

**The Somerset Hills School District
Regular Meeting Agenda - September 17, 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 6:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker	Ms. Gils
Ms. Ballard	Mrs. Santoro
Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:35 pm)	Mrs. Wry
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Frenda

Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe.

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 6:33 pm. Mrs. Wry 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: Litigation and 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 public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

Ms. Cooper made a motion to return to Public Session at 7:27 pm. Mr. Baker seconded.

Pledge of Allegiance

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Reports
 - a. BMS report provided by Grace Flaherty and Teo Consolla-Kutsuna
 - b. BHS report provided by Nolan Baker and Sophia Fazel-Sarjui

2. Recognition of the NJ American Choral Directors Association Summer Honors Choir:
 - a. Allyssa Jurgens, BMS Choir & Drama Director
 - b. Harper Watt
 - c. Jillian Pooler
 - d. Addison Pagel
 - e. Charlotte Mitchell
 - f. Margaret Morrison
 - g. Brielle Morrison
 - h. Olivia Hamada
 - i. Gillian Goodwin

A Resolution honoring **Allyssa Jurgens** for exemplary dedication in teaching BMS Choral Students, who have been chosen to participate in the NJ-ACDA Honors Choir;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to educators who exemplify dedication, care, and excellence in teaching, and ignite a passion in students;

WHEREAS, **Allyssa Jurgens** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and is invested in creating meaningful experiences for student singers that inspire them to advanced levels of choral participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Allyssa Jurgens** for her commitment to the BMS choral program and its students.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Allyssa Jurgens**.

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 17th day of September 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Honor Choir Student** for artistic excellence as demonstrated by her performance in the New Jersey American Choral Directors Association Summer Honors Choir;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who demonstrate exceptional musical talent, dedication, and a commitment to excellence;

WHEREAS, **Honor Choir Student** is part of the SHSD community and serves as an inspiration to her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Honor Choir Student** for her dedication to vocal excellence, disciplined preparation, and outstanding performance as a participant in the 2025 NJ-ACDA Summer Honors Choir.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Honor Choir Student**. The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 17th day of September 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

- 3. Recognition of No Hate in the Garden State Competition:
 - a. Brett Cox, Advisor
 - b. Ameya Ram
 - c. Aaliya Pattanaik
 - d. Isabella Mattos
 - e. Ashley Mann
 - f. Sianna Ecklund

g. Katherine East

A Resolution honoring **Brett Cox** for her guidance and support of middle school students in their pursuit of raising awareness of and combatting incidents of bias;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who empower youth to be change agents in their communities;

WHEREAS, **Brett Cox** is an integral part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to both her students and colleagues;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Brett Cox** for her committed involvement with the *No Hate in the Garden State* initiative, as well as for her dedication to supporting student voices as they raise awareness of Antisemitism and various mental health issues, through their student-created *We Listen and We Don't Judge* podcast.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Brett Cox**. 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 17th day of September 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Podcast Student** for answering the call to raise awareness of and combat incidents of bias throughout New Jersey as demonstrated by her participation in the *No Hate in the Garden State* competition;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who volunteer their time and talents for their school and larger community with sustained effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **Podcast Student** is part of her school community and serves as an inspiration to her peers and staff members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend **Podcast Student** for her dedication to spreading awareness to the issues of mental health and Antisemitism through the creation of the *We Listen and We Don't Judge* podcast, and for her overall passion, creativity, and commitment to creating a stronger community.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Podcast Student**. The Board of Education Secretary is directed to have this Resolution reflected in the permanent minutes of the Somerset Hills Board of Education on this 17th day of September 2025.

Samantha Frenda

Board of Education President

Brian B. Brotschul, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

4. Superintendent Report: Dr. Brotschul raised awareness of several timely and pertinent District issues, including a review of the 2025 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Data by Ms. Lindsay Barna and Dr. Olga Edgerton, a discussion on Examining the Board schedule and structure, an update of the lower gym project at BHS, and an update on the ongoing school regionalization study.

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items - none.

Seeing no one from the public, Mrs. Santoro moved to close public comments. Mrs. Wry 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 August 27, 2025.

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

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

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Mr. Baker gave the report. The Committee met on September 2, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- Conclusions reached:
 - The Bedminster 2023-2024 tuition reconciliation figures were shared with the committee. The third-party accounting company, PFK O'Connor Davis, used the state approved formulas called A4-1 and A4-2 calculate the final costs of the tuition based on the actual daily attendance by Bedminster students. This results in Bedminster owing us \$715,566. This includes \$34,838 for the special education resource room costs. This high number is due to a lower number of Bedminster students than projected (244 vs 254), more capital project expenses than projected and higher healthcare benefits costs.

- Since we have five to seven girls interested in varsity wrestling at BHS, we are advertising for a girl's wrestling coach. This will necessitate negotiating a stipend with SHEA, once a suitable candidate is found.
- Ongoing issues still under consideration:
 - Dr. Brotschul and the committee discussed the pros and cons of our current committee meeting schedule. Over the years we have tried different timing of the committee meeting before a regular public board meeting. They have been just several days before, a week before and now two weeks before. With our current schedule it allows more time for the committee reports to be written and distributed to the entire board for review before the regular board meeting. However, sometimes during the longer time-period, new emerging issues need resolution that are often delayed due to the schedule. All committee members shared their opinion and Dr. Brotschul will have a similar discussion with each committee to see if a consensus results.
 - Since there was a concern about the possibility of mold at Bedwell, the district engaged the services of EnviroVision Consultants to test the air quality in both Bedwell and the middle school. The testing was done in August and the results show that there is no "black mold" in either building. However, there are several areas with high levels of "Basidiospores." These spores are naturally present in the outside area especially in the woods between Chestnut Avenue and the middle schools. The outdoors tests samples showed about 70 ppm spores. The buildings' HVAC systems do a good job in most cases, keeping the level of spores down to 25 ppm, which is considered the target level for building air quality. However, several rooms and the middle school gym had much higher levels. The report also showed many areas in both buildings that have signs of water leakage, which need to be corrected. The next steps are to have our mechanical engineers evaluate the HVAC systems in each building to improve air filtration, dehumidification, ventilation rate, and distribution.
 - Dr. Brotschul discussed the referendum public relations calendar of events. The three pages list of events shows the possible groups and people we can educate about the referendum. This is a dynamic document, so if any board member knows of a group that could benefit from referendum information, they should contact the superintendent.
 - The NJDOE has notified us that they have started the review process of our submitted referendum projects. They should complete their review by November or early December. If they meet that schedule we will have the necessary 60 days in advance of a March 2026 ballot question for the voters.
 - The budget process is in the early stages for 2026-2027. Dr. Brotschul gave a few items that he sees necessary for the coming school years in regards to staffing and programs. More to come over these next months.
 - Since Bernardsville, Far Hills and Peapack-Gladstone are constructing new multi-unit housing and have approved more units, we have asked our demographer to update their last report. They plan to meet with the committee next month to give their estimate of how the current and proposed construction will affect our enrollment number for the next five years.
- Recommendations:
 - None.

Discussion - Mr. Baker lauded the donation for approval from the local book sale in item #9. Mrs. Wry felt the SHIF wellness grant in item #5 was admirable, especially with costs increasing.

B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-10, Ms. Cooper seconded.

Items #1-10 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of August 2025 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$11,079,068.53	\$11,079,068.53
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$311,863.47	\$311,863.47
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$114,058.25	\$114,058.25
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$399,861.29	\$399,861.29
Total Government Funds	\$11,904,851.54	\$11,904,851.54

(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. Approve 2025-2026 Budget Transfers*

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

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached final 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	\$1,864,556.71
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$2,400.00
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$46.20
(90) Agency Fund	\$283,278.09
TOTAL	\$2,150,281.00

4. 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
	7	Shepard School - ESY Rev.	Kinnelon, NJ	\$16,351.80

	1 9 1 1 2 8 3 6 6			
	7 1 9 1 1 2 8 3 6 6	Shepard School - SY	Kinnelon, NJ	\$99,745.98

5. Approve Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) Wellness Grant*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the application and accepts the funds from the SHIF Wellness Grant to provide the district with a Wellness Program managed by Advanta for \$12,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

6. Approve 2025-2026 Non-Public Security Aid*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of funds for Non-Public Security Aid for the following school:

	Non-Public School	Description	
	Far Hills Country Day School	CDW-G Verkadao security cameras, licenses, equipment	

7. Approve HESAA Memorandum of Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby enters into an agreement with Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to provide the students of Somerset Hills assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application for the 2025-2026 school year at no cost to the district.

8. Approve Extra Duty Police Service Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement with the Bernardsville Police Department for Extra Duty Police Services for fall football games for the 2025-2026 school year, for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

9. Accept Donation

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

	Organization	Purpose	School	Amount
a	AAUW, Somerset Hills Branch	Portion of proceeds of annual book sale	BMS	\$3,000.00

10. Approve Joint Transportation Agreements*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Joint Transportation Agreements for the 2025-2026 school year. Somerset Hills School District shall serve as the Lead Educational Authority and Host District:

	District		Route Cost
a	Bernards Township School District	Various Athletic and School Related Trips	\$300.00 for the 1st three (3) hours, \$90.00 per hour each additional hr. Billed in ¼ hour increments plus tolls and parking. Charges are based on time to and from the bus garage.
b	Bernards Township School District	Athletic Practices	\$175.00 per trip.

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

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on September 10, 2025. The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DECISIONS/CONCLUSIONS REACHED:

1. NJSLA results

- We began the meeting with a discussion of how the NJSLA ELA and math tests will change in the 2025-2026 year.

- Unlike in previous years, the new NJSLA assessment (and the NJGPA) will be an adaptive test. In adaptive testing, the difficulty and selection of questions are adjusted in real time based on the student's prior responses.
- To date, the NJDOE has released few details on the new testing. However, the tests will be field tested in our district this fall.
- Next, Ms. Barna reviewed the 2025 ELA NJSLA results with the committee. Briefly:
 - 70.8% of students in grades 3 through 9 achieved proficiency (scores of levels 4 and 5) in ELA (vs 53.1% statewide) vs 71.9% in 2024 and 72.8% in 2023
 - Generally, rates of proficiency by grade increased with time in the district.
 - Passing rates in ELA were concerningly low in Grades 3 (~54%) and Grade 9.
 - Ms. Barna further analyzed Grade 3 results to identify potential trends and to determine whether the district's internal assessments correlated with NJSLA results.
 - Her analysis confirmed that internal results predicted NJSLA results. Moreover, many of the students who did not pass the NJSLA began the 2024-2025 year below the beginning-of-the-year benchmark in ELA. Of those who did not pass the NJSLA, more than half experienced growth in literacy greater than what is expected in a typical year.
 - Interestingly, half of the 3rd graders who did not pass the ELA NJSLA were chronically absent in 2024-2025 (missing 12 or more days of school).
 - It is difficult to compare Grade 9 NJSLA results with last year's results (in Grade 8) given that the cohorts are different.
- Dr. Edgerton then presented the 2025 NJSLA results in math. Highlights are as follows:
 - 57.7% of tested students (grades 3-9 and kids in Algebra 1 and Geometry) achieved proficiency (scores in level 4 or 5), versus 41.6% in NJ and 59.9% in 2024.
 - In contrast to NJ results, NJSLA passing rates tended to increase with time in district, with higher passing rates in upper grades.
- Next, Dr. Edgerton presented the NJSLA science results:
 - 45.1% of students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 achieved proficiency (levels 3 and 4) in science (vs 26.7% in NJ and 40.5% in SHSD in 2023).
- Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton will review the NJSLA results in detail, including performance in various subgroups, at next week's meeting.

2. Bedwell Math Update

- Last month we reported that Bedwell students will be receiving 15 additional minutes of math instruction per day. Unfortunately, this will not be occurring this year due to scheduling challenges.

3. Dissection policy

- In response to a request, Dr. Butler reviewed the district policy regarding dissections in class.
- We discussed the policy, the value of dissections, potential ethical concerns, and that students are not required to participate in dissections if they or their families have concerns about their participation.
- The committee unanimously supported the policy as written.

4. Policy 2422 request

- A committee member requested that the district's policies regarding the distribution of forms regarding opting out of the health curriculum be reviewed (Policy 2422). This policy will be reviewed by the Policy committee in a future meeting.

5. Graduation rate

- In response to a board member's comment regarding improving US News & World Report rankings at the last public meeting, Dr. Brotschul shared information on graduation rates with the committee.

- While Dr. Brotschul indicates that he typically does not reference rankings other than those produced by the NJ DOE, he did mention that improvements in the district's graduation rate in 2024 (90%) vs 2023 (86%) may have resulted in a slight improvement in the rankings.
- Graduation rates in 2023 were influenced by rates in students with disabilities who, in 2023, were exempted from standardized testing and MLL students who took advantage of the 5th year to graduate (which is expected given the time it takes to acquire a language). It is likely that future metrics will be maintained, at a minimum, in next year's rankings.

DECISIONS

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

INFORMATION

1. October meeting will take place at BHS.
2. Sheltered instruction attendees will also be on the agenda.

Discussion - After the committee report, there was a brief discussion. Mrs. Santoro questioned the timing of the new NJSLA field testing. Dr. Brotschul indicated this was more to see if districts can absorb the technology but more still to be determined. Mr. Baker asked about the adaptive nature of the testing and whether a proficient student could be done quicker. Dr. Brotschul said there would be more discussion at the next Curriculum committee. Ms. Clark-Emery referred back to a prior comment about school rankings and indicated two of the top 15 schools were public schools, and was still pleased with our district's performance.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-5, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Items 1-5 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

1. Approve Professional Development/School Business

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following professional development/school business, for the 2025-2026 school year:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BES	Adams, Jennifer	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
b	BES	Akauola, Jasmine	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
c	BES	Davis, Emma	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	10/27/25, 2/23/26	\$400
d	BES	Dooley, Michelle	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
e	BMS	Garofalo, Lisa	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
f	BMS	Geyer, Julie	Conquer Mathematics Workshop	9/18/25	\$200

g	BES	Jablonski, Holly	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	10/27/25, 2/23/26	\$400
h	BMS	Jurgens, Allyssa	Field Trip Chaperone	9/19/25, 9/27/25, 10/3/25, 10/4/25, 10/11/25, 10/18/25, 11/2/25	\$0
i	BMS	Koellhoffer, Keith	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
j	BES	Lodato, Claire	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
k	BES	Martin, Danielle	Autism NJ 43rd Annual Conference	10/16/25, 10/17/25	\$610.16
l	BES	Pacheco, Yarelis	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	10/27/25, 2/23/26	\$400
m	BES	Palmieri, Jeremy	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
n	BMS	Rizzuto, Rosemarie	Conquer Mathematics Workshop	12/12/25	\$200
o	BES	Rokosky, Debbie	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	9/29/25, 12/4/25	\$400
p	BMS	Snyder, Jason	Field Trip Chaperone	9/19/25, 9/27/25, 10/3/25, 10/4/25, 10/11/25, 10/18/25, 11/2/25	\$0
q	BMS	Tynan, Jessica	Conquer Mathematics Workshop	9/22/25	\$200
r	BES	Vitale, Shannon	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	9/29/25, 12/4/25	\$400
s	BES	Windisch, Mary Clare	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	9/29/25, 12/4/25	\$400
t	BES	Wolfe, Scott	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0

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	Brotschul, Brian	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
b	BHS	Carey, Amanda	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
c	BHS	Cannon, Steven	Foreign Language Workshop: Comprehension-based Language	10/30/25	\$169.68
d	BHS	Corbett, Michael	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
e	District	Galuppo, Julianne	Systems 3000 Payroll Year End Training	11/25/25	\$24.37
f	District	Galuppo, Julianne	Powerball of Insurance - NJ School Insurance Group	9/26/25	\$12.64
g	District	Koransky, Jamie	Special Education Directors' Toolkit	11/14/25	\$218.18
h	District	Koransky, Jamie	Fall Conference for Case Managers	10/29/25	\$20.83
i	BHS	Levine, Scott	Conquer Mathematics Workshops	10/1/25, 10/30/25, 12/2/25, 1/13/26, 3/4/26	\$1,000
j	District	Liguori, Richard	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
k	BHS	Mason, Mark	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
l	BHS	Neigel, Scott	2025 Somerset County Educators & Law Enforcement School Safety Seminar	10/1/25	\$0
m	BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Field Trip Chaperone	10/22/25	\$0
n	BHS	Samson, Alyssa	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/10/25, 10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$77.83
o	BHS	Sosely, Anna	Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) 2025 Counselor Workshop Sessions	9/25/25	\$0
p	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone	9/6/25, 9/19/25, 9/27/25, 10/3/25, 10/4/25, 10/11/25, 10/18/25, 11/2/25	\$0

3. Approve Field Trips*

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

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
--	---------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------------

a	BHS	Financial District - New York, NY Untold Histories Class	20	7	0
b	BHS	Bedwell Elementary School - Bernardsville, NJ Tomorrow's Teachers	4	1	0
c	BHS	Bedwell Elementary School - Bernardsville, NJ Tomorrow's Teachers	4	1	0
d	BHS	Hillside High School - Hillside, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
e	BHS	Voorhees High School - Voorhees, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
f	BHS	Randolph High School - Randolph, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
g	BHS	South Plainfield High School - South Plainfield, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
h	BHS	West Orange High School - West Orange, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
i	BHS	Summit High School - Summit, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
j	BHS	Wayne Hills High School - Wayne, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4
k	BHS	The College of New Jersey - Ewing, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	1	4

4. Rescind Professional Development/School Business*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the following professional development/school business, which was approved on August 27, 2025:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone	9/4/25	\$0

5. Rescind Field Trip*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the following field trip, which was approved on August 27, 2025:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BHS	Bernardsville Public Library - Bernardsville, NJ	4	1	0

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business - none.

PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on September 11, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. We reviewed the Regular Public Meeting Personnel section agenda and attachments. There was a discussion around clarity when it comes to volunteers and compensation they may receive.
2. The District will advertise for Girls Wrestling Coach for the winter season.

B. Action Items: Ms. Ballard moved items #1-19, Ms. Gils seconded.

Items #1-19 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

1. Rescind Permanent Substitute*

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

	Name	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	Taesler, Rachael	Permanent Substitute	County Substitute Certificate	9/3/25

2. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Administrators*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the renewal and salaries for the following administrators for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Location	Job Title	Salary
a	Barna, Lindsay	District	Supervisor of Language Arts Literacy K-12	\$123,527
b	Catelli, Michael	District	Director of Academic Support, Enrichment & Multilingual Ed	\$145,390
c	Corbett, Michael	BHS	Assistant Principal	\$183,444
d	Edgerton, Olga	District	Supervisor of Math, Science & Technology K-12	\$151,193
e	Hoppe, Michael	BHS	Assistant Principal / Athletic Director	\$194,194
f	Neigel, Scott	BHS	Principal	\$203,229
g	Walker, Jaime	District	Director of Guidance K-12	\$149,606
h	Koransky, Jamie	District	Director of Student Services	\$149,177

3. Amend Renewal and Salaries for Administrators

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the renewal and salaries for the following administrators for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	Location	Job Title	Salary
a	Akauola, Jamsine	BES	Assistant Principal	\$120,796
b	Garofalo, Lisa	BMS	Principal	\$160,891
c	Koellhoffer, Keith	BMS	Assistant Principal	\$125,880

4. Amend Renewal and Salary for Non-Certified Staff

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the renewal and salary of the following non-certified staff for the 2025-2026 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Longevity	Total Salary
a	Sierra, Angela	BES	Special Education Para PARA.DIST.BILL.NA.01	2	\$23.41/hour	n/a	\$23.41/hour
b	Meyer, Deborah	BHS	Secretary	18	\$73,359 \$73,395	\$2,146	\$75,541

5. Amend Renewal and Salary for Non-Certified Staff*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the renewal and salary of the following non-certified staff for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Longevity	Total Salary
a	Acuff, Ann	BHS	Secretary	18	\$73,359 \$73,395	\$2,146	\$75,541
b	Malzone, Amy	BHS	Secretary	18	\$73,359 \$73,395	\$1,434	\$74,829
c	Norton, Lisa	BHS	Secretary FTE .75	18	\$55,019 \$55,046	\$1,434	\$56,480
d	Pedota, Patricia	CENTRAL	Secretary	18	\$73,359 \$73,395	\$1,790	\$75,185
e	Pottheiser, Dana	BHS	Secretary	9	\$63,270 \$63,720	\$0	\$63,720
f	Russoniello, Lucy	CENTRAL	Secretary	18	\$73,359 \$73,395	\$3,457	\$76,852

6. Amend Leave of Absence

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following leave of absence:

	Employee #	School	Position	Type of leave	Dated of Leave/Notes
a	9878	BES	Teacher	Sick/Disability FMLA Unpaid Leave Anticipated Return	04/28/25-05/17/25 (paid disability w/ benefits) 05/18/25-10/18/25 (unpaid w/ benefits) 10/19/25-01/01/26 (unpaid w/o benefits) 10/20/25 01/02/26

7. 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	6470	District	Noncertified	FMLA RTW	09/10/25-12/03/25 (unpaid w/ benefits) 12/04/25

8. Amend Leave of Absence*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the following leave of absence:

	Employee #	School	Position	Type of leave	Date of Leave/Notes
a	9367	BHS	Certified Staff	NJFLA RTW	11/01/2025 12/01/25- 01/02/2026 (unpaid w/ benefits) 01/04/26

9. 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/School	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Special Education	Boudreau, Derek/BMS	Full Year	5	\$94,750	\$15,794.83
b	Special Education	Clark, Michelle/BMS	Full Year	5	\$73,800	\$12,302.46
c	Special Education	Obert-Thron, Karrie/BMS	Full Year	5	\$118,550	\$19,762.29
d	Special Education	Reilly, Kathryn/BMS	Full Year	5	\$69,040	\$11,508.97
e	Special Education	Tynan, Jessica/BMS	Full Year	5	\$95,150	\$15,861.51
f	Special Education	Weinstein, Julie/BMS	Full Year	5	\$73,745	\$4,917.32
g	Spanish 8 grade	Gilly, Zoltan/BMS	Full Year	5	\$105,300	\$17,553.51

10. Amend Overload*

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

	Type of Support	Teacher	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary prorated
a	Biology	Young, Joseph	FY	3 6	\$90,050	\$9,006.80 \$18,013.60

11. Amend Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

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

	Name	Location	Job Title	Salary	Step	Total Salary
a	Yannotta, Robert	District	Maintenance	Maintenance 71,346 Systems Maintenance 16,774 Plaster Mason 1,830 Heating/Control 5,002 Boiler License 1,206	11	\$96,158

12. Amend Appointment Leave Replacement

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend 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>	9878	9/1/25 - 10/17/25 and 11/3/25-12/23/25
---	---------------------	-----	------------------------------------	----	-------	-----------------------------	------	--

13. 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 staff for the 2025-2026 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Lucas, Kerry	District	Maintenance	10	\$69,946 <i>prorated</i>	6470	8/27/25 - 12/3/25

14. Approve Mentors

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following mentors for the 2025-2026 school year Provisional Teacher Program:

	Name	School/Subject	Certificate	Mentor	Rate of Pay
a	Lippert-Lozano, Mercedes	BES/Elementary	CE	d'Annunciacao, Jessica	\$1,000
b	Lodato, Claire	BES/Elementary	CEAS	Jastrabek, Linda	\$550
c	Matos, Gabriela	BES/Spec Ed/Elem	CEAS	Arce, Cassandra	\$550
d	Weinstein, Julie	BMS/Special Education	CEAS	Clark, Michelle	\$550
e	Heesemann, Diana	BMS Nurse	CE	Pistilli-Urena, Jaclyn	\$1,000

15. Approve Mentors*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following mentors for the 2025-2026 school year Provisional Teacher Program:

	Name	School/Subject	Certificate	Mentor	Rate of Pay
a	Neiss, Joanna	BHS/Science	CE	Wagner, Alyssa	\$1,000

16. Approve Translator/Interpreter*

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

	Name	Rate of Pay
a	Cortigiani, Deborah	\$61.12/hour

17. Approve Athletic & Co-Curricular Positions

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

	Name	Position	School		Stipend
a	Weinstein, Julie	Drama: Fall	BMS	Fall 2025	\$2,872.45
b	Fabregas, Kelly	Kindness Club 50%	BMS	25-26 School Yr	\$1,436.23

18. Approve Athletic & Co-Curricular Positions*

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Filieri, Michael	Football: Assistant FR	BHS	Fall 2025	\$7,599.90
b	Kulscar, Christopher	Football: Volunteer	BHS	Fall 2025	\$0
c	Habermas, Christopher	Soccer: Women's Volunteer	BHS	Fall 2025	\$0
d	McDowell, Caroline	Cross Country Volunteer	BHS	Fall 2025	\$0
e	Bittner, Casandra	Media Center After Hours	BHS	25-26 School Yr	\$25.85/hour
f	Smith, Jodi	District Wellness Coordinator <i>Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant</i>	Central	25-26 School Yr	\$1,000
g	Galuppo, Julianne	District Wellness Coordinator <i>Funded by SHIF Wellness Grant</i>	Central	25-26 School Yr	\$1,000

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	Beaudry, Christina	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/8/25
b	Meeks, Cassidy	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
c	Scudese, Kristina	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
d	Niazi, Aziz	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
e	Saturnia, Krista	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
f	Beaudry, Christina	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25
g	Leininger, Meghan	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
h	Allen, Gabriella	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <i>Pending clearance</i>
i	Yeluripati, Aparna	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	9/18/25 <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 September 11, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- Policy 0164: Conduct of Board Meeting
 - Presentation of research - Felicia Ballard, Chairperson
 - Administrative research regarding public comment
 - Please note that Policy 0164 required grammatical and formatting updates, which Dr. Brotschul has completed on our behalf. The new formatting, which deleted superfluous language, will need to be approved in addition to any modifications you elect to make. It reads and looks much better!
 - Discussion: The research presented was from the boards of Bernards Township, Elizabeth, Mendham, Millburn and Shrewsbury. There were slight differences between the different districts. Three of these districts have two public comment sessions (like us, first session on agenda items, second session on any topic; two districts allowed for only one comment session.) Additionally, the research presented in the administrative research demonstrated

-
- similar variations. Our goal is to ensure that we always give the public the right to be heard. Our discussion played out various scenarios dealing with timing, with concern continuing to be expressed about the late hour of our second (general) public comment session, which may make it difficult for folks to attend. Other comments included a reminder of best practices; that Board meetings are a meeting of the board in public, not a meeting of the public;” as well as a statement expressing that “we have to get the work in.”
- The committee agreed to a change in #6 of the policy “Public Questions and Comments for Actionable Agenda Items” which currently reads: “This is an open-timed session for the public to make comments on actionable agenda items.”
 - We will add the ability for the public to comment on public reports at this time, as these comments follow the Superintendent’s Report, which often includes public reports. This may provide the opportunity for more comments in the first session, provided the comments meet the criteria.
 - Otherwise, however, the committee chose to make no substantive changes to the policy.
- Regulation 5516: Use of Electronic Communication Devices
 - This regulation mirrors our actual practice.
 - 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.
 - Devices are not permitted in bathrooms or locker rooms
 - The regulation speaks to discipline and consequences and will be enforced pursuant to the code of conduct. It also is a significant restriction on how long students can use their devices during the school day.
 - Again, this reflects our current practice, which will continue to be evaluated.
 - Regulation 5511: Dress and Grooming
 - All three school principals worked together with Dr. Brotschul to craft policies within each school, so they are aligned within the district.
 - Questions arose around “indecent” as used in both the middle school and high school dress codes. The decision around what is indecent is subjective. This code is not siloed; communications will occur between the principal(s) and the superintendent. Other concerns raised included the possible targeting of girls. The importance of educating students on what is appropriate was also discussed.
 - Policy 2422: Health and Physical Education
 - Propose to develop a Regulation for Policy 2422 to codify administrative procedures connected to this policy.
 - Regulation will address the opt in/opt out process
 - It was suggested that paper forms go home for the opt in/opt out process to make it easier for parents.
 - Policy 5756: Transgender Students
 - Request from Committee member to examine references to parent disclosure limitations (including, but not limited to, Page 3 (Student Centered Approach) sentence 1 and sentence 4; Page 4, paragraph 2, sentence 1; Page 5 (Confidentiality and Privacy) paragraph 1, sentence 1; Page 5 (Confidentiality and Privacy) paragraph 2, sentence 1)
 - NJ Law Against Discrimination
 - NJ Commissioner guidance

- A discussion ensued. Concern was expressed about students revealing information to teachers and the teachers not being required to share such confirmation with parents, as there is no affirmative duty to do so. Several hypothetical situations were discussed and described.
 - A question was asked and remained unanswered as to what had changed in regards to the law since November 2024, when this issue was raised and discussed both in committee and in the public meeting.
 - Additionally, concern was expressed about the current climate of negativity towards and the vulnerability of transgender folks and the potential impact of the continual revisitation of this policy, without substantive reasons given for potential change.
 - A straw poll was taken as to whether to take this to the full board. Result: 3 nos, 1 yes and 1 abstention.
- **Second Reading**
 - 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
 - P 5339.01: Student Sun Protection

Discussion: Several Board members engaged in dialogue around P5756.

Mr. Baker moved to call the question. Ms. Ballard seconded. The motion was approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved items #1-2, Ms. Gils seconded.

Items #1-2 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, 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 bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
R 5511	Dress and Grooming
R 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices

2. Second Reading*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the second reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

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 5339.01	Student Sun Protection
P 5231	Open Campus

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: Ms. Gils asked that there be a discussion at the next committee meeting related to opt-out notifications. Ms. Cooper asked that there be a discussion at the next committee meeting related to civility at committee meetings and/or moving to a committee of the whole structure. Ms. Gils asked that there be a discussion related to lying.

XVI. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The Committee met on September 11, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. Committee Meeting Schedule Debrief
 - a. All committee members have offered feedback through other committees.
 - b. Discussion: Committee members had the opportunity to weigh in about the timing of Committee Meetings, feedback will be consolidated by the Superintendent and recommendations will be made for implementation in the new year.
2. School Calendar: 2026-2027 and 2027-2028
 - a. The 26-27 calendar was modified to include a March spring break. We still need to determine where snow day give-backs would be.
 - b. The 27-28 calendar does not take an aggressive approach as we thought it might. Having a calendar with an aggressive approach would have graduation on May 31, 2025. The Administration sees a May graduation as untenable from the Bedwell perspective regarding childcare. Having an opening that is a week later than initially anticipated makes matters better from a family perspective.
 - c. Discussion/Committee Recommendation:

-
- i. The committee agreed with the suggested move of spring break to March for the 26/27 Calendar to better provide students and staff with breaks during long stretches where there may have been none. Dr. Butler was going to look at utilizing the give back snow days in April to allow for some time off in April.
 - ii. With regards to the 2027-2028 calendar the committee agrees with taking another conservative approach to starting in August. With the way the calendar falls in the 27/28 year if we started the week prior as previously discussed the last day of school would be May 31st. We agreed that this would potentially cause hardship particularly for our families with younger children. The consensus is that we are looking to specifically add instructional time and not make this difficult on the community. When the calendar year aligns better with moving up our start date we will move the date up in accordance.
 3. Extended School Year: 2026 and 2027
 - a. 2026:
 - i. June 29 through July 2
 - ii. July 6 through July 9
 - iii. July 13 through July 16
 - iv. July 20 through July 23
 - v. July 27 through July 30
 - b. 2027:
 - i. June 28 through July 1
 - ii. July 6 through July 8* (*3 days, not 4)
 - iii. July 12 through July 15
 - iv. July 19 through July 22
 - v. July 26 through July 29
 - c. Increases ESY from a four-week program to a five-week program
 - d. Discussion: A community member had reached out to the chair via email to request that ESY be included in the discussions regarding the calendar. The Administration was appreciative of the feedback and produced the above dates to be included with the approval of the calendar. Also, important to note we are extending the ESY program by an additional week. The committee is pleased to see the proactive scheduling and increase in duration.
 4. School Climate Transformation Project
 - a. Memorandum of Agreement signed—dashboard training to follow, and other survey administration particulars.
 - b. Discussion: Dr. Brotschul provided a brief overview of the School Climate Improvement Platform Process. There is an overall District Team and Building specific teams that will be Leaders in this work. As we work through this process the Board will be apprised of results and we are very pleased that we will be embarking on this initiative to better understand our district and how we can make meaningful changes where appropriate.
 5. Athletics
 - a. Feedback from chairperson.
 - b. Discussion: It is important that we keep driving to the goals for the best possible experience for our students in their experiences as athletes in our district. The committee also discussed how the overall climate work will drive all areas within the district including athletics and all co-curriculars.

Discussion: Ms. Cooper enjoyed the student feedback regarding recent changes. Mrs. Frenda agreed. Ms. Gils inquired about the potential for a February break. Dr. Brotschul indicated the intent of the committee was to take advantage of instructional time ahead of high stakes testing, and that there are long weekends in January and

February. Mrs. Santoro echoed that the longer periods without breaks are March and April. Ms. Ballard asked for consideration of vo-tech calendars.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-2, Ms. Gils seconded.

Items #1-2 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on August 27, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BES	42	Unfounded
BES	43	Unfounded
BMS	39	Unfounded

HIBs to Date (24-25 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BES	8	33	2	43
BMS	15	23	1	39

HIBs to Date (25-26 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BES	0	0	0	0
BMS	0	0	0	0

2. HIB Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on August 27, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BHS	1	Founded

HIBs to Date (25-26 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BHS	1	0	0	1

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

Board Announcements

1. Mrs. Frenda indicated that Dr. Brotschul did a great job highlighting the MLL event and how it has grown. She also commended the Bedwell & BMS HSAs, as there was excellent attendance and engagement.
2. Mrs. Santoro conveyed appreciation for the new student representatives.
3. Mrs. Gils seconded what Mrs. Frenda said regarding the recent event and also commended Mrs. Hill for her involvement.

Public Comments

1. Carlos Abad - 131 Conkling Street, Basking Ridge - wants to partner with the District to do a fundraiser in order to sustain weekend meals for kids in need.
2. Alicen Librera - 10 Stevens Street, Bernardsville - thanked the Board for enhancing special services despite there still being more to do; thanked Ms. Clark-Emery for her examining policy holistically.
3. Michelle Dooley - 8 Olcott Avenue, Bernardsville - teacher and mom, thanked the Board for keeping kids safe; urged the Board to focus on things that help kids.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 pm. Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 8-0-0.

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)