will be stored on Atlas.
- Atlas will enable greater curricular alignment, articulation, and collaboration between teachers, as well as a safe repository for district curricula.
- Note that parents will also be able to access and search curricula using this platform.

6. AP Scores

- Dr. Butler and Dr. Brotschul then presented the results of last year's AP testing to the committee.

- Overall, BHS students performed very well on AP tests, with passing rates (scores ≥ 3) considerably higher than NJ and Global averages on almost all tests. In at least 7 content areas, all students who took the test passed it.
- Notably, all 28 students who took the AP English Language test earned a 4 or a 5! Congratulations to Ms. Volosin and her students.

7. School Leadership Team Update

- Dr. Brotschul reviewed progress made by the School Leadership Team and the Quality School Review initiatives.
- The goal of the team and the review is to advance the instructional leadership of the district and to inform the strategic plan.
- The committee fully supports this work

8. AI update

- The broad AI policy drafted last year by multiple stakeholders in the district has been sent to Dr. Brotschul and is going to the policy committee for approval.

9. Opt out process—Busch memo

- Given the recent Mahmoud vs Taylor decision and the related memo from Busch, the committee reviewed our opt out processes.

10. Cell Phone Task Force

- The initial committee of the Cell Phone Task Force, which included Dr. Butler, social workers, counselors, and community members, reviewed the district's current policies regarding cell phone use.
- An expert on the impact of social media/technology on students, the school physician, and a sergeant from the Bernardsville Police Department also sent feedback by e-mail.
- The committee agreed that the district's policies regarding cell phone use should be re-examined given the potential benefits of cell phone-free schools and the success of the new policies at Ridge.
- Potential next steps include a community meeting, community education, a deeper examination of current practices, consultation with Bernards Township schools, and turning off access to grades during the school day.
- Thanks to the administration for making meaningful changes to the cell phone policy at BHS (and modifying access to grades) for this year as a first step. Work by the committee/Task Force will continue.

11. ESEA consolidated

- We also reviewed the Title 1A, Title II-A, Title III, and Title IV Part A grants that will be on the agenda for next week, along with changes in funding since last year.

DECISIONS

1. No concerns were raised regarding PD or field trip requests.

INFORMATION

- Given the length of our agenda, the committee had little time to discuss the items listed as informational.
- Briefly, Dr. Butler provided the committee with online access to several informational items to review prior to the meeting, including the curricular items on the August 27th agenda and the district's mentoring plan, professional development plan, opening day's schedule, and new educator's schedule.

- Dr. Butler also informed the committee that the Guidance Office will be operating under the new name of the School Counseling Office, which is more in line with current practice and terminology.
- She also let the committee know that the school calendar will be moving to the Student Services committee.
- Finally, we learned that Dr. Brotschul will be representing the district in RevolutionNJ, an initiative designed to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and New Jersey's pivotal role in the American Revolution.

Discussion - After the committee report, there was a brief discussion. Mrs. Santoro thanked the committee for their hard work and commented on testing results and the cell phone task force. Ms. Clark-Emery inquired about a holistic approach, and Ms. Cooper offered feedback regarding new math times for middle school students and how this could lead to looking at the entire schedule going forward.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-15, Mrs. Hoppe seconded.

Items #2a-i, 2r-z, 2hh-2ii, 4, 7-8, 10-15 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

Items #2j-q were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Hoppe.

Item #2aa was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Ms. Ballard.

Item #2bb was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Ms. Cooper.

Item #2cc was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Abstain: Mrs. Frenda.

Item #2dd was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Ms. Gils.

Items #1, 2ee, 3, 5-6 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

Item #2ff was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Santoro.

Item #2gg was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Wry.

Item #9 was approved by roll call vote of 9-1-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. No: Ms. Gils.

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 2025-2026 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BES	Akauola, Jasmine	The Four Essential Roles of Leadership	7/10/25	\$0
b	BES	Akauola, Jasmine	Lead with Joy: NJ Principals & Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration/NJ Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development 2025 Fall Conference	10/16/25, 10/17/25	\$1,035.69
c	BMS	Fabregas, Kelly	Conquer Math 2025-26 Workshops	9/18/25, 11/12/25, 2/2/26	\$224.16
d	BMS	Fitzgerald, Marianne	Conquer Math 2025-26 Workshops	9/18/25, 11/12/25, 2/2/26	\$225.19
e	BMS	Garofalo, Lisa	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45
f	BMS	Koellhoffer, Keith	Capturing Kids' Hearts Training	8/27/25, 8/28/25	\$450
g	BES	Lippert, Mercedes	Tools of the Mind Virtual Training	10/28/25, 10/29/25, 12/4/25, 12/9/25, 4/28/26	\$2,750
h	BMS	Pasquarelli, Jaclyn	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45

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 2025-2026 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	District	Barna, Lindsay	Lead with Joy: NJ Principals & Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration/NJ Association for	10/16/25, 10/17/25	\$952.78

			Supervision and Curriculum Development 2025 Fall Conference		
b	District	Barna, Lindsay	Advancing Literacy Leadership Conference	10/8/25, 11/5/25, 12/10/25, 2/4/26, May-TBD	part of Advancing Literacy contracted services
c	District	Brotschul, Brian	NJ Association of School Administrators/ L.E.A.D. Summer Conference	7/31/25	\$125
d	District	Brotschul, Brian	Strauss Esmay Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Training Program - Fall 2025	9/29/25	\$165
e	District	Butler, Coleen	Atlas Curriculum Writing Workshop	7/1/25, 7/2/25	\$52.64
f	District	Butler, Coleen	interNETworking 2025	7/23/25, 7/24/25	\$69.56
g	District	Catelli, Michael	Lead with Joy: NJ Principals & Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration/NJ Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development 2025 Fall Conference	10/16/25, 10/17/25	\$481
h	District	Edgerton, Olga	First Annual Technology Summit	9/19/25	\$0
i	District	Edgerton, Olga	Administrators' Workshop: How Our Prior Ideas About Science Teaching and Learning Get in the Way of Successful Implementation	9/10/25	\$0
j	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	National Athletic Directors Conference	12/12/25- 12/16/25	\$1,605
k	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Skylands Athletic Director Meetings	8/27/25, 9/10/25, 10/22/25, 11/19/25, 12/17/25, 1/22/26, 2/25/26, 3/18/26, 4/8/26, 4/20/26, 5/6/26, 6/3/26	\$315.84
l	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	County Athletic Director Meetings	11/14/25 3/6/26 6/5/26	\$53.58
m	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse League Meetings	10/17/25, 3/20/26, 6/19/26	\$39.48

n	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	NJ Ice Hockey League Meetings	10/1/25, 2/1/26, May-TBD	\$43.24
o	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Middle School Athletic Scheduling Meetings	10/1/25, 1/7/26, 4/8/26	\$65.34
p	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Meeting	5/5/26	\$48.18
q	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Field Trip Chaperone	9/22/25	\$0
r	BHS	LaPine, Matthew	Field Trip Chaperone	9/2/25	\$0
s	District	Liguori, Richard	NJ Association of School Business Officials SBA Certification - School Finance, Food Service, Core Curriculum, School Law, Insurance/Risk, Personnel Admin/Labor	Various	\$2,266.99
t	District	Liguori, Richard	National Asbestos & Environmental Training Institute Asbestos Awareness Online Course	9/5/25	\$79
u	District	Liguori, Richard	NJ Association of School Business Officials Academy - BA Reports & DOE Basics	8/19/25	\$50
v	BHS	Neigel, Scott	Lead with Joy: NJ Principals & Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration/NJ Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development 2025 Fall Conference	10/16/25, 10/17/25	\$620.99
w	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone	9/4/25	\$0
x	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone	Various TBD	\$0
y	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone	10/23/25	\$0
z	BHS	Walker, Jaime	Somerset County Legal Update	7/16/25	\$0
aa	District	Ballard, Felicia	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45
bb	District	Cooper, Nicole	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45
cc	District	Frenda, Sam	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45
dd	District	Gils, Silvia	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45
ee	District	Gomez, Gabriela	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25- 10/24/25	\$945.45

ff	District	Santoro, Heather	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25-10/24/25	\$945.45
gg	District	Wry, Pat	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25-10/24/25	\$945.45
hh	District	Brotschul, Brian	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25-10/24/25	\$945.45
ii	District	Liguori, Richard	2025 Annual NJ School Board Association Workshop	10/21/25-10/24/25	\$945.45

3. Approve Field Trips

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BMS	Grow-a-Row Farm - Pittstown, NJ	30	4	0

4. Approve Field Trips*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BHS	Rutgers University - New Brunswick, NJ	75	1	4
b	BHS	Hershey Park Festival - Hershey, PA	100	1	6
c	BHS	Escape the Mystery Room - Rockaway, NJ	21	1	1
d	BHS	Matheny - Peapack, NJ Bernardsville Public Library - Bernardsville, NJ Roxiticus Country Club - Mendham, NJ Center for Hope Hospice - Scotch Plains, NJ	21	1	1
e	BHS	United Reformed Church - Somerville, NJ	21	1	1
f	BHS	Bernardsville Middle School - Bernardsville, NJ Bedminster School - Bedminster, NJ	80	2	4
g	BHS	Choral Connections - Kendall Park, NJ	56	1	4
h	BHS	Roxbury Choral Festival - Succasunna, NJ	21	1	1
i	BHS	North Hunterdon High School - Annandale, NJ	9	1	0
j	BHS	Bernardsville Public Library - Bernardsville, NJ	4	1	0

5. Approve Benchmark Advance Elementary Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Benchmark Advance 2022 Grade K and 1 bilingual literacy materials from Benchmark Education for Bedwell Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed \$6,000.

6. Approve Benchmark Adelante Elementary Bilingual Program

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Benchmark Adelante 2023 bilingual literacy materials and PD from Benchmark Education for the Bedwell Bilingual Program for the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed \$6,000.

7. Adopt Curriculum Documents*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopt the newly revised and completed curriculum documents for the 2025-2026 school year.

8. Approve 2025-2026 Professional Development and Mentoring Plan*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Professional Development and Mentoring Plan for the 2025-2026 school year, on file in the Curriculum Office.

9. Approve 2025-2026 Anti-Bullying Specialists*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following Anti-Bullying Specialists for 2025-2026:

Jaime Walker- District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Lauren Cava- Bernards High School Anti-Bullying Specialist

Chris Habermas & Michele Adkins- Bernardsville Middle School Anti-Bullying Specialists

Megan Dooley- Bedwell Elementary School Anti-Bullying Specialist

10. Approve Affirmative Action Officers*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following Affirmative Action Officers for 2025-2026:

Coleen Butler- District

Scott Neigel- Bernards High School

Lisa Garofalo- Bernardsville Middle School

Scott Wolfe- Bedwell Elementary School

11. Approve 504 Coordinators*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following 504 Coordinators for 2025-2026:

Jamie Koransky- District

Scott Neigel- Bernards High School

Lisa Garofalo- Bernardsville Middle School

Scott Wolfe- Bedwell Elementary School

12. Approve 2025-2026 School Improvement Panels (SciPs)*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following School Improvement Panels (SciPs) for 2025-2026:

Bedwell Elementary School

Scott Wolfe– Principal

Jasmine Akauola- Assistant Principal
Megan Dooley- School Counselor

Bernardsville Middle School

Lisa Garofalo- Principal
Keith Koellhoffer- Assistant Principal
Michael Georgiana- Teacher

Bernards High School

Scott Neigel- Principal
Mike Corbett- Assistant Principal
Christine Whitlock- Teacher
Ashley Paulmeno- Teacher

13. Approve 2025-2026 School Safety/School Climate Teams*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following School Safety Teams for 2025-2026:

Bedwell Elementary School

Scott Wolfe– Principal
Jasmine Akauola- Assistant Principal
Megan Dooley- School Counselor
Maureen Ziolkowski- Teacher
Lee Eaton- Parent

Bernardsville Middle School

Lisa Garofalo- Principal
Keith Koellhoffer- Assistant Principal
Jaclyn Pasquarelli- Mental Health Counselor
Phil Mahlik- Teacher
Ayesha Failey- Parent

Bernards High School

Scott Neigel- Principal
Lauren Cava- Substance Awareness Coordinator
Melissa Gomez- School Nurse
Matt Bale-Peña- Teacher
Suzie Stevinson- Parent
Tori Resnick- School Counselor

14. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Seton Hall University*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Seton Hall University for Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) for the 2025-2026 school year.

15. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Raritan Valley Community College*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Raritan Valley Community College for Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business - Mrs. Clark-Emery lauded the District's recent rankings and subsequent increase. Mrs. Wry reinforced the same. Ms. Gils asked that there be a discussion at the next Curriculum committee meeting related to opting out of health curriculum; Dr. Brotschul noted this would be a Policy committee item, rather than Curriculum.

PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on August 19, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. Personnel/Budget

- We started with a review of the regular Public Meeting agenda and attachment. Included is a list of updated salaries under the new contract, effective 8/27 (codifying the terms of the new agreement.) Teachers will receive salary letters in their mailboxes on the first day of school. (See Attachment B.)
- Other agenda items include the resignations of two paraprofessionals, the hiring of a new Science teacher and a leave replacement, and the assignment of non certificated paraprofessionals.
- Additionally, overloads for Marking Period 1 (special ed at the high school and coverage of extended time math classes in middle school), summer work, rescission and approval of co-curricular coaches are also included.

2. Administrative Assignments

- Currently under evaluation is the K-12 supervisory structure. This is due to the burden on supervisors during the testing season (for about two months.) This results in a loss of their services during those times; they are pulled away from the actual job, losing that layer of connectivity with students and faculty. As such, Dr. Brotschul and the administration are looking at new ways to manage this.

B. Action Items: Ms. Ballard moved items #1-27, Ms. Gils seconded.

Items #2, 5-6, 8-10, 13, 16-20, 22, 25 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

Items #1, 3-4, 7, 11-12, 14-15, 21, 23-24, 26-27 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

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	Sievert, Janine	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional	8/31/25
b	Petrie, George	BMS	Special Education Paraprofessional	8/31/25

2. Approve Appointment Certified Staff*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following non-tenured certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *subject to further investigation pursuant to law:*

	Name	School	Position/UPC	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Neiss, Joanna	BHS	Biology Teacher TCH.HS.SCNC.NA.06	BA	2-3	\$67,895	Palmere	9/1/25

3. 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 for the 2025-2026 school year; *subject to further investigation pursuant to law:*

	Name	School	Position/UPC	Level	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Cortigiani, Deborah	BES	ESL Teacher TCH.ES.ESL.NA.02.LR	MA	15-16	\$92,275 <i>prorated</i>	Rodriguez	9/1/25-10/17/25
b	Johnson, Theresa	BES	Art Teacher TCH.ES.ART.LR.01	BA	17	\$88,800	McCarron	9/1/25 - 6/30/26 <i>Pending clearance</i>

4. 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 2025-2026 school year; *subject to further investigation pursuant to law:*

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Manger, Gabrielle	BES	Special Education Para PARA.DIST.INCL.NA.03	4	\$23.82/hour	Sievert	9/3/25
b	Minassian, Tanya	BES	Special Education Para PARA.DIST.RR.NA.01	6	\$24.22/hour	Browe	9/3/25
c	Simeone, Cindy	BES	Special Education Para PARA.DIST.RR.NA.15	3	\$23.61/hour	Grzeczko	9/3/25
d	Locatelli, Thomas	BES	Special Education Para PARA.DIST.RR.NA.08	4	\$23.82/hour	Petrie	9/3/25

5. Approve Overloads*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following overloads for the 2025-2026 school year;

	Type of Support	Teacher	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Special Education BHS	Lehnhoff, Robert	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$86,950	\$4,348.37
b	Special Education BHS	Paulmeno, Ashley	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$83,680	\$4,184.84
c	Special Education BHS	Snyder, Allison	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$102,425	\$5,122.27
d	Special Education BHS	Stypolkowski, Emily	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$78,430	\$3,922.28
e	Special Education BHS	Tripp, Amanda	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$107,650	\$5,383.58
f	Special Education BHS	Wierzbicki, Kyle	9/1/25 - 11/25/25	5	\$74,245	\$3,712.99

6. Amend Overloads*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following overloads for the 2025-2026 school year;

	Type of Support	Teacher	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Math - SIP	Camuto, Lisa	S1*	5	\$92,275	\$7,691.12
b	Latin/WL	Ciocco, Jared	FY	5	\$81,130	\$13,524.37
c	Financial Literacy	Murphy, Theresa	FY	2	\$92,275	\$6,152.90
d	English - Debate	Volosin, Lauren	S1	5	\$92,275	\$7,691.12
e	English - SIP	Weltler, Lynn	S1*	5	\$117,800	\$9,818.63
f	Biology	Young, Joseph	FY	3	\$90,050	\$9,006.80

★ Per diem until completed as determined by Principal

7. Approve Overloads

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following overloads for the 2025-2026 school year;

	Type of Support	Teacher	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Math I/E BMS	Froysland, Megan	FY	5	\$87,450	\$14,577.92
b	Math I/E BMS	Georgiana, Michael	FY	5	\$105,300	\$17,553.51

8. 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	Date of Leave/Notes
a	9367	BHS	Certified Staff	NJFLA	11/01/2025 - 01/02/2026 (unpaid w/ benefits)

9. Approve Summer Instruction*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following 2025 summer instruction:

	Name	Position	Not to Exceed	Per Hour Rate
a	O'Halloran, Anne	Math Support	8 days	\$56.83

10. Amend Summer Instruction*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following 2025 summer instruction:

	Name	Position	Not to Exceed	Per Hour Rate
a	Pietroluongo, Jade	Support Teacher History	4 days	\$60.46

11. Approve Summer Work

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following 2025 summer work:

	Name	Position/Work	Not to Exceed	Per Diem Rate
a	Escobar-Chaffee, Salomee	Teacher/Classroom Transition BES	2 days	\$405.65

12. Amend Stipend Positions

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the appointment of the following stipend positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Komsiri, Bhanca	Head Custodian	BMS	\$4,500
b	Singsongkam, Khambone	Head Custodian	BES	\$4,500

13. Amend Stipend Position*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the appointment of the following stipend position for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Gonzalez, Didier	Head Custodian	BHS	\$7,000

14. Rescind Co-Curricular & Athletic Positions

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of the following athletic and co-curricular position for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Riley, Kathryn	Robotics	BMS	\$2,872.45
b	O'Connor, Leslie	Field Hockey: Assistant	BMS	\$2,825.92

15. Approve Co-Curricular & Athletic Positions

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following co-curricular and athletic positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Wertman, Suzanne	Kindness Club Advisor 50%	BMS	\$1,436.23
b	Sheehan, Carolyn	Field Hockey: Assistant	BMS	\$2,825.92
c	Berry, Courtney	Robotics	BMS	\$2,872.45
d	Koch, Kevin	Soccer: Boys Head 50%	BMS	\$2,173.99
e	Daben, Jose	Soccer: Boys Head 50%	BMS	\$2,173.99
f	Koch, Kevin	Soccer: Boys Assistant 50%	BMS	\$1,412.96
g	Daben, Jose	Soccer: Boys Assistant 50%	BMS	\$1,412.96

16. Rescind Co-Curricular & Athletic Positions*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of the following athletic and co-curricular positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Golding, Zachary	Volleyball: Women's Assistant	BHS	\$5,583.60
b	Crisman-Butler, Gillian	Soccer: Women's Assistant JV	BHS	\$6,204.00
c	O'Reilly, Brendan	Football: Assistant JV	BHS	\$8,142.75

d	Rivera, Fernando	Soccer: Men's Asst FR	BHS	\$5,790.40
e	Zangara, Timothy	Soccer: Men's Asst JV	BHS	\$6,204.00
f	Blakeslee, Garret	Fencing: Asst 1	BHS	\$5,583.60
g	Kotz, Caitlin	Fencing: Asst 2	BHS	\$5,583.60

17. Approve Co-Curricular & Athletic Positions*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following co-curricular and athletic positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	Nadolny, Tyler	Volleyball: Women's Assistant	BHS	\$5,583.60
b	Fritsche, Macklin	Soccer: Women's Assistant JV	BHS	\$6,204.00
c	Wierzbicki, Kyle	Football: Assistant JV	BHS	\$8,142.75
d	Zangara, Timothy	Soccer: Men's Asst FR	BHS	\$5,790.40
e	Rivera, Fernando	Soccer: Men's Asst JV	BHS	\$6,204.00
f	Manore, Paul	Assistant AD: Winter	BHS	\$4,963.20
g	Clemson, Trevor	Hockey	BHS	\$5,583.60 <i>pending clearance</i>
h	Simoneau, Jon	Weight Training: Summer	BHS	\$1,809.50
i	McDowell, Caroline	Cross Country Volunteer	BHS	\$0
j	Maddaluna, John	Football Volunteer	BHS	\$0
k	Shilts, Christopher	Football Volunteer	BHS	\$0
l	O'Reilly, Brendan	Football Volunteer	BHS	\$0
m	Joyce, Ian	Soccer M/W Volunteer (Varsity only)	BHS	\$0

18. Approve Permanent Substitutes*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following permanent substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	DiSabto, Felicia	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/3/25
b	Taesler, Rachael	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/3/25
c	Flood, Karen	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/3/25
d	Blackstock, Julie	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/3/25

19. Approve Substitutes*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	Tandon, Geeta	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
b	deCavaignac, Lindsey	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
c	Reina, Olivia	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>

d	Puzzo, Danielle	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
e	Krumbiegel, Larissa	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
f	Marconi, Gary	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
g	Karami, Mona	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
h	Grenard, Sharon	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
i	Davis, Nijee	Maintenance	n/a	9/1/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>

20. Amend Summer Work*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following 2025 summer work for staff members to be paid at their 2025-2026 per hour rate; *Attachment B*

21. Amend Summer Work

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following 2025 summer work for staff members to be paid at their 2025-2026 per hour rate; *Attachment B*

22. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Certificated Staff 2025-2026 School Year*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following renewal and salaries for certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *Attachment B*

23. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Certificated Staff 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following renewal and salaries for certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *Attachment B*

24. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Title I Certificated Staff 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following renewal and salary for Title I certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *Attachment B*

25. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Non-Certificated Staff 2025-2026 School Year*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following renewal and salaries for non-certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *Attachment B*

26. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Non-Certificated Staff 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following renewal and salaries for non-certificated staff for the 2025-2026 school year; *Attachment B*

27. Amend Internship

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following clinical practice internship for the **2025-2026** school year:

	Name	School/Subject	Mentor	Program	Service Agreement Effective
a	Van Kooy, Emma	School Counseling	Ellis, Amanda	Seton Hall University MA Program	Fall Semester 2025 <i>pending clearance</i>

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business - none.

XV. POLICY

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on August 19, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. Policies for Review- revised administrative codes

- P 0173: Duties of Public School Accountant
- P 0174: Legal Services
- P 0177: Professional Services
- P & R 1570: Internal Controls
- P 1620: Administrative Employment Contracts
- P & R 6111: Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
- P 6220: Budget Preparation
- R 6220: Budget Preparation
- P 1636.01 Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities
- P 2422: Statutory Curricular Requirements

Of particular note:

- P 5339.01: Student Sun Protection: sunscreen law; students will now be afforded opportunity to apply sunscreen at school
- P5239 Policy and Regulation Open Campus- currently being developed; including attendant protocols and processes to effectuate this policy

2. Policy to Abolish

- P 1648.15: Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings In School Buildings – COVID-19 (M)

3. Cell phones

- Grades K-8 cellphones no access (middle schoolers put phones in lockers)
- Grades 9-12 bring into class put in the Photel (hotel) then students can take phones into their next class for instruction and repeat the Photel process. Students have phones for passing and for lunch.
- Goal: students should be locked in and present for instruction; not locked in on their phones.
- Willing to adjust and grow as it relates to passing time and lunch; but currently not an issue; there have been no discipline issues, no trends towards bad behavior. There is not a problem to be fixed.
- Dr. Neigel also offered the possibility of a tech free day
- Additionally, access to Genesis will be limited for parents and students during the school day

4. Policy Discussion(s)

- Conduct of Board Meeting (e.g., how the agenda is ordered). Follow up from June's discussion:
 - Action plan: review board agendas from other boards in next month's Policy and Personnel meeting

- Discussion points:
 - NJ and Strauss Esmay affirm our agenda
 - Idea of offering a topic ahead of time submit to board; maybe to gather a spokesperson for the group; added as an agenda item earlier in the month and put on agenda
 - Add a third comment section
 - Add a statement that all board members are accessible by email. Topics will be directed to committees. Mr. Liguori is board secretary; emails can be sent to him for distribution to the entire board or board members can be emailed individually (emails available on SHSD website.)
- Dress code continues to be under discussion by the school administration.
- School Uniform discussion has been tabled.

B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-2, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Items #1-2 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. 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
P 0173	Duties of Public School Accountant
P 0174	Legal Services
P 0177	Professional Services
P & R 1570	Internal Controls
P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts
P & R 6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
P & R 6220	Budget Preparation
P 1636.01	Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities
P 2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements
P 5231	Open Campus
P 5339.01	Student Sun Protection

2. Abolishment*

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

Policy/Regulation #	Title
P 1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings In School Buildings –COVID-19-Abolish

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: Ms. Gils asked that there be a discussion at the next Policy committee meeting related to policy #5756.

XVI. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The Committee met on August 19, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. School Calendar: 2026-2027 (School Calendar 2027-2028 to be developed after Committee guidance)
 - Committee discussion of calendars. A conservative version and an aggressive version were discussed. The Committee provided direction for a recommended course of action for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 calendars for recommendation and Board action at a coming meeting.
 - Committee Discussion/Findings
 - The committee recommends moving forward with a conservative approach to starting the school year earlier for the 2026/2027 school year. The conservative approach has teachers reporting for Professional Development days on August 25th, 26th, and 27th and students beginning on Monday, August 31st. The reason for moving the start of school earlier is:
 - It gives our staff a head start to academics and provides additional instruction time prior to all standardized testing (NJSLA, APs, ACTs, SATs, etc.)
 - Dr. Butler was going to revisit the positioning of spring break to ensure the optimal timing of the break between the January return to school and the end of school.
 - With the conservative calendar we will get out on June 11th.
 - The following year we have recommended that we start a week earlier than the 26/27 calendar and Administration will be working on a calendar to reflect this. We hope to have two school year calendars ready to approve in our November meeting.
2. Athletics - Development of Board-approved handbook.
 - Committee Discussion/Findings
 - Dr. Brotschul provided copies for the committee to scan and review. He also noted there is a Coach Handbook that was developed as well. We appreciate the work that has been done and this initial step to further align our Athletics with goals and objectives of the district. Dr. Brotschul said that the Coaches are being made aware of the new handbook and will sign off on it in the future.
3. School Handbooks BHS: 2025-2026, BMS: 2025-2026, BES: 2025-2026
 - On August 27, 2025, agenda for approval
4. Residency Investigation Process
 - Description of the residency investigation process.
 - Committee Discussion:

- Dr. Brotschul reviewed the residency investigation process. We have had 5 cases identified in the last year. The process is clear and well established with opportunity for those involved to participate and provide required information.
5. Climate Surveying, Students/Staff/Parents
- NJ School Climate Improvement (platform) studies the following through Rutgers University:
 1. Academic culture and classroom practices (all participants)
 2. Supportive staff-student relationships (all participants)
 3. Support for student social and emotional learning (all participants)
 4. Behavioral expectations (all participants)
 5. Negative student interpersonal behaviors (all participants)
 6. Prosocial student interpersonal behaviors (all participants)
 7. Student voice and involvement (all participants)
 8. Sense of physical safety (all participants)
 9. Leadership support (staff only)
 10. Organizational resources and supports (staff only)
 11. Collegial support (staff only)
 12. Family Support and Engagement (staff and parents/caregivers)
 13. Student sense of belonging (students only)
 - Seek to survey during the Week of Respect
6. Climate Surveying, Staff
- NJ Public School Collaborative studies the following through Rutgers University.
 1. Goal alignment
 2. Shared decision making
 3. Teachers' efficacy
 4. Discretion
 5. Principal as a resource
 6. Union representative as a resource
 7. Psychological safety
 - We endeavor to survey district staff members during the winter and spring for all staff members through the Rutgers School of Labor and Management as a function of our Quality School Review/School Improvement Planning processes. This will inform our data collection and goal-setting.
 - Committee Discussion:
 - We touched on this briefly as we were running out of time, however the above information provides an overview of the Climate Survey rollout. It will involve parents with students in grades k-12 and students in grades 3-12.
 - It will likely be rolled out in fall during the Week of Respect.
 - The staff will complete their portion in the winter timeframe.
7. Student Safety Data System Report
- Upload of the report discussed.
 - Committee Discussion:
 - The report that the district must submit will be uploaded. This includes information that is reported to the state on student conduct and HIBs.

Discussion: Ms. Gils inquired about Spanish speaking parent involvement. Mrs. Gomez asked if all could speak freely regarding Special Education. Mrs. Santoro indicated these were all great steps for our schools, as all have

different experiences. Ms. Clark-Emery commended the coaching handbook, stating it is about integrity and ethics, both in and out of the classroom.

B. Action Items: Ms. Santoro moved items #1-7, Ms. Ballard seconded.

Items #2, 4, 6-7 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

Items #1, 3, 5 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on June 16, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BES	35	Unfounded
BES	36	Unfounded
BES	37	Unfounded
BES	38	Unfounded
BES	39	Founded
BES	40	Founded
BES	41	Founded
BMS	30	Founded
BMS	31	Founded
BMS	32	Founded
BMS	33	Unfounded
BMS	34	Unfounded
BMS	35	Founded
BMS	36	Founded
BMS	37	Founded
BMS	38	Unfounded

HIBs to Date (24-25 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BES	8	31	2	41

BMS	15	22	1	38
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2. HIB Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on June 16, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BHS	37	Founded
BHS	38	Unfounded

HIBs to Date (24-25 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BHS	21	17	0	38

3. Student Safety Data System Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 (January 1-June 30, 2025)

School Name	Incidents **	Other Incidents Leading to Removal	Restraint/ Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
030-BES	4	1	1	20	0	0
040-BMS	11	30	0	14	4	0

**Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons and HIB Confirmed

4. Student Safety Data System Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 (January 1-June 30, 2025)

School Name	Incidents **	Other Incidents Leading	Restraint/ Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
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		to Removal				
020-BHS	18	35	0	10	2	0
District	**	**	**	**	3	1

**Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons and HIB Confirmed

5. Approval of Parent-Student Handbooks

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Bedwell Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook and the Bernardsville Middle School Parent/Student Handbook.

6. Approval of Parent-Student Handbooks*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Bernards High School Student Handbook and the Bernards High School Student Athletes, Parents, and Coaches Handbook.

7. Approval of Registration*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the registration of student(s) whose names are on file with the Board of Education Secretary pursuant to Board of Education Policy 5111: Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students.

C. Student Services Old Business / New Business - none.

Board Announcements

1. Mrs. Santoro indicated that it was great honoring Connor Flynn, and that he is a great representation of our graduates.
2. Ms. Ballard commented that the community garden had an overflowing bounty and is a wonderful resource.

Public Comments - - none.

Seeing no one from the public, Mrs. Hoppe moved to close public comments. Ms. Gils seconded. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 10-0.

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)