

**The Somerset Hills School District
 Regular Meeting Agenda - February 19, 2026
 Executive Session - 6:30 pm
 Regular Public Meeting - 7:30 pm
 Bernards High School - Community Room**

Call to Order & Welcome

Board Vice President Mrs. Santoro called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ms. Ballard | Mrs. Librera |
| Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:58 pm) | Mrs. Santoro |
| Ms. Cooper | Mrs. Wry |
| Mrs. Hunt | |

Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Frenda.

Also Present:

- Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent
- Dr. Coleen Butler, Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Richard Liguori, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
- Mr. Adam Weiss, Esq., Busch Law Group

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. Wry made a motion to go to Executive Session at 6:33 pm. Mrs. Librera seconded.

WHEREAS the “Open Public Meetings Act.” (Chapter 231 Laws of 1975) authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which specified topics are to be discussed under circumstances where the public consideration of such topics will clearly endanger the public, or where the personal privacy or guaranteed rights of individuals whose activities or affairs are to be discussed would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasions, and

WHEREAS the matters about to be presented for discussion clearly meet the “circumstances” test of such Act:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Somerset Hills now adjourns its public session to reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following: Student Matters, Attorney/Client Privilege, Litigation, and Personnel.

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.

During the Executive Session, Dr. Butler and Mr. Liguori recused themselves at 7:17 pm.

Ms. Cooper made a motion to return to Public Session at 7:29 pm. Mrs. Wry seconded.

Dr. Butler and Mr. Liguori rejoined, and the public meeting resumed at 7:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance - led by Bedwell Elementary School students Claire Dandola, Clare Duff, Oliver Martin, and Owen Perret.

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Reports
 - a. BMS report provided by Darcy Canberg and Miles Olechnowicz
 - b. BHS report provided by Sophia Fazel-Sarjui and Nolan Baker

2. Recognition of BMS Research Symposium
 - a. Brett Cox
 - b. Danielle McGovern
 - c. Pilar Medina
 - d. Dawn Russo
 - e. Jessica Tynan

A Resolution honoring **Brett Cox** for her guidance and support of middle school students;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to dedicated educators who teach and encourage young learners, each and every day;

WHEREAS, **Brett Cox** sees the merit of exploration, research, and feeding the inquisitive spirit through investigation, written expression, and spoken word;

WHEREAS, **Brett Cox** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 **Brett Cox** for her extraordinary effort, organization and support of the 8th Grade Research Symposium.

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 19th day of February 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Danielle McGovern** for her guidance and support of middle school students;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to dedicated educators who teach and encourage young learners, each and every day;

WHEREAS, **Danielle McGovern** sees the merit of exploration, research, and feeding the inquisitive spirit through investigation, written expression, and spoken word;

WHEREAS, **Danielle McGovern** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 **Danielle McGovern** for her extraordinary effort, organization and support of the 8th Grade Research Symposium.

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

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 February 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Pilar Medina** for her guidance and support of middle school students;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to dedicated educators who teach and encourage young learners, each and every day;

WHEREAS, **Pilar Medina** sees the merit of exploration, research, and feeding the inquisitive spirit through investigation, written expression, and spoken word;

WHEREAS, **Pilar Medina** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 **Pilar Medina** for her extraordinary effort, organization and support of the 8th Grade Research Symposium.

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

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 February 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Dawn Russo** for her guidance and support of middle school students;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to dedicated educators who teach and encourage young learners, each and every day;

WHEREAS, **Dawn Russo** sees the merit of exploration, research, and feeding the inquisitive spirit through investigation, written expression, and spoken word;

WHEREAS, **Dawn Russo** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 **Dawn Russo** for her extraordinary effort, organization and support of the 8th Grade Research Symposium.

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

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 February 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

A Resolution honoring **Jessica Tynan** for her guidance and support of middle school students;

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to dedicated educators who teach and encourage young learners, each and every day;

WHEREAS, **Jessica Tynan** sees the merit of exploration, research, and feeding the inquisitive spirit through investigation, written expression, and spoken word;

WHEREAS, **Jessica Tynan** is part of Bernardsville Middle School and serves as an inspiration to 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 **Jessica Tynan** for her extraordinary effort, organization and support of the 8th Grade Research Symposium.

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

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 February 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

- 3. Board Recognition - Retirees - announced by Ms. Ballard, Chair of Policy & Personnel Committee:
 - a. WHEREAS, Christine Whitlock has been employed from September 1999 through June 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Christine Whitlock’s retirement effective July 1, 2026, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

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- b. WHEREAS, Rosemarie Rizzuto has been employed from September 2002 through June 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Rosemarie Rizzuto’s retirement effective July 1, 2026, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
 - c. WHEREAS, Jeffrey Falzarano has been employed from September 2003 through June 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, he exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Jeffrey Falzarano’s retirement effective July 1, 2026, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
 - d. WHEREAS, Lynn Weltler has been employed from September 2008 through June 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Lynn Weltler’s retirement effective July 1, 2026, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
 - e. WHEREAS, Maria Venezio has been employed from September 2005 through September 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Maria Venezio’s retirement effective October 1, 2026, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
 - f. WHEREAS, Carolyn Wells has been employed from September 2001 through October 2026 as a Teacher; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Carolyn Wells’ retirement effective November 1, 2026, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.
4. Board Presentation - 2026 Referendum - Frank Messineo, Solutions Architecture
 5. Superintendent Report: Dr. Brotschul raised awareness of several timely and pertinent District issues, including an update on the 2026 Regionalization Study.
 6. Semi-annual School Safety Data Report - presented by Dr. Brotschul.

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items - seeing no one from the public, Mrs. Librera moved to close public comments. Mrs. Clark-Emery seconded. All present voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Special meeting and Executive meeting minutes from January 22, 2026, as well as the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes from January 28, 2026.

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

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Frenda.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on February 9, 2026. The following items were discussed:

- Tennis court project submission
 - Administration submitted plans for the tennis court project to the DOE and will be going out to bid later this month (2/19).
 - This will be a “start and stop” project like the track given the need for the pavement to cure and will start after the Spring BHS tennis season ends (typically at the end of May/early June). The project will be funded out of maintenance over 2 budgets.
 - Bernardsville Rec will be informed that the courts will be under repair for much of the summer and will not be available for use.
- FY27 new demographer budgeted
 - We will be budgeting/looking for a new demographer for next year. Our current demographer has not been reachable this year (and therefore, is not being paid).
- Retirements
 - We discussed 6 retirements that will be on the agenda this month (4 at the high school and 2 at BMS). Anticipated breakage is \$247,000. Dr. Brotschul expects to fill the positions of all the teachers who announced their retirement.
- Referendum presentations
 - We discussed Referendum planning, including 4 upcoming presentations:
 - A hybrid meeting on 2/11
 - A live streamed presentation at our public meeting on 2/19
 - A live meeting in PG on 2/23
 - A live streamed meeting on 2/24
 - Live streamed meetings will be streamed on YouTube.
 - We also discussed the challenges of displaying yard signs in the snow. The committee agreed that it is important to send a postcard to reach residents who may not hear about the live/streamed presentations.
- Ed Data implementation
 - Mr. Liguori updated the board on the use of Ed Data, a cooperative purchase agreement that we entered into in the fall. This arrangement helps the district save money by purchasing supplies at larger volumes with other districts. According to Mr. Liguori, this arrangement has been useful and has been embraced within the district.
- FY27 budget
 - Dr. Brotschul updated us on the status of the budget. The team is exploring multiple scenarios, including a 10% cut, flat aid, 2% cap, the use of healthcare waiver/banked cap,

staffing/retirement considerations, and the use of capital/maintenance reserve. More to come in March and at our March budget retreat.

- Light project closeout
 - Mr. Liguori reported that the field lighting project came in about \$347,000 under budget, due to a lower-than-anticipated cost of electrical work.
- Capital reserve update
 - Mr. Liguori then reviewed the status of capital reserve for the 2026 budget:
 - Savings from the Olcott field lighting project is \$347,000.
 - We also did not use \$150,000 and budgeted for door access upgrades and \$10,000 for replacing a retaining wall. Unfortunately, we had about \$90,000 in unanticipated costs for the track project and we went a bit over budget on the total cost of the PAC curtains/audio upgrades (~\$1200). Overall, we have about \$417,500 available for use this year.
 - Last month, we learned that the projected cost of the paging/bells/door access/emergency notifications project at BMS (the highest priority of the security upgrades) was \$440,000.
 - Mr. Liguori/Dr. Brotschul recommended that we use \$400,000 from this year’s capital budget to fund the door access project at BMS and budget \$1,350,000 in next year’s capital budget for the other buildings (total cost at all schools/buildings is \$1,725,000). The committee generally agreed with this recommendation.
- Aflac: options for disability plans & more
 - The team met with Aflac to discuss options for employee-funded disability plans at no cost to the district. These optional plans include supplemental coverage in the event of short-term disability, accident, illness, hospital, and dental coverage. The plans would be funded via pre-tax payroll deductions.
- IntraFi
 - Mr. Liguori met with Peapack Gladstone Bank to discuss IntraFi, a bank service available to the district at no cost, that protects large cash deposits. If we use this service, we’ll also benefit from a higher interest rate on our deposits (3.0% instead of 2.75%). This service will be on this month’s agenda for the board’s consideration.

Discussion - Mrs. Wry indicated that the mail-in ballots for the Referendum had arrived.

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

Items #1-13 were approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, 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 January 2026 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$9,156,307.56	\$9,156,307.56
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$(271,786.13)	\$(271,786.13)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$1,227,557.03	\$1,227,557.03

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
Total Government Funds	\$10,112,078.46	\$10,112,078.46

(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 January 2026.

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached Final January 2026 check register with the recommendation that the checks be paid, and Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the following bills be paid and an itemized list be filed with the minutes of this meeting:

FUND	
(10) General Fund	\$4,540,693.77
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$68,230.09
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$57,811.49
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,245,401.32
TOTAL	\$5,912,136.67

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached February 2026 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	\$1,930,665.33
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$22,274.47
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-
(90) Agency Fund	\$438,928.84
TOTAL	\$2,391,868.64

5. Approve 2025-2026 Non-Public Technology Aid*

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

	Non-Public School	Description	Amount
a	School of St. Elizabeth	Epson Projector and supplies	\$2,110.81

6. Approve IXL*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve site license from IXL Complete for Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies, for Bernards High School for the 2025-2026 school year, in the amount of \$1,250.00.

7. 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	1130639542	Allegro School (Personal Aide 1:1)	Cedar Knolls, NJ	\$20,700.00 (Pro-rated)
b	3191740990	ECLC of NJ (Personal Aide 1:1)	Chatham, NJ	\$26,600.00 (Pro-rated)

8. Settlement Agreement*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Settlement Agreement for Student # 6848116087.

9. Approve the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the cancellation of the following outstanding checks:

General Fund Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount	General Fund Check Issue Date	Check Number	Amount
2/16/23	74461	\$1,000.00	7/28/23	76271	\$995.00
3/10/23	74809	\$1,932.08	8/28/23	76410	\$475.00
3/10/23	74864	\$190.00	9/21/23	76604	\$880.48
3/16/23	74877	\$994.34	10/11/23	76693	\$160.00
5/12/23	75193	\$271.94	10/11/23	76729	\$3,511.59
6/15/23	75207	\$522.00	10/11/23	76764	\$79.99
6/15/23	75501	\$2,941.29	11/7/23	76946	\$750.00
6/30/23	75629	\$1,566.00	12/7/23	77069	\$100.00

10. Approve Supplemental Insurance Company*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Aflac as a supplemental insurance company with the District, to provide voluntary benefits through payroll deduction to employees.

11. Approve IntraFi Cash Management*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the use of IntraFi cash management, through Peapack Private Bank & Trust, to protect large cash deposits that exceed the standard \$250,000 FDIC insurance limit.

12. Approve Revised Not to Exceed Amounts*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised not to exceed amounts for the 2025-2026 school year:

	Vendor	Description	Amount Not to Exceed
a	Bayada Nursing	Nursing Services	\$40,000.00
b	Solutions Architecture	Architect of Record, inclusive of capital projects and pre-referendum work	\$200,000.00
c	Prevention Specialists Inc.	Non DOT Drug & Alcohol Testing	\$10,000.00
d	Rullo & Juillet Associates, Inc.	Right to Know Consultant	\$7,500.00

13. Approve Waiver of Compliance for Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program*

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for 2026-2027, and

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education projects the district's Medicaid Eligible/Special Education Student Count, per the NJ SLEDS 10/15/25 Snapshot, will be 30 students, and

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it will have fewer than the 40 Medicaid eligible classified students required,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in the County of Somerset, the appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026-27 school year.

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

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on February 11, 2026. The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DECISIONS/CONCLUSIONS REACHED:

1. Mid-year data walkthrough (Lindsay Barna & Olga Edgerton)

- Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton joined us to present the results of their mid-year review of the achievement of students in Grades 4-8 who scored a level 1 (did not meet expectations), 2 (partially met expectations), or 3 (approaching expectations) on last year's NJSLA.
 - Results were collected through the i-Ready Diagnostic test, an adaptive online assessment designed to identify skill levels, pinpoint learning gaps, and measure growth. The difficulty of the questions in the assessment are adjusted based on student responses, providing personalized data for teachers to inform instruction.
 - Similar to NJSLA, the diagnostic provides 5 criterion-referenced student performance levels:
 - Level 1: ≥ 3 grade levels below current grade
 - Level 2: 2 grade levels below current grade
 - Level 3: 1 grade level below current grade
 - Level 4: early on grade level
 - Level 5: mid or above grade level
 - Based on these data, Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton assessed the number of students who achieved typical growth or stretch growth.
 - Typical growth represents the average annual academic progress made by students in the same grade and with a similar starting proficiency level.
 - It is a personalized, research-based target set after the first diagnostic to benchmark a year's worth of growth, rather than just reaching proficiency.
 - At the mid-year data point, students are expected to have progressed at least 50% toward this goal.
 - Stretch growth represents a personalized, research-backed target designed to accelerate student learning and close proficiency gaps.
 - Unlike "Typical Growth" (average progress), Stretch Growth sets an ambitious, higher benchmark—typically between the 55th and 80th percentile of national growth—to help students, especially those below grade level, reach proficiency faster.
 - Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton also presented i-Ready's Projected Proficiency results. Projected Proficiency is a diagnostic feature that predicts a student's likelihood of passing state assessments based on their adaptive test results, mapping their performance against state standards.
- According to Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton, the majority of students in Grades 4-8 are progressing in their learning as expected, with some making greater gains than anticipated.
 - Tracking student growth in these students also provides useful metrics on students who are not expected to pass state assessments.
 - Teachers have been made aware of their students' results.
 - Conversations related to these data at the building level are ongoing to support targeted instruction and interventions.

2. IXL Pilot (Lindsay Barna & Olga Edgerton)

- Both Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton recommend piloting IXL software in BHS, which can provide benchmarks similar to those provided by i-Ready for K through 8.
- According to Ms. Barna and Dr. Edgerton, the IXL LevelUp Diagnostic serves as an ongoing, real-time diagnostic to support daily instruction, providing standards-based reporting in math, ELA, science, and social studies. It also offers full Spanish-language support.
- The committee whole-heartedly supported piloting this software at BHS. This program will cost

about \$5000 this year and \$15 per student in future years.

3. Bilingual waiver and updates (Mr. Catelli)

- Mr. Catelli then joined us to provide an overview of SHSD’s bilingual services, the rationale for the bilingual waiver in certain grades, and an update on our Exploremos program.
 - Achievement in our MLL students is assessed annually using ACCESS 2.0, a test required by the NJDOE for measuring English language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
 - Students receive a score of 1.0 to 6.0, and students who receive a score of 4.5 or higher can exit the program. Each student has an individual growth goal.
- He also provided an overview of the rapid changes in the size of our MLL program in the past 15 years.
 - Before the 2012-2013 school year, the district had ~20 MLL students in the district, which increased to 67 by 2014-2015, 138 by 2019-2020, and 151 in the 2023-2024 school year.
 - This year, the number has dropped to 129, a decrease that is entirely due to a reduction in the number of new MLL students at BHS.
 - In Bedwell, about 15% of our students are MLL, 20 of whom are in our Exploremos bilingual program.
- Next, Mr. Catelli discussed our 3-year plan (2024-2027) and bilingual waiver for our MLL students.
 - Once a district has 20 students bilingual support in the district, the NJ DOE requires a full-time bilingual program.
 - The bilingual waiver represents an annual request to waive full-time bilingual education requirements in grades in which the district does not provide full-time bilingual programming (currently, in 2nd through 12th grades).
 - In many smaller districts, full-time bilingual programming may not be feasible (eg, if there are relatively few students in each grade) or preferable (eg, if students are SLIFEs and/or unable to read/write in their primary language).
 - If the district does not provide full-time bilingual programming in all grades, they must submit a waiver, and even if the waiver is approved, they must continue to move toward providing more extensive bilingual education.
 - As reviewed in previous meetings, the district determined that a full-time program may best serve our K-1 students.
 - Historically, while our ML students in younger grades ultimately achieve the ACCESS scores necessary to exit our ML program, they frequently are unable to read on grade level after exiting.
 - We initiated the Exploremos program to help ensure that our students are able to read on grade level, giving them greater access to all the programs the district provides.
 - For grades 2 through 12, the district uses Bilingual Tutorial, Sheltered Instruction and High Intensity English as alternatives to a full-time bilingual program. The district also provides 15 hours of sheltered instruction annually.
 - Note that if we were to move to a full bilingual model, Bedwell would require 3 additional staff members for students in 2nd through 4th grade and BMS and BHS would each require 4 additional staff members to teach science, social studies, math, and literacy, as well as additional counselors and special education staff.
 - However, Mr. Catelli emphasized that the administration would ask for a districtwide bilingual model if the team felt that it would be in the best interest of the students.

- Mr. Catelli then reviewed the progress of students in our full-time bilingual K-1 program (Exploremos).
 - Our kindergarteners have made substantial progress since September and significantly greater progress at the January assessment than the students enrolled in kindergarten prior to the initiation of our full-time bilingual program (Exploremos).
 - Previously, students had shown large gains in listening and speaking, but little in reading and writing due to gaps in learning in their first language.
 - This year, student growth has been as expected and they have developed a solid foundation in both English and Spanish.
 - Our Grade 1 students also have shown above average growth in all components.
 - While these students have shown slightly slower growth in listening and speaking compared to previous years (since they are learning 2 languages), they are building a stronger foundation in reading and writing.
 - They also have shown greater growth compared to our previous Grade 1 students (who did not have access to the Exploremos program).
 - Mr. Catelli also shared some very encouraging intangible data, which indicate that the students and families who participate in Exploremos are increasingly confident, proud of their culture, and interested in learning.
 - Overall, 90% would recommend Exploremos to friends and families. The other 10% indicated that they might recommend the program.
- Regarding next steps, Mr. Catelli indicated that the district would be discussing strategies for collaborating with related arts and general education classes, supporting current 1st graders as they transition to 2nd grade, holding an interest meeting on March 12th for parents, and developing additional supports for BMS students.

DECISIONS

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

INFORMATION

1. Curriculum and Instruction (Bernards High School Quality School Review)
 - Dr. Brotschul presented a very preliminary overview of the Quality School Review Survey results at BHS. The results of this survey will be useful in advancing instruction in the high school.
2. Bernardsville Middle School Master Schedule Task Force
 - Dr. Brotschul informed us that he was initiating a Master Schedule Task Force to evaluate and enhance the master schedule at BMS. The goal of the Task Force is to ensure that the schedule best meets the needs of our middle school students.
3. Due to time constraints, we were unable to discuss the other items on the agenda. More information on these items will come in future meetings/reports.

Discussion - Mrs. Santoro asked if all of next year's first graders could be accommodated in Exploremos. Dr. Brotschul affirmed. Mrs. Santoro was happy to see the Best Buddies trip back on our agenda again. Ms. Cooper added to her report, giving kudos to Mr. Catelli for his work on the Exploremos program, citing feedback that parents are proud of their culture.

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

Items #1-4 were approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, 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	BMS	Berry, Courtney	Field Trip Chaperone- Robotics Club	4/29/26	\$0
b	BES	Collins, Jessica	Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4	6/9/26	\$0
c	BES	Dooley, Megan	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
d	BMS	Habermas, Chris	HIB Meeting	1/15/26	\$42.58
e	BES	Hall, Kristine	Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4	6/9/26	\$0
f	BMS	Koellhoffer, Keith	HIB Meeting	1/15/26	\$42.58
g	BMS	Mahlik, Phil	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
h	BMS	Marashlian, Nicole	Improving Learning Outcomes for All Students in Your Science Classroom	3/9/26	\$295
i	BES	Mariani, Jessica	Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4	6/9/26	\$0
j	BMS	Pasquarelli, Jaclyn	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
k	BES	Reed, Patrick	Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4	6/9/26	\$0
l	BES	Sakin, Jordan	Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4	6/9/26	\$0
m	BMS	Walker, Carrie	Improving Learning Outcomes for All Students in Your Science Classroom	3/9/26	\$295
n	BES	Ziolkowski, Maureen	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$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	BHS	Bale-Peña, Matt	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
b	BHS	Boyce, Nicole	Capturing Kids' Hearts Training	3/10/26, 3/11/26	\$64.01
c	District	Butler, Coleen	Lead Out Loud: Leadership Beyond the Title	3/13/26	\$0
d	BHS	Cava, Lauren	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
e	District	Cicenia, Amy	Purchasing Review/Update	3/31/26	\$210.93
f	District	Cicenia, Amy	Principles of Public Purchasing I	3/5/26, 3/10/26, 3/12/26, 3/17/26, 3/19/26	\$944
g	District	Edgerton, Olga	NJGPA & NJSLA-A Training (District Testing Coordinator)	2/25/26	\$0
h	BHS	Ellis, Amanda	Panther Preview Roadshow/ University of Pittsburgh Counselor Reception	4/17/26	\$0
i	BHS	Gomez, Melissa	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
j	District	Koransky, Jamie	School Health Today - Rising to the Challenge Together	3/9/26	\$218.18
k	BHS	LaPine, Matthew	Capturing Kids' Hearts Training	3/10/26, 3/11/26	\$0
l	BHS	Mathus, Peter	Field Trip Chaperone- Instrumental Music Department	3/19/26- 3/23/26	\$0
m	BHS	O'Brien, Janice	Capturing Kids' Hearts Training	3/10/26, 3/11/26	\$0
n	BHS	Resnick, Tori	NJSCI (School Climate Improvement) Meeting	2/23/26	\$0
o	District	Schwarz, Jeremy	TECHSPO 26 - NJ Association of School Administrators	1/28/26- 1/30/26	\$528.20
p	BHS	Stolarz, Lizabeth	Panther Preview Roadshow/ University of Pittsburgh - Counselor Reception	4/17/26	\$0
q	BHS	Taesler, Rachael	Field Trip Chaperone- Instrumental Music Department	3/19/26- 3/23/26	\$0
r	BHS	Thatcher, Stephanie	Field Trip Chaperone- BHS French H	3/4/26 or 3/5/26	\$0

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference/School Business	Date(s)	Est. Cost
s	BHS	Wierzbicki, Kyle	Guest Speaker at TCNJ 5-Year Secondary Special Education Program	3/30/26	\$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	The College of New Jersey - Ewing, NJ Robotics Club	9	4	0
b	BES	Meadowbrook Country Day Camp - Long Valley, NJ Grade 4	84	6	14

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	Matheny School - Gladstone, NJ Best Buddies	20	2	0

C. Curriculum Old Business / New Business - None.

PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on February 10, 2026. The following items were discussed:

1. Various retirements have been announced, as reflected in the agenda. We also discussed FY27 Staffing.
2. Lacrosse
 - a. Head Coach: Derek Zacatenco
 - b. JV Coach: TBA
 - c. Freshman Coach: Tim Zangara (BHS Teacher of Social Studies; coaches boys soccer, boys basketball with us also)
 - d. Volunteer Coach: Patrick Caldwell
3. SHSD will be attending upcoming Job Fairs @ TCNJ, which has proven to be a great resource for the district.
4. AP Search Process-Bedwell
 - a. Posting and Recruitment (2-4-26 through 3-1-26)

- b. Currently, 64 completed applications
- c. Screening and Interviews in March
- d. Recommendation in April

Discussion - None.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Hunt moved items #1-12, Ms. Ballard seconded.

Items #1-12 were approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Frenda.

1. Accept Retirement

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Rizzuto, Rosemarie	BMS	Teacher TCH.MS.CYCLE.NA.02	7/1/26
b	Wells, Carolyn	BMS	Teacher TCH.MS.HIST.NA.05	11/1/26

2. Accept Retirement*

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

	Employee	School	Position	Effective
a	Falzarano, Jeffrey	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.ENGL.NA.01	7/1/26
b	Whitlock, Christine	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.SCNC.NA.10	7/1/26
c	Weltler, Lynn	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.ENGL.NA.08	7/1/26
d	Venezio, Maria	BHS	Teacher TCH.HS.ENGL.NA.07	10/1/26

3. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

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

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Total Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Urena Hernandez, Eric	District	Maintenance MNT.DIST.MTCE.NA.05	7	\$65,746 base \$1,206 boiler license	\$66,952 <i>prorated</i>	Vought	2/20/26

4. 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	School	Position	Step	Salary	Replace	Effective
a	Danik, Jessica	BES/BMS	Registered Nurse-Part Time RN.DIST.NRSE.NA.01	3	\$44.56/hour \$46.16/hour	contracted service	2/17/26

5. 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	9951	BHS	Certified	Disability Unpaid NJFLA Anticipated RTW	01/05/26-01/21/26 paid w/benefits 01/22/26-04/19/26 unpaid w/benefits 03/02/26 04/20/26

6. 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	9088	BMS	Certified	Unpaid FMLA Anticipated RTW	02/09/26-03/31/26 unpaid w/benefits 04/01/26

7. Approve Co-Curricular Positions*

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	Torres, Maiya	Homework Club <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i>	BHS	25-26 SY	\$61.12/hour
b	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Homework Club <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i>	BHS	25-26 SY	\$61.12/hour

8. Rescind Athletic Position*

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

	Name	Position	School	Season	Stipend
a	Thompson, Gilbert	Lacrosse: Men's Assistant (JV)	BHS	Spring 2026	\$6,204.00

9. 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	Zacatenco, Derek	Lacrosse: Men's Head Coach	BHS	Spring 2026	\$8,272.00
b	Caldwell, Patrick	Lacrosse: Men's Volunteer	BHS	Spring 2026	\$0

10. Amend Overloads*

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

	Teacher	Type of Support	Term	Periods/ week	Salary	Overload Salary prorated
a	Venezia, David	ESL	1/5/26 - 2/27/26 4/17/26	5	\$81,130	\$2,704.87 \$4,530.67
b	Garay, Janet	ESL	1/5/26 - 2/27/26 4/17/26	5	\$109,050	\$3,635.73 \$6,089.84
c	Pasqua, Jaclyn	Algebra II ESL ICS	1/5/26 - 2/27/26 4/17/26	5	\$103,000	\$3,434.02 \$5,752.00
d	Cannon, Steven	Environmental Sci ESL ICS	1/5/26 - 2/27/26 4/17/26	5	\$70,485	\$2,349.97 \$3,936.18

11. Approve Return to Position

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a return to position for certified staff member:

	Employee	Location	Effective
a	8689	BMS	Date to be determined by the Superintendent

12. 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	Traynor, Amy	Bus Aide	n/a	2/20/26
b	Villafane, Hernando	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate	2/20/26
c	Mrak, Michael	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	2/20/26
d	James, Sharon	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	2/20/26
e	Martin, Debbie	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	2/20/26
f	Vallario, Noelle	Teacher/Paraprofessional	County Substitute Certificate	2/20/26
g	Suczewski, Edward	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate	2/20/26

C. Personnel Old Business / New Business - None.

POLICY

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items: Ms. Ballard gave the report. The Committee met on February 10, 2026. The following items were discussed:

1. Review of First Reading Policies

- a. P 0142.1: Nepotism
- b. P 1220: Employment of Chief School Administrator
 - i. This description can be explicit in requirements, or broad; Dr. Brotschul suggests keeping it broad to enable the Board to choose the Superintendent as per district's needs and requirements at the moment.
- c. P 1552: Sexual Harassment-Staff
- d. R 1552: Sexual Harassment-Staff

- i. Previously two policies, now one, which covers everything, as laws against discrimination protect all staff (certificated and non certificated.)
- ii. Dr. Butler is the District Title 9 coordinator; the policy and regulation provide guidance on how to proceed. The Board attorney may be notified, and in some cases, may handle a situation if deemed necessary.

2. Abolish Policies

- a. P 3362: Sexual Harassment
- b. R 3362: Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint
- c. P 4352: Sexual Harassment
- d. R 4352: Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint

Discussion: None.

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

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, 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 and/or regulation:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
P 0142.1	Nepotism
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator
P 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff
R 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff
P 3362	Sexual Harassment - Abolish
R 3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Comp;aint Procedure - Abolish
P 4352	Sexual Harassment - Abolish
R 4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint- Abolish

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: None.

STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The committee met on February 10, 2026.

Topic	Notes (Committee Notes in Bold)
<p><u>Programming Overview</u> Special Education and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act: A SHSD Snapshot of services rendered (current cohort)</p>	<p>Ms. Koransky attended our meeting and gave us an overview of our Special Education Services.</p> <p>We discussed the difference between 504 Plans and IEPs. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is a Civil Rights Law where IEPs are based on Federal Funding Law. The purpose of a 504 plan is to ensure access to what the school provides for all students, whereas an IEP is focused on individual student progress as it relates to their own potential. Eligibility for a 504 plan is based on a student having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a student's major life activity (e.g. ability to function in school). For an IEP plan a student has one or more of the specific disabilities listed in the IDEA, significantly impacts educational performance, and requires specialized educational services. We then went on to discuss how students are evaluated, the teams that support them, plans to support, revisions/re-evaluation, and funding based on whether they have a 504 or an IEP. We currently have 276 students with an IEP and 130 with 504's. (Numbers not to be publicly reported to preserve student confidentiality)</p> <p>Our Student Services Staff consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 29 Special Education teachers ● 7 child study team members ● 5 nurses (3, 1:1) ● 3 speech pathologists ● 1 occupational therapist ● 1 BCBA ● 15 paras <p>We discussed the Continuum of Student Services. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is always considered first. We currently have 29 Out of District placements.</p> <p>Our Services and Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preschool Inclusion (recently expanded from ½ day to full and currently have 2 classrooms. In future if we can add a 3rd we could likely accommodate all that are applying through the lottery system. ● In-class Resource (starting in grade 1) ● Resource Room (k-12) ● Language & Learning Disabilities (LLD)

	<p>(Bedwell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-Disabled (MD) (BHS) <p>Additional Support & Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Related Services (Speech, OT, PT) ● Child Study Team (Psychologist, Social Worker, LDTC) ● Behavior Consultant ● Nursing ● Assistive Technology Consult ● Bilingual evaluations ● Translation services <p>The committee appreciates the overview. We want to ensure that we provide robust services across the board for our students with special needs, and support parents who feel their child requires evaluation.</p>
<p><u>Student Matters</u></p>	<p>Discussed student matters.</p>
<p><u>NJ SCI Climate Matters</u> Review of the data dashboard Overview of the data examination process and strategic plan development Week of Respect</p>	<p>The committee is thrilled with the work that is being done in this area. Dr. Brotschul shared with us the robust dashboard that the Climate Teams will be utilizing to drill down and understand the data. It is a wealth of information that will take time to review and understand. They will work through the process with our Consultants and we look forward to the full report in the October timeframe. Although that will be the culmination of the work, implementation work will begin as soon as the upcoming Week of Respect.</p>
<p><u>Capturing Kids Hearts</u> National Showcase School (BMS Status) Follow-up Committee questions from 2024-2026 Capturing Kids Hearts Implementation Report</p>	<p>We are excited for our Middle School as they have made it to the next level of evaluation for this excellent recognition.</p>

Discussion: Ms. Ballard said she appreciates the focus on student services and the culture of our schools, and thanked Dr. Brotschul for supporting such initiatives.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Wry moved items #1-5, Ms. Ballard seconded. Items #1-5 were approved by roll call vote of 7-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Santoro, Mrs. Wry. Absent: Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Frenda.

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on January 28, 2026, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BMS	13	Founded
BMS	14	Unfounded
BMS	15	Founded
BMS	16A	Founded
BMS	16B	Unfounded
BMS	17	Founded

HIBs to Date (25-26 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BES	0	0	0	0
BMS	11	4	2	17

2. HIB Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on January 28, 2026, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Report #	Outcomes
BHS	13	Unfounded
BHS	14	Unfounded

HIBs to Date (25-26 SY)	Founded	Unfounded	Split	Total
BHS	8	5	1	14

3. Approve Doctoral Research Study

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Kean University research study: *The Impact of Homework on Home-School Partnerships amongst Spanish-Speaking Latino Parents of Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades.*

4. Student Safety Data System Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 1

(September 1-December 31, 2025)

School Name	Incidents **	Other Incidents Leading to Removal	Restraint/ Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
030-BES	0	0	2	0	0	1
040-BMS	13	5	0	4	0	0

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

5. Student Safety Data System Report*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 1 (September 1-December 31, 2025)

School Name	Incidents **	Other Incidents Leading to Removal	Restraint/ Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
020-BHS	13	30	0	3	0	0
District	**	**	**	**	1	2

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

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

Board Announcements

- Mrs. Hunt indicated the BMS Research Symposium exceeded her expectations, as complex and current topics were thoughtful and handled with poise.
- Mrs. Librera echoed Mrs. Hunt, adding that she commends the 8th grade team for such incredible, diverse topics.

Public Comments

- Robert Baker - Bernardsville - wholly supports the referendum and encouraged a “yes” vote.

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

Adjournment

Ms. Cooper moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm. Ms. Ballard seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 7-0-0.

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)**