

**The Somerset Hills School District
 Regular Meeting Agenda - November 19, 2025
 Executive Session - 6:00 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 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. Baker | Mrs. Gomez (arrived 6:03 pm) |
| Ms. Ballard | Mrs. Hoppe |
| Ms. Clark-Emery | Mrs. Santoro |
| Ms. Cooper | Mrs. Wry (arrived 7:32 pm) |
| 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 6:03 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: Collective Bargaining.

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. Frenda recused herself at 6:03 pm.

Ms. Cooper made a motion to return to Public Session at 7:24 pm. Ms. Ballard seconded.

Mrs. Frenda returned at 7:32 pm, and Mrs. Wry joined at 7:32 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Reports
 - a. BMS report provided by Jillian Pooler and Callie McCormick
 - b. BHS report provided by Nolan Baker and Sophia Fazel-Sarjui

2. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Commended Students:
 - a. Hannah Vinegra
 - b. Lucian Spiteri
 - c. Robert Lopez
 - d. Joseph Kalinowski
 - e. Jack Ecklund
 - f. Rowan Eckel
 - g. Elizabeth Chen
 - h. Julian Bonk
 - i. Sixten Alstrom

A Resolution honoring **BHS student** for academic excellence from the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform at the highest academic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **BHS student** is part of Bernards High School and serves as an inspiration to his/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 **BHS student** for his/her strong academic accomplishments and recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Commended Student/Semifinalist.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **BHS 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 19th day of November 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

3. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist:
a. Dheirya Tyagi

A Resolution honoring **Dheirya Tyagi** for academic excellence from the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to those who perform at the highest academic level with effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude;

WHEREAS, **Dheirya Tyagi** is part of Bernards High School and serves as an inspiration to his 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 **Dheirya Tyagi** for his strong academic accomplishments and recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Semifinalist.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by **Dheirya Tyagi**. 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 19th day of November 2025.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

4. Board Recognition Retirees

- a. WHEREAS, Rufus Vought has been employed from September 1989 through December 2025 as a Maintenance Worker; and
WHEREAS, he exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Rufus Vought’s retirement effective January 1, 2026, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
- b. WHEREAS, Mark Noonan has been employed from September 2001 through December 2025 as a Music Teacher; and

WHEREAS, he exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Mark Noonan's retirement effective January 1, 2026, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

5. Superintendent Report: Dr. Brotschul raised awareness of several timely and pertinent District issues, including updates on Referendum 2025-2026 Community Forums, School Calendars for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028, and the Regionalization Study.

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items - seeing no one else from the public, Mrs. Hoppe 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 October 15, 2025, as well as the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for October 29, 2025.

Mrs. Santoro moved to approve, and Ms. Cooper seconded.

The minutes were approved by a 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.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Mr. Baker gave the report. The Committee met on November 3, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- Our demographer, Mr. Ross Haber, could not attend our committee meeting as planned due to a family emergency. He will be at our next meeting. However, Dr. Brotschul distributed a table showing our current enrollment. The total is 1,543 plus 28 out-of-district special education students. The high school has 700 students, while BMS has 387 and Bedwell has 456. Mr. Haber plans to give us his five-year projections which will include all the multiple dwellings under construction, plus units approved, but not started.
- Dr. Brotschul gave the committee an update on the effect of the NJDOE approvals of our projects to be included in the March 10, 2026 referendum vote. Since the DOE no longer credits the cost of furniture and some equipment as part of expenses that qualify for state aid, they lowered our expected aid percentage from 34% to 29.8%. This slightly changes the calculation for the tax neutral bond referendum. The new calculation using 29.8% state aid results in a very slight bump in property taxes in the second and third year of the 20-year bond repayment. For the average home owner, this is only a tax increase of \$12 and \$16 respectively for these two years. But then starting in the fourth year, the debt service falls off by \$110 and then decreases an average of \$16 per year for the remaining 16 years. However, all of this is based on a 4% interest rate for a 20-year bond. So, the actual amount of debt service can go either up or down depending on the interest rates at the time of the bond sale. So going forward, Dr. Brotschul will revise his comments about this referendum being 100% tax neutral, to one with a slight speed bump on years two and three.
- Our Request for Proposals for a healthcare benefits broker of record deadline is November 14th. So far, we have only received one, but expect one or two more. The committee will evaluate all proposals at our next meeting.

Discussion - none.

B. Action Items: Ms. Ballard moved items #1-13, Ms. Cooper seconded.

Items #1-5, 7-8, 10-13 were approved by roll call vote of 6-0-4. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro. Abstain (only relates to item #4, and only as pertaining to themselves): Ms. Ballard, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda.

Items #6, 9 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 October 2025 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$10,477,386.32	\$10,477,386.32
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$107,952.51	\$107,952.51
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$468,624.89	\$468,624.89
Total Government Funds	\$11,053,963.72	\$11,053,963.72

(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 October 2025.

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented the attached Final October 2025 check registers 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	\$4,669,016.97
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$18,570.75
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-

FUND	
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$72,944.88
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,232,113.50
TOTAL	\$5,992,646.10

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented the attached November 2025 check registers 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	\$2,468,255.08
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$96,973.82
(30) Capital Projects Fund	
(40) Debt Service Fund	
(60) Cafeteria Fund	
(90) Agency Fund	\$449,559.86
TOTAL	\$3,014,788.76

5. 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	4641340879	Somerset County Vo-Tech	Bridgewater, NJ	\$28,650.00
b	2629182446	Montgomery Academy	Basking Ridge, NJ	\$71,232.48 (Prorated)

6. Settlement Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Settlement Agreement for Student # 4503592405.

7. Approve New Qualified 403B Specialist*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Teacher's Pension as a qualified 403B specialist option.

8. Approve Donation*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following donation retroactive to October 15, 2025, and also approve the Business Administrator and the Superintendent to develop an agreement between the entities:

	Items to be Donated	School	Receiving Organization	Qty	Serial Number	SHSD Asset Tag Number
a	Allmand SHO SD NIGHT LITE PRO	BHS	Somerset Hills Mountaineers	1	1606PR009	10048

	Items to be Donated	School	Receiving Organization	Qty	Serial Number	SHSD Asset Tag Number
	NL 8 Portable Light		Football League	1	1607PR009	10043
				1	1608PR009	10049
				1	1609PR009	10042
				1	1610PR009	10040
				1	1611PR009	10046
				1	2788PR213	10041
				1	2789PR213	10047

9. Approve PowerSchool for BMS

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve PowerSchool for the Naviance subscription add-on used at BMS, at an amount not to exceed \$335.00.

10. Approve Rowan School Regionalization Institute Feasibility Study*

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is dedicated to helping New Jersey public schools achieve educational excellence and district efficiencies, and its School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant supports public school districts and governing bodies across New Jersey who wish to study the feasibility of school district regionalization and consolidation; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education has been approved for a SREP Grant in the amount of \$130,000.00 to cover the costs of a feasibility study that will gather and analyze school and community data in the areas of governance and law, demographics, education and program, and finance and operations in order to produce recommendations for greater school district effectiveness and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law at N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 provides that contracts for the provision of services which are specialized and qualitative in nature requiring expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor may be awarded through procedures applicable to extraordinary unspecifiable services; and

WHEREAS, the services to be performed in preparing such a feasibility study require expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education is determined to award a contract for those services to the Rowan School Regionalization Institute and;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education empowers the School Business Administrator to pursue a professional services contract with Rowan University;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education as follows: The Board hereby appoints the Rowan School Regionalization Institute for the period from November 19, 2025 to November 18, 2026 to conduct a feasibility study at an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00, with the following fee structure:

- a. Services provided by consultant investigators – \$175.00/hour.
- b. Services provided by a consultant project manager – \$225.00/hour.

11. Approve Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) and Annual Maintenance Budget Worksheet (M-1)*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, as well as the 2025-2026 annual maintenance Budget Worksheet (M-1) calculation of \$1,651,569.

12. 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	Anonymous	Outstanding lunch charges / students in need	District	\$2,000.00
b	Anonymous	Shop Rite gift cards for students in need	BHS	\$4,000.00

13. Authorize the Submission of Bond Proposal Question*

BE IT RESOLVED BY The Board of Education of the Somerset Hills Regional School District in the County of Somerset, New Jersey (the “Board”) (not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) as follows:

A. The following bond proposal (the "Proposal") shall be submitted to the legal voters of the School District at a special School District election (the "Election") to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 commencing at 6:00 am for the purposes hereinafter provided. The polls shall remain open until 8:00 pm and as much longer as may be necessary to permit all the legal voters then present to vote and cast their ballot. The form of the Proposal will read substantially as follows except as otherwise may be set forth herein:

BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION

The Board of Education of the Somerset Hills Regional School District in the County of Somerset, New Jersey (the “Board”) is authorized to (a) undertake various improvements, alterations, renovations, and upgrades at Bernards High School, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, equipment, and any site work; (b) undertake various improvements, alterations, renovations, and upgrades at Bernardsville Middle School, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, equipment, and any site work; (c) undertake various improvements, alterations, renovations, and upgrades, and to construct an addition at Bedwell Elementary School, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, equipment, and any site

work; (d) appropriate \$38,024,257 for such improvements; and (e) issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$38,024,257.

The final eligible costs for the projects approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education are \$33,367,203 (consisting of \$19,373,306 for Bernards High School, \$6,277,941 for Bernardsville Middle School, and \$7,715,956 for Bedwell Elementary School). The projects include \$4,142,445 (consisting of \$2,589,449 for Bernards High School, \$557,000 for Bernardsville Middle School, and \$995,996 for Bedwell Elementary School) for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State of New Jersey (the “State”) support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage is equal to 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

Do you approve this Bond Proposal Question?

B. The Board hereby approves and adopts the Proposal set forth above and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the School District, hereby determines to carry out the same as described therein (the “Project”). The Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, consistent with any advice received from bond counsel, to revise the Proposal, if necessary, prior to the Election.

C. The Board hereby acknowledges and confirms that, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-17, Supplemental Debt Statements have been prepared as of the date of this resolution by the Chief Financial Officers of the constituent municipalities of the Somerset Hills Regional School District, giving effect to the proposed total authorization of School Bonds of the School District in the maximum amount provided for in the Proposal, and that such Supplemental Debt Statements have been filed in the offices of each respective municipal clerk, and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary prior to the adoption of this resolution, and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the Election.

D. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed, in conjunction with Bond Counsel, to deliver a certified copy of this resolution and such other information as shall be necessary to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2, to request the County Clerk to submit the Proposal to the voters at the Election and to seek the assistance of the county officials and the municipal clerk in conducting the Election.

E. The Board hereby: (i) accepts the determination of Preliminary Eligible Costs as set forth in the letter from the New Jersey Department of Education and not to appeal such determinations made therein; (ii) determines to construct the Project itself; (iii) agrees to locally fund any excess costs, if any; and (iv) delegates the supervision of the Project to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

F. Solutions Architecture Group, the School District’s appointed architect for the Project (the “Project Architect”), has heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Project in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has been delegated the responsibility to work with the Project Architect for this purposes on behalf of the Board, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16, and such authorizations and delegations are hereof reconfirmed.

G. The School Administration and such other officers, professionals and agents of the Board as are necessary, including Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel, and the Project Architect, are each hereby authorized and directed to perform such acts, execute such documents and do such things as are necessary and proper for the submission of the Proposal to the voters of the School District at the Election.

H. This Board hereby makes the following covenants and declarations with respect to obligations determined to be issued by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary through a public offering of private placement or through a conduit borrower on a tax exempt basis. The Board hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequent imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), in order to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on its bonds or notes if issued as tax exempt, including, if necessary, the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on its bonds or notes. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board to deem the obligations authorized herein as bank qualified for the purposes of Section 265 of the Code, when appropriate. The Board hereby declares its intent to issue bonds or notes in the amount set forth in the Proposal approved by the voters as set forth in Section 1 and to use the proceeds to pay or to reimburse expenditures for the costs of the Projects authorized herein. This resolution is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for the purposes of Treasury Regulations 1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law,

I. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on November 5, 2025. The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DECISIONS/CONCLUSIONS REACHED:

1. Preschool (Jamie Koransky)

- Dr. Koransky joined us to review our preschool program, which currently consists of two inclusive classrooms staffed by one teacher and one paraprofessional in each class. Each class includes students with disabilities and neurotypical students.
 - Students can join our full-day (per Bedwell hours) preschool program by entering the lottery or by referral by physicians, therapists, private preschool/daycare teachers, and/or parents.
 - Support staff for students include a speech and language specialist, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a behavior analysis, and a case manager/school psychologist.
 - The preschool uses the Tools of the Mind curricula, which includes opening group meeting time, make-believe play and play centers, age-appropriate instruction in literacy, math, science, and social strategies.
 - For example, literacy instruction focuses on story labs, in which students listen to a story and answer questions about the story and practice active listening, vocabulary, story extensions, and predictions.
 - Students also:
 - Learn an adapted version of the phonics curriculum used in Bedwell, Foundations, which focuses on letter sound correspondence in the first and second semesters and letter formation in small groups later in the year.

- Practice motor skills, speech and communication, and social and emotional skills in groups.
- Learn classroom rules, practice strategies for attention focusing and refocusing, and physical self-regulation games, such as freeze dance.
- Given the significant interest and impact of this program, Ms. Koransky proposed adding a third section of our preschool program. The committee fully supported this addition. The cost of this addition will include the cost of a teacher and a paraprofessional.
- While the district does charge a monthly fee for students who can afford the fee, the district costs of this program are largely borne by the district.

2. New/updated course proposals

- Dr. Butler then presented one BHS course proposal for the 2025-2026 academic year that was recommended by the current staff.
- She recommended that Comparative World Religions, a current class at BHS, switch its designation from the Academic level to the Honors level to better align with the rigor of the course and to encourage more students to take the class.
- The committee supported this proposal.
- Note that there were far fewer new course proposals this year for several reasons:
 - We have added a wide variety of new classes in recent years, including multiple dual enrollment courses
 - The depth and breadth of the current curriculum is already remarkable, especially considering the number of students at BHS.
 - Adding multiple new classes might necessitate removing other courses, given staffing and enrollment constraints.

3. New standards

- Dr. Butler informed the board that the district will need to adjust our social studies curriculum to address new New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that ensure that the rich contributions, history, and heritage of Latino and Hispanic people are taught in K-12 schools.
- These new instructional requirements align with other efforts to ensure that our students receive a holistic education that reflects the strength and diversity of New Jersey.
- In our discussion of these standards, a board member recommended that we avoid using the term “LatinX” whenever possible, even if it is included in the standards, because Hispanic people could be offended by this term. Instead, she suggested using the terms Hispanic or Latino.

4. History Happened Here

- In honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, SHSD is excited to participate in the New Jersey Department of Education “History Happened Here” program.
 - This program highlights local history and calls on students to get involved in learning about local history in their own communities.
 - To connect students with local history, the Bernards High School Social Studies Department is collaborating with a variety of local history organizations, including the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills, Peapack & Gladstone Historical Preservation Society, Bedminster Historic Preservation Committee, and the Farmstead Arts Center.
 - These organizations are looking for volunteers to help with upcoming historical events, digitize materials, and transcribe audio records.
 - Sophomores, in particular, are encouraged to connect with these organizations to complete their community service requirement, though all students are welcome to join as volunteers. At the end of the year, sophomores who participate will present in their US History classes about their work, what they learned from volunteering, and how they impacted their community.

- The committee fully supports our students' involvement in this program and encourages students to participate and to help excite some new volunteers.

DECISIONS

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

Discussion - none.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-4, Mrs. Hoppe seconded.

Items 2,4 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 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. 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	Anchored in Purpose: NJ Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents Annual Conference	11/14/25	\$0
b	BES	Davis, Emma	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0
c	BMS	Gilly, Zoltan	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
d	BES	Jablonski, Holly	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0
e	BMS	Jurgens, Allyssa	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
f	BMS	Jurgens, Allyssa	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 8 Chorus	12/6/25	\$0
g	BMS	Kupper, Patricia	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 8 French	3/20/26	\$26
h	BMS	Kupper, Patricia	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
i	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
j	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	Garden State Baseball Coaches Clinic	12/5/25	\$0
k	BMS	Oliveira, Ashley	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
l	BES	Pacheco, Yarelis	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
m	BES	Panik, Meredith	Legal One: The Preschool IEP, Preschool Educational Standards and Requirements	1/7/26	\$233
n	BMS	Pistilli-Urena, Jaclyn	Capturing Kids' Hearts 1 Training	1/21/26-1/22/26	\$0
o	BES	Rokosky, Debbie	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0
p	BMS	Snyder, Jason	2026 NJ Music Educators Association State Conference	2/19/26-2/20/26	\$0
q	BES	Vitale, Shannon	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0
r	BMS	Weinstein, Julie	Field Trip Chaperone-BMS Choirs	12/8/25	\$0
s	BES	Windisch, Mary Clare	Field Trip Chaperone-Grade 1	5/14/26	\$0
t	BES	Wolfe, Scott	Anchored in Purpose: NJ Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents Annual Conference	11/14/25	\$250

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	BHS	Bale-Peña, Matt	American Heart Association-Hands Only CPR	11/19/25	\$0
b	District	Brotschul, Brian	Capturing Kids' Hearts 1 Training	1/21/26-1/22/26	\$0
c	BHS	Cannon, Steven	Foreign Language Educators of NJ Annual Conference	3/18/26	\$162.56
d	District	Galuppo, Julianne	NJ Association of School Business Officials - Payroll & the B.A.	11/12/25	\$145
e	BHS	Hoppe, Michael	Field Trip Chaperone-Winter Sports Team Captains	12/18/25	\$0
f	BHS	Incedon, Cassie	Raritan Valley Community College Transition to College Event	3/10/26	\$0
g	BHS	Kaplan, Daniel	Field Trip Chaperone-Harvard Model Congress	2/19/26-2/22/26	\$0
h	BHS	Lavalle, Alexa	Raritan Valley Community College Transition to College Event	3/10/26	\$0
i	BHS	Nadolny, Tyler	Rutgers Wrestling Coaches Clinic	11/1/25	\$100

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
j	BHS	Nadolny, Tyler	Annual Girls Beast of the East Wrestling Tournament	12/18/25-12/19/25	\$603.35
k	BHS	Neigel, Scott	Somerset County High School Principals' Association Meetings	11/20/25, 12/18/25, 1/15/26, 2/19/26, 3/19/26, 4/16/26, 5/21/26	\$0
l	BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Field Trip Chaperone-Harvard Model Congress	2/19/26-2/22/26	\$0
m	BHS	Resnick, Victoria	Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	12/1/25-12/3/25	\$0
n	District	Riccio, Frank	NJ School Transportation Supervisors General Meeting	12/3/25	\$0
o	BHS	Sosely, Anna	Montclair State University Annual Counselor Workshop	12/5/25	\$0
p	BHS	Stolarz, Lizabeth	Raritan Valley Community College Transition to College Event	3/10/26	\$0
q	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	NJ Music Educators Association State Conference	2/19/26-2/21/26	\$225
r	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone-BHS Instrumental Music	12/22/25	\$0
s	BHS	Taesler, Stephen	Field Trip Chaperone-BHS Marching Band	12/6/25	\$0
t	BHS	Thatcher, Stephanie	Best Reading Strategies to Accelerate Fluency & Proficiency in the Target Language	12/17/25	\$295
u	BHS	Torres, Maiya	Field Trip Chaperone-Law, Civics, Citizenship Class	1/14/26	\$0
v	District	Vargas, Marcos	Attend Sheltered Instruction Protocol Training at Franklin School District	10/30/25, 12/11/25	\$51.88
w	BHS	Venezia, David	Assessing Multilingual Learners Properly for Disabilities	11/20/25	\$225
x	BHS	Volosin, Lauren	Field Trip Chaperone-Tomorrow's Teachers	12/4/25	\$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	BMS	Calvary Temple & Dorney Park - Allentown, PA BMS Band, BMS Jazz Ensemble, BMS Orchestra, BMS Choir	269	6	36
b	BMS	Franklin Institute - Philadelphia, PA Grade 7	102	8	6
c	BMS	Top of the Rock, Chelsea Piers, Wax Museum, Dave & Busters - New York City, NY Grade 8	95	8	14
d	BMS	Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ BMS Choirs	257	8	0
e	BMS	Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ BMS 8th Grade Chorus	46	2	0
f	BMS	J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds - Far Hills, NJ BMS 8th Grade Chorus	46	1	(Parent Chaperones)
g	BMS	Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ BMS 8th Grade Band and Orchestra	34	2	0
h	BES	Red Mill Museum - Clinton, NJ Grade 1	97	9	16
i	BES	State House and Old Barracks - Trenton, NJ Grade 4	83	6	14
j	BES	Morristown Performing Arts Center - Morristown, NJ Kindergarten Team/Classes	100	10	18
k	BMS	Montclair State University - Montclair, NJ BMS 8th Grade French Students	5	1	1

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	PCTI (Passaic County Technical Institute) STEM Academy - Wayne, NJ Technology & Robotics	6	1	0
b	BHS	Ramsey Country Club Water Park - Ramsey, NJ Technology & Robotics	6	1	0

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
c	BHS	Bloomfield High School - Bloomfield, NJ Technology & Robotics	6	1	0
d	BHS	Bedwell Elementary School - Bernardsville, NJ BHS Spanish 5H Class	10	1	0
e	BHS	Mount Olive High School - Flanders, NJ NJ Science League Teams	27	3	0
f	BHS	Ridge High School - Basking Ridge, NJ NJ Science League Teams	27	3	0
g	BHS	Matheny School - Gladstone, NJ Best Buddies Club	20	2	0
h	BHS	Somerset County Superior Court - Somerville, NJ Law, Civics, Citizenship Class	3	1	0
i	BHS	Harvard Model Congress Conference - Boston, MA Harvard Model Congress	32	3	1
j	BHS	Bernardsville Center - Bernardsville, NJ BHS Marching Band	24	2	0
k	BHS	Bernardsville Middle School - Bernardsville, NJ Tomorrow's Teachers	4	1	0
l	BHS	Wrestling Tournament - Newark, DE Girls' Wrestling	1	1	(Parent Chaperone)
m	BHS	Skylands Conference Winter Sportsmanship Summit - Annandale, NJ	10	1	0

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business - Ms. Gils asked for future discussion on second grade self-contained/bilingual class, as well as the opt out procedure for sexual education curriculum. Mrs. Gomez asked for future discussion on additional counselor assistance for first generation students. Dr. Brotschul indicated the counselor discussion would be a better fit for the Personnel & Policy committee.

PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on November 3, 2025. The following items were discussed:

1. There are two midyear retirements, Rufus Vought (Maintenance) and Mark Noonan (Bedwell music.) Advertising will start immediately for Mr. Noonan's position.
2. Other personnel issues discussed were the resignation of a permanent sub, approval of overloads, approval of various leaves of absence, as well as approval of athletic positions, co-curricular positions, instructional observation, translator/interpreter(s) and substitutes.

3. FY27: Demographic study/implications- Dr. Brotschul presented the committee with the Demographic and Enrollment Projection Study. He ran through various scenarios designed to maintain our class sizes pursuant to District Regulation 2312, while considering meeting various personnel needs. The analysis and discussion is ongoing.

Discussion - none.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Hoppe moved items #1-21, Mr. Baker seconded.

Items 1, 4-5, 7, 10-12, 15, 18-19, 21 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 2-3, 6, 8-9, 13-14, 16-17, 20 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. Accept Retirement*

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Vought, Rufus	District	Maintenance MNT.DIST.FORE.NA.01	1/1/26

2. Accept Retirement

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Noonan, Mark	BES	Teacher TCH.ES.MUSI.NA.02	1/1/26

3. Accept Resignation

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Akauola, Jasmine	BES	Assistant Principal ADM.ES.APRN.NA.01	1/2/26

4. Accept Resignation*

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Blackstock, Julie	BHS	Permanent Substitute	11/26/25

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	Social Studies/BHS	Torres, Maiya	11/10/25-1/30/26	5	\$74,245	\$3,403.58
b	Social Studies/BHS	Szostak, David	11/10/25-1/30/26	5	\$118,800	\$5,446.09
c	Social Studies/BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	11/10/25-1/30/26	5	\$92,275	\$4,230.12
d	Social Studies/BHS	Cameron, Bradley	11/10/25-1/30/26	5	\$86,825	\$3,980.28
e	Social Studies/BHS	Clark, Kelly	11/10/25-1/30/26	5	\$110,350	\$5,058.72

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	Date of Leave/Notes
a	9878	BES	Certified	Sick/Disability FMLA Unpaid Leave Anticipated RTW	04/28/25-05/17/25 (paid disability w/ benefits) 05/18/25-10/18/25 (unpaid w/ benefits) 10/19/25-06/30/26 (unpaid w/o benefits) 10/20/25 01/02/26 09/01/26

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	9225	BHS	Administrator	FMLA Extended Leave Anticipated RTW	10/20/25-01/09/26 (unpaid w/ benefits) 01/12/26-01/30/26 (paid vacation time) 02/02/26

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	9831	BMS	Non Certified	FMLA Anticipated RTW	01/05/26-03/27/26 (unpaid w/ benefits) 03/30/26

9. Approve Athletic Position

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

	Name	Position	School	Stipend
a	McNamara, Patrick	Softball: Head	BMS	Spring 2026 \$4,347.97

10. Amend Athletic Positions*

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Samson, Alyssa	Lacrosse: Women's Asst (FR) Lacrosse: Women's Asst (JV)	BHS	Spring 2026	\$5,790.40 \$6,204.00
b	Nadolny, Tyler	Lacrosse: Women's Asst (JV) Lacrosse: Women's Asst (FR)	BHS	Spring 2026	\$6,204.00 \$5,790.40

11. Approve Athletic Positions*

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Putignano, Vincent	Baseball: Assistant (FR)	BHS	Spring	\$5,790.40
b	Ryan, Kelsey	Lacrosse: Women's Head	BHS	Spring	\$8,272.00
c	McDowell, Caroline	Track & Field: M/W Assistant	BHS	Spring	\$6,204.00
d	Johnson, Alec	Assistant AD: Spring 50%	BHS	Spring	\$1,964.60
e	Femenella, Matthew	Volunteer: Lacrosse Men's	BHS	Spring	\$0

12. Approve Co-Curricular Position*

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Garruto, Frank	Musical: Spring Assistant Director	BHS	Spring	\$2,300.70
b	Acuña, Heiner	Math Lab	BHS	25-26 SY	\$61.21/hr <i>not to exceed \$5,000 for group</i>

13. Amend Co-Curricular Positions

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Weinstein, Julie	Drama: Fall Assistant	BMS	Fall 2025	\$1,866.37 \$2,872.45
b	Weinstein, Julie	Drama: Spring Assistant	BMS	Spring 2026	\$1,866.37 \$2,872.45

14. Approve Student Teaching Field Experience

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

	Name	School/Subject	Educator	Program	Hours
a	Hare, Colleen	BMS	McGovern	FDU Quest Teacher Prep Program/English	60 hours/ January 2026 <i>(pending clearance)</i>

15. Approve Instructional Observation*

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

	Name	School	Educators	Program	Hours
a	Arshad, Muhammad	BHS	Chedid & Wierzbicki	RVCC Clinical Experience/Special Education	8 hours/Fall 2025

16. Approve Instructional Observation

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

	Name	School	Educators	Program	Hours
a	Kochis, Kristin	BES	Rokosky, McShane & d'Anunciacao	RVCC Clinical Experience/Special Education	8 hours/Fall 2025

17. 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	Special Education/BMS	Reilly, Kathryn	FY	5	\$75,390	\$12,567.51 \$13,811.10

18. Approve Translators/Interpreters*

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

	Name	Rate of Pay
a	Serrano, Evelyn	\$61.12/hour
b	Arteaga, Ricio	\$61.12/hour

19. 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	Wilkie, Susan	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/20/25
b	Koddenberg, Gary	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	12/08/25

20. Approve New Position Control Roster

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following new position control roster for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Position	School	UPC	Effective
a	Math Teacher	BMS	TCH.MS.MATH.NA.04	11/20/25

21. 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	Mittal, Karuna	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/20/25
b	Wu, Frank	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/20/25
c	Treiber, Samantha	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/20/25
d	Kochis, Kristin	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	11/20/25
e	Phuengphop, Praisan	Custodian	n/a	11/20/25
f	Ratchanamuang, Kotchaphan	Custodian	n/a	11/20/25

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business - none.

XV. POLICY

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on November 3, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- Ms. Gils requested a discussion of the Mahmoud v Taylor case, which was not on the agenda. The chair advised that, as it was not an agenda item, it was not going to be discussed.
 - *Ms. Gils then left the meeting.
- Food Services Policy: We discussed revamping our food policy to reflect our breakfast offerings, in accordance with a USDA audit
- Lice Policy Discussion: requested updates to policy. New protocols would bring us in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Parents would receive information (Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy) in the event their child has lice.
- Acceptable Use Policy (Technology): there has been extensive damage to chrome books, specifically at the middle school. There will be information pushed out to parents to let them know how pervasive this is.
- Follow-Up Items - These items were not discussed in committee for the reasons described.
 - Board Bylaw Discussion - Due to a lack of majority support among the Committee or Board for either a Committee structure or a Committee of the Whole structure, the matter did not move forward.
 - Policy Discussion - Board Member Civility Policy - Matter is being tabled for further consideration. Given the fact that we would have at least one new Board member in January, we will revisit it in January and decide whether to bring it to the wider Board. This will enable the Board to move forward in a cohesive manner as needed.
- Future Items
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - FY27 Budget Priorities

Discussion: none.

B. Action Items: Ms. Ballard moved item #1, Mrs. Santoro seconded.

Item #1 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, 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 and/or regulations:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
P 8507	Breakfast Offer Versus Serve (OVS)
P 8454	Management Of Pediculosis

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: Ms. Gils requested further discussion on policy development around the Mahmoud vs Taylor decision. She also felt it was a bad idea to drop the civility policy discussion, that it should include no lying, no yelling, and that consideration be given to benefits of recording such meetings. There were also comments between Ms. Gils and Ms. Ballard as to whether Mahmoud vs. Taylor was on the agenda for discussion.

XVI. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report and Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The committee met on November 3, 2025.

1. School Start Times - The committee regrouped on moving the start time of school back by 15 minutes. We discussed it from the perspective of the effect it would after school as well as the budgetary impact on Bedminster. Dr. Brotschul feels that there are enough options for kids after school such that if they have to wait a bit for the train they will have choices of how to occupy their time unlike the early 6:45 train. We understand that Bedminster will have to add a bus and thereby incur a budgetary expense, but we think that the benefit for all kids and the amount of time we have been considering this adjustment warrants moving forward next year.
2. Survey Process: NJ SCI - The District is undergoing 3 areas of surveying/introspection to allow us to understand our baseline and prepare for the 2026-2029 strategic plan development. NJ SCI is the Rutgers Climate/Culture project that will survey all parents k-12, all staff, and students 3-12. Results of this study will be provided.
3. Survey Process: Labor and Management - The Labor Management will look at relations and collaboration in the district between staff, administration and the BOE. It will give educators the opportunity to express their perceptions of climate and collaboration norms within their schools and districts. Results of this study will be provided.
4. Survey Process: Quality School Review - The Quality School Review has started and is being conducted by School Leadership Teams. This process focuses on turnaround school leadership processes and is guided by the work of the Principals. It will be utilized internally for growth and improvement and shared as appropriate by Dr. Brotschul. All three processes/surveys/studies will intersect to help us guide our next strategic plan!
5. Student Services Update: Student Matters - We discussed pertinent special services regarding out of district placement discussions.

Discussion: Several questions around the changing start times. Mrs. Hoppe asked for clarification on the impact on the 15 minute shift. Mrs. Gomez indicated she will share the information with the Bedminster Board. Mrs. Clark-Emery asked for further clarification on the impact of the 15 minute shift. Mrs. Gils asked about shuttles at the train station. Ms. Cooper thanked the administration for being flexible on this issue. Mrs. Santoro spoke to the benefits of the plan.

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

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. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

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, Mrs. Frenda.

Item #3 was approved by roll call vote of 9-1-0. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. No: Ms. Clark-Emery.

Item #4 was approved by roll call vote of 8-1-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Gils, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. No: Ms. Clark-Emery. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

Item #5 was approved by roll call vote of 8-1-1. Voting: Ayes: Mr. Baker, Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. No: Ms. Gils. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez.

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on October 15, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BMS	1	Founded

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

2. HIB Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on October 15, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BHS	2	Founded
BHS	3	Founded

HIBs to Date (25-26 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BHS	3	0	0	3

3. Approve HIB Determination*

RESOLVED, that the Board affirm the Superintendent's decision on HIB Case BHS #3 following a Board hearing of an appeal on behalf of the student, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(e).

4. Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar (Attachment A).

5. Approve 2027-2028 School Calendar*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2027-2028 School Calendar (Attachment B).

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

Board Announcements

- Ms. Gils thanked Gina who rallied individuals for donations for those who could lose SNAP benefits.
- Mrs. Gomez indicated the recent joint meeting was great and that Bedminster is looking forward to the results.
- Mrs. Wry also enjoyed the joint meeting and suggested it become an annual event. She also attended the recent school play and it was excellent.
- Mrs. Frenda lauded the accomplishments of the seniors and the support of their staff and families.
- Mrs. Santoro echoed Mrs. Frenda's sentiments.

Public Comments

- David Brothers - Bernardsville - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Al Schaufler - Bernardsville - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Matt Fermenella - Bernardsville - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Ed Caldwell - Bernardsville - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Matt Vaccaro - Bernardsville - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Reid Zurlo - BHS graduate - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Robert Schaufler - BHS graduate - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Jon Diamond - BHS graduate - support for boys lacrosse coach.
- Mr. D - Peapack - support for boys lacrosse coach, discontent for recent AP History lesson, discontent for referendum.

Seeing no one else from the public, Mrs. Santoro moved to close public comments. Mrs. Hoppe seconded. All were in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. Mrs. Wry seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 10-0-0.

Appendix (for reference)

Agenda Attachment A:

2025-11-19 Board Meeting - Attachment A

26-27 District Calendar - DRAFT 5

The Somerset Hills School District 2026-2027

June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	30	31													25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						

Students - 1 / Staff - 4 Students - 20 / Staff - 20 days Students - 22 / Staff - 22 days Students - 17 / Staff - 17 days

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29-30 Extended School Year | <p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 Extended School Year 6-9 Extended School Year 13-16 Extended School Year 20-23 Extended School Year 27-30 Extended School Year | <p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-20 New Teacher Orien. 25-27 Prof Days-no school 31 First Day for students | <p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Labor Day-No School 8 Back to School-BMS 15 Back to School-BES 21 Yom Kippur-No School 24 Back to School-BHS | <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Prof Day-Early Dismissal | <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-6 NJEA-No School 9 Prof Day-Delayed Opening 25 Early Dismissal 26-27 Thanksgiving |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|

December 2026							January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027							May 2027											
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3														
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29					
							31																					30	31						30	31										

Students - 17 / Staff - 17 days Students - 19 / Staff - 19 days Students - 18 / Staff - 19 days Students - 19 / Staff - 19 days Students - 20 / Staff - 20 days Students - 20 / Staff - 20 days

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Prof Day-Early Dismissal 23 Early Dismissal 24-31 Winter Recess | <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 New Year's Day-No School 18 MLK Day-No School 29 Prof Day-Early Dismissal | <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 President's Day-No School 16 Prof Day-No School | <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Prof Day-Early Dismissal 25 Make-Up Day #1 26-31 Spring Break | <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 Spring Break 5 Make-Up Day #2 | <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 Memorial Day-No School |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|

June 2027							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

Students - 9 / Staff - 9 days

182+ Student Days
186+ Teacher/Staff Days
4+ Full Professional Days
4+ Early Dismissal/Prof Days
2+ Delayed Opening/ Prof Day

- June**
- 30 Prof Day-Early Dismissal
 - 31 Early Dismissal/Last Day/Commencement for Students

Note: This calendar allows for two emergency days that will be used in the following order: March 25th and April 5th. Should additional days be used, days will be made up as follows: February 15th, then during spring recess beginning with April 2nd and working backwards.

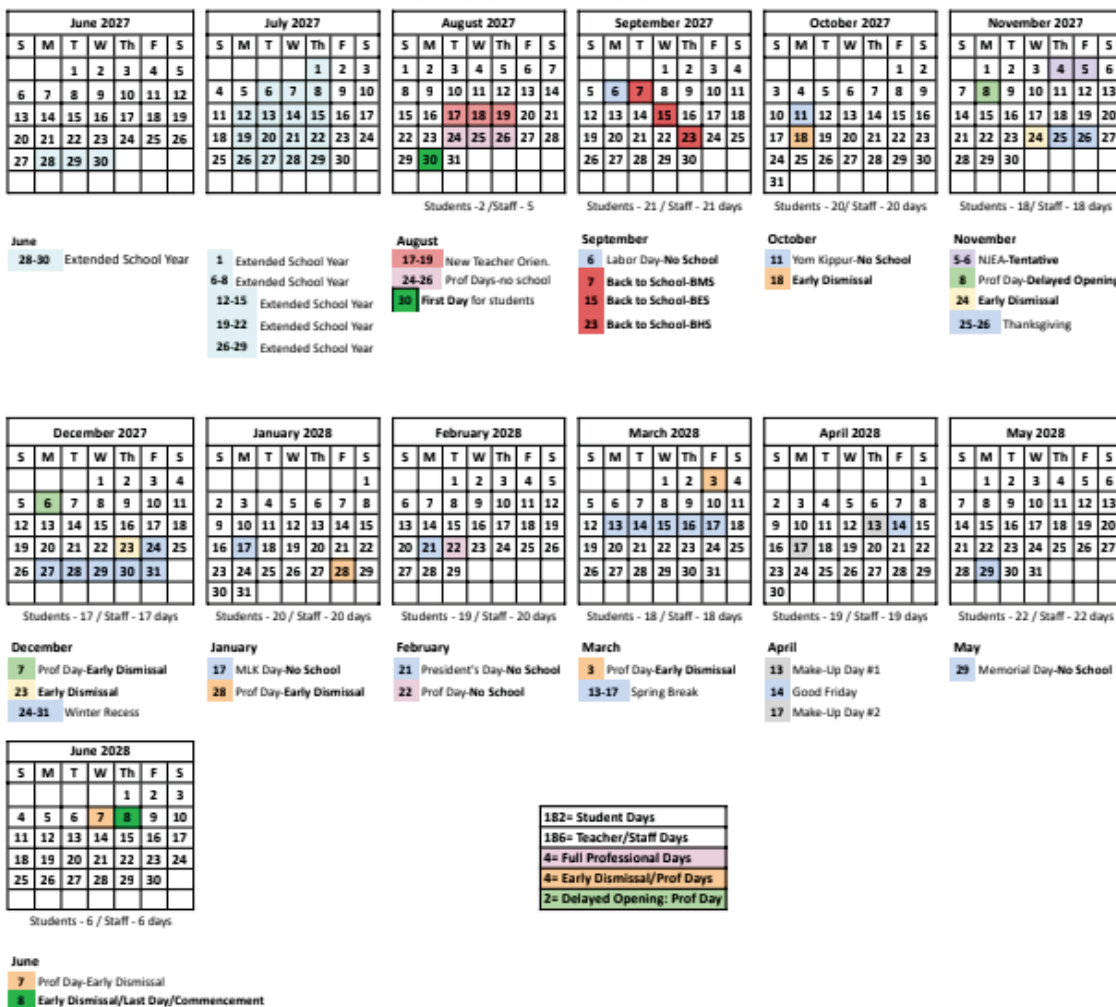
Approved at the _____ Board of Education Meeting

Agenda Attachment B:

2025-11-19 Board Meeting - Attachment B

27-28 District Calendar - DRAFT 4

The Somerset Hills School District 2027-2028



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)