

**The Somerset Hills School District
 Regular Meeting Agenda - April 15, 2026
 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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ms. Ballard | Mrs. Hunt |
| Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:02 pm) | Mrs. Librera |
| Ms. Cooper | Mrs. Santoro (left 7:28 pm) |
| Mrs. Gomez | Mrs. Wry |
| Mrs. Hoppe | Mrs. Frenda |

Absent: None.

Also Present:

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

Board Norms

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|--|
| 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. Hoppe made a motion to go to Executive Session at 6:02 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: Negotiations, Student Matters, Personnel, and Attorney/Client Privilege.

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. Brotschul, Dr. Butler, Mr. Liguori, and Mrs. Hoppe recused themselves at 6:02 pm and returned at 6:15 pm.

Ms. Cooper made a motion to return to Public Session at 7:28 pm. Mrs. Hunt seconded.

Mrs. Santoro left at 7:28 pm. The public meeting resumed at 7:35 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance**Report of the Superintendent**

1. Student Reports
 - a. BMS report provided by Genevieve deGrandpre’ and Harper Watt
 - b. BHS report provided by Sophia Fazel-Sarjui and Nolan Baker

2. Recognition of Ski Team:
 - a. Hannah Vinegra
 - b. Alicia Vinegra
 - c. Brooke Schnabolk
 - d. Maggie O'Donnell
 - e. Gia Lamiera
 - f. Marlee Foster
 - g. Valentina Christen
(KC Lister, Coach)

A Resolution honoring Girls Ski Team Athlete for her contribution to the Varsity Girls Ski Race Team for winning the title of Small Public School State Champion at the February 2026 team state championship races at Mountain Creek Ski Resort.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to student athletes who demonstrate exceptional skill, perseverance, and sportsmanship;

WHEREAS, Girls Ski Team Athlete displayed grit and determination throughout the ski racing season, competing under very challenging winter weather conditions while racing against both elite private schools and large public schools;

WHEREAS, Girls Ski Team Athlete is part of the Bernards High School Varsity Girls Ski Race Team and serves as a powerful inspiration to her peers, coaches, and the school community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend Girls Ski Team Athlete for her outstanding performance in both the team state championship Slalom Race and Giant Slalom Race.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by Girls Ski Team Athlete. 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 15th day of April 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

3. Recognition of Wrestling:
 - a. Gabrielle Ruedy
(Tyler Nadolny, Coach)

A Resolution honoring Gabrielle Ruedy for placing 4th in the NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships on March 14th, 2026 in Atlantic City.

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education gives special honor and commendation to student athletes who demonstrate exceptional skill, perseverance, and sportsmanship;

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Ruedy displayed grit and determination on the mats at Boardwalk Hall, navigating a challenging bracket as the No. 10 seed;

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Ruedy is part of the Bernards High School Girls Wrestling Team and serves as a powerful inspiration to her peers, coaches, and the school community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Somerset Hills Board of Education that: The members of the Board of Education hereby commend Gabrielle Ruedy for placing 4th in the state, in the 107-pound weight class, a feat highlighted by a gutsy and dominant performance in the wrestleback bracket to secure her place on the podium. Her showing made history, as no other female wrestler has ever accomplished the same.

When the Somerset Hills Board of Education adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the achievements earned by Gabrielle Ruedy. 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 15th day of April 2026.

Samantha Frenda
Board of Education President

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

4. Board Recognition - Retiree - announced by Ms. Ballard, Chair of Policy & Personnel Committee:
 - a. WHEREAS, Kari Landers has been employed from September 2006 through June 2026 as a Paraprofessional; and
WHEREAS, she exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;
and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Kari Landers retirement effective July 1, 2026, and extend to her 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:
 - a. An update on i-Ready
 - b. A recommendation of Ms. Arielle Rementilla as the next Bedwell Assistant Principal
 - c. An update on transitioning to cell phone free schools
 - d. An update on new start/end times for schools beginning in September 2026
 - e. A reminder about the April 29, 2026 Budget Hearing

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for March 18, 2026 and the Budget Retreat meeting minutes for March 21, 2026.

Ms. Ballard moved to approve, and Mrs. Hunt seconded.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on March 30, 2026. The following items were discussed:

- Construction matters
 - Roofing analysis - Mr. Messineo joined us to present an analysis of the roofing sections included and not included in the Referendum and the status of each of the sections. We also discussed how to handle the replacement of roofing sections that currently hold solar panels, given that the contract for solar panels is nearing the end of its term.
 - Tennis court project -will likely begin around May 1, and weather permitting, be completed before preseason begins in late summer.
- Fiscal projection matters - update on the referendum bond sale
- Staffing matters
 - Staff renewal process (to be motioned April 29)
 - Business office and operations office reorganization
 - Fiscal considerations related to World language instruction
- Healthcare matters - discussed Healthcare Broker RFP; several firms have responded. Dr. Brotschul also outlined the district's needs related to healthcare brokerage services, goals for the next contract, and what he hopes to achieve with the next broker considering skyrocketing healthcare costs.
- Purchasing manual - updated
- Looking at FY28 - a few priorities for budget planning
 - Transportation analysis
 - Extracurricular programs
 - Building envelope and energy analysis
 - Projections and expectations regarding state aid estimates, use of the healthcare waiver, continuation of CKH, and staffing.

Discussion - None.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-6. Mrs. Hunt seconded.

Items #1, 3-6 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

Item #2 was approved by roll call vote of 8-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

1. Approve Special Education Evaluations*

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

| | Evaluator | Services | Location | Cost | Not to Exceed Amount |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| a | GenPsych | Risk Assessments | Livingston, NJ | \$250/assessment | \$5,000.00 |

2. Settlement Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Settlement Agreement for Student # 7545309379.

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

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

| | Non-Public School | Description | Amount |
|---|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| a | Far Hills Country Day School | CDW-G Intercom, Cameras and Security Devices | \$6,995.00 |
| b | School of St. Elizabeth | CDW-G Security Devices and Equipment | \$10,043.62 |
| c | School of St. Elizabeth | Ben Shaffer Recreation- Concrete bench for security | \$5,562.32 |

4. 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 | Apple Inc.- Ipad and associated supplies | \$467.00 |
| b | School of St. Elizabeth | CDW-G- Lenovo Chromebooks, Projector Lamp | \$2,940.12 |

5. Approve Amended 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 | Far Hills Country Day School | CDW-G- Chromebook accessories, Google software, Robotics Drone Camera and accessories | \$7,125.43 |

6. Approve Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Technology Security Upgrades Through a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement*

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills School District is a member of the OMNIA Partners Cooperative

Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the use of a cooperative purchasing agreement is in the best interest of the District pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10(a); and

WHEREAS, Safeware, Inc. has been awarded a contract through OMNIA Partners, Contract #4400008468, for technology security solutions; and

WHEREAS, the District has received a proposal from Safeware, Inc. for technology security upgrades in the amount of \$1,723,915.45 under the applicable OMNIA contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the proposal submitted by Safeware, Inc. is responsive to the District's needs and is within the scope of the cooperative contract;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby awards a contract to Safeware, Inc. for technology security upgrades through the OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program, Contract #4400008468, in an amount not to exceed \$1,723,915.45, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the cooperative contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be funded through Capital Reserve, consistent with prior Board authorization and available appropriations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to issue a purchase order and take any action necessary to effectuate this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the awarded vendor may utilize subcontractors as permitted under the cooperative contract, provided that the awarded vendor remains solely responsible for the performance of all work.

C. Business Operations Old Business / New Business - Ms. Cooper would like to discuss the impact of the schedule change on transportation related to delayed openings due to weather and professional development. Mrs. Clark-Emery would like to discuss that impact on vocational/technical students.

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items - Ms. Cooper gave the report. The Committee met on April 1, 2026. The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND DECISIONS/CONCLUSIONS REACHED:

1. Reviewed enrollment in foreign languages at BMS and BHS.
2. Holocaust requirement
 - Drs. Catelli and Butler then presented the district's approach and curricular standards related to Holocaust and genocide education, prompted in part by recent antisemitic incidents at the middle school.
 - The presentation reaffirmed that the district's curriculum is aligned with New Jersey's Holocaust education mandate, which requires instruction at all grade levels on the causes and consequences of prejudice, the role of moral decision-making, and the responsibility of individuals to confront hatred.

The committee then reviewed how this instruction is developmentally structured to be age-appropriate across grade bands.

At Bedwell, instruction emphasizes foundational concepts such as respect, empathy, and conflict resolution.

At BMS, students engage more directly with historical content through survivor testimony, experiential learning opportunities, and connections to more recent genocides.

At BHS, students participate in more in-depth study of the Holocaust, including its historical complexity and broader societal implications.

- The district highlighted that Holocaust education is embedded across all social studies courses and reinforced in English language arts classes.

Students receive more focused instruction in Grades 8 and 9, with further study incorporated into popular high school courses such as US History and Comparative World Religions.

Although state standards formally emphasize instruction in Grades 9 through 12, the district has intentionally introduced a structured Grade 8 unit to ensure earlier exposure in an age-appropriate manner.

- Dr. Catelli also outlined the district’s guiding principles for genocide education:

Grounding learning in community and lived experience

Prioritizing ethical understanding

Emphasizing the importance of examining the systems and conditions that lead to antisemitism and other forms of hatred.

- Overall, the committee noted that the district’s approach not only meets state requirements but reflects a deliberate effort to provide a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate program designed to foster critical thinking, and a sense of personal responsibility in addressing bias and discrimination.

- The committee expressed a commitment to identifying opportunities to further strengthen anti-bias and discrimination prevention instruction to meet the evolving needs of students while maintaining alignment with state standards.

3. BHS Quality School Review Data Overview

- Dr. Brotschul then discussed the results of the BHS Quality School Review survey and next steps related to this initiative. He also praised the Quality School Review team and their commitment to the process.

- This summer, the team will evaluate multiple data streams to identify challenges and develop strategies to address these challenges. A particular area of focus will be on enhancing instructional leadership.

4. Bedwell Assistant Principal Final Interviews

- Dr. Brotschul updated the committee on the status of the search for the next Assistant Principal at Bedwell and explained the structure of the final interview.

DECISIONS

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

Discussion - Mrs. Frenda congratulated Dr. Catelli on achieving his doctorate.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-3, Mrs. Hunt seconded.

Item #2 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

Items #1, 3 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

1. Approve Professional Development/School Business

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

| | School | Name | Workshop/Conference/School Business | Date(s) | Est. Cost |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| a | BES | Adams, Jennifer | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| b | BMS | Berry, Courtney | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$10.81 |
| c | BMS | Clark, Michelle | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| d | BES | Coheleach, Ilona | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| e | BES | Collins, Jessica | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4 | 4/16/26 | \$0 |
| f | BMS | Escobar-Chaffee, Salome | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$4.23 |
| g | BES | Falzarano, Sarah | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$7.52 |
| h | BMS | Gilly, Zoltan | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Choirs | 5/11/26 | \$0 |
| i | BMS | Gilly, Zoltan | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$13.16 |
| j | BES | Hall, Kristine | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$10.81 |
| k | BES | Hall, Kristine | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4 | 4/16/26 | \$0 |
| l | BES | Heesemann, Diana | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| m | BES | Jastrabek, Lin | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| n | BES | Johnson, Kim | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| o | BMS | Jurgens, Allyssa | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |
| p | BMS | Jurgens, Allyssa | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Choirs | 5/11/26 | \$0 |
| q | BMS | Kellett, Ashley | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |
| r | BMS | Kupper, Patricia | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Choirs | 5/11/26 | \$0 |

| | School | Name | Workshop/Conference/School Business | Date(s) | Est. Cost |
|----|---------------|--------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| s | BES | Landers, Kari | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 2 | 5/15/26 | \$0 |
| t | BES | Lippert, Mercedes | Field Trip Chaperone- BES Preschool | 5/13/26 | \$0 |
| u | BES | Lodato, Claire | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| v | BES | Lourenco, Emma | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| w | BES | Lourenco, Emma | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$11.75 |
| x | BES | Mariani, Jessica | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4 | 4/16/26 | \$0 |
| y | BMS | McGovern, Danielle | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Choirs | 5/11/26 | \$0 |
| z | BMS | McGovern, Danielle | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$7.05 |
| aa | BES | McShane, Sarah | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$5.17 |
| bb | BES | Noland, Desiree | Field Trip Chaperone- BES Preschool | 5/13/26 | \$0 |
| cc | BMS | Oliveira, Ashley | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |
| dd | BES | Panik, Meredith | Field Trip Chaperone- BES Preschool | 5/13/26 | \$0 |
| ee | BES | Patrylow, Lauren | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| ff | BES | Reed, Patrick | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4 | 4/16/26 | \$0 |
| gg | BES | Reed, Patrick | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$13.63 |
| hh | BES | Rice, Taylor | Field Trip Chaperone- BES Preschool | 5/13/26 | \$0 |
| ii | BES | Riker, Joanna | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| jj | BES | Rokosky, Debbie | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$12.22 |
| kk | BES | Roth, Sarah | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| ll | BES | Sakin, Jordan | Field Trip Chaperone- Grade 4 | 4/16/26 | \$0 |
| mm | BES | Sheehan, Carolyn | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$11.28 |
| nn | BES | Sierra, Angela | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| oo | BMS | Snyder, Jason | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |

| | School | Name | Workshop/Conference/School Business | Date(s) | Est. Cost |
|----|---------------|--------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| pp | BMS | Snyder, Jason | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$1.41 |
| qq | BES | Strohman, Liz | Field Trip Chaperone- BES Preschool | 5/13/26 | \$0 |
| rr | BMS | Taesler, Rachael | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |
| ss | BES | Therriault, Justin | Field Trip Chaperone- Kindergarten | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| tt | BMS | Tresslar, Kristene | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$4.70 |
| uu | BMS | Weinstein, Julie | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Choirs | 5/11/26 | \$0 |
| vv | BES | Wolfe, Scott | NJ Literacy Leaders | 3/26/26 | \$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 | District | Barna, Lindsay | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$5.17 |
| b | BHS | Boyce, Nicole | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$13.63 |
| c | District | Brotschul, Brian | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| d | District | Butler, Coleen | NJ Association of School Administrators/ NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators Spring Leadership Conference | 5/13/26- 5/15/26 | \$620 |
| e | District | Edgerton, Olga | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$6.11 |
| f | BHS | Ellis, Amanda | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| g | BHS | Ellis, Judge | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| h | BHS | Inclendon, Cassandra | Somerset County Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children: De-Escalating Conflict | 4/24/26 | \$0 |
| i | District | Koransky, Jamie | NJ Association of School Administrators/ NJ Association of Pupil Services Administrators Spring Leadership Conference | 5/13/26- 5/15/26 | \$1,053.38 |

| | School | Name | Workshop/Conference/School Business | Date(s) | Est. Cost |
|---|----------|-------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|
| j | BHS | LaBruno, Wendi | Summit Speech School Workshop Series | 5/8/26 | \$7.05 |
| k | BHS | Malzone, Emilia | Vantage Sportz Training-Athletic Scheduler | 4/14/26 | \$0 |
| l | BHS | O'Brien, Janice | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$11.75 |
| m | BHS | Resnick, Victoria | Susquehanna University Counselor Visit Days | 4/23/26, 4/24/26 | \$135.54 |
| n | District | Riccio, Frank | Driving Transportation Costs Down-Discussing the Role of a CTSA | 4/21/26 | \$0 |
| o | BHS | Sosely, Anna | Latino Promise School Counselor Luncheon | 4/29/26 | \$0 |
| p | BHS | Taesler, Stephen | Field Trip Chaperone- BMS Music Department | 5/8/26 | \$0 |
| q | BHS | Tripp, Amanda | 16th Inter-District Public School Collaborative Network Conference | 4/24/26 | \$11.28 |

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 | BES | Gill St. Bernards School Farm - Gladstone, NJ BES Preschool | 19 | 5 | 0 |
| b | BMS | Bernards High School - Bernardsville, NJ BMS Choir | 254 | 6 | 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 March 31, 2026. The following items were discussed:

1. Review of regular public meeting agenda as of 3/31/26.
 - a. Discussed class sizes at Bedwell and instructional allocation. Monitoring enrollment.
2. Discussed Bedwell Assistant Principal Search Process-Bedwell

Discussion - None.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Librera moved items #1-8, Mrs. Wry seconded.

Items #3-4, 6-8 were approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

Items #1-2, 5 were approved by roll call vote of 8-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

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 | Landers, Kari | BES | Special Education Paraprofessional PARA.DIST.PRE K.NA.02 | 7/1/26 |

2. Approve Appointment Administrative Staff

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following administrative staff for the 2026-2027 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

| | Name | School | Position | Salary | Effective |
|---|---------------------|--------|--|-----------|-----------|
| a | Rementilla, Arielle | BES | Assistant Principal ADM.ES.APRN.NA.01 | \$115,000 | 7/1/26 |

3. Approve Administrator Salary Advancement*

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

| | Name | School | Position | Old Salary | New Salary | Effective |
|---|----------------------------------|----------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| a | Catelli, Michael Ed.D. | District | Director of Academic Support, Enrichment & Multilingual Education ADM.DIST.ASEM.NA.01 | \$145,390 | \$150,390 <i>prorated</i> | 3/1/26 |

4. 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 | Paterno, Nicholas | Men's Lacrosse: Volunteer | BHS | Spring | \$0 |
| b | Caldwell, Ethan | Men's Lacrosse: Volunteer | BHS | Spring | \$0 |

5. 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 | Dooley, Megan | B-Well Girls <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i> | BES | Spring | \$63.26/hour |
| b | Brooten, Darcey | B-Well Girls <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i> | BES | Spring | \$63.26/hour |
| c | DeRoberts, Theresa | B-Well Girls <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i> | BES | Spring | \$63.26/hour |
| d | Jablonski, Holly | B-Well Girls <i>Funded by Muni Alliance</i> | BES | Spring | \$63.26/hour |

6. Approve Contract Submission Date*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2026-2027 contract submission date for the following administrator:

| | Employee | School | Position | Contract Submission Date |
|---|---------------------|----------|--|---|
| a | Liguori, Richard D. | District | School Business Administrator / Board Secretary | 4/16/26 <i>Submission to the Somerset County Department of Education</i> |

7. 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 | Total Salary | Replace | Effective |
|---|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|------|--|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| a | Turner, Maribel | District | Custodian CUS.DIST.CUST.02 | 19 | \$56,420 base \$1,206 boiler license \$1,800 Night Differential | \$57,626 \$59,426 | Urena | 4/16/26 |

8. 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 | Villafane, Hernando | Teacher/Paraprofessional | Standard Certificate | 4/16/26 |
| b | Flood, Tennie | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate | 4/16/26 |
| c | Hind, Sahli | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate | 4/16/26 |
| d | Beatty, Morgan | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate | 4/16/26 |
| e | Paterno, Nicholas | Teacher/Paraprofessional | County Substitute Certificate | 4/16/26 |

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 March 31, 2026. The following items were discussed:

- Policy 5530 Matters

A parent expressed an opinion that our policy should closely mirror criminal code, where police have the ability to determine whether someone knowingly possessed a controlled dangerous substance and then tailor the response to the situation using that determination. Our policy is not consistent with the criminal code. Administrators do not have the ability to determine whether such substances are knowingly possessed. Our policy focuses solely on possession. Criminal code differentiates knowing/unknowing possession; school code only focuses on possession. There are two parallel processes: our process and law enforcement process. These are guided by the Memorandum of Agreement between local law enforcement and SHSD school officials which delineate the rules we follow in various circumstances. This parent suggested that there is latitude; both legal counsel and Dr. Brotschul agree that there is no such latitude and that the policy is solid.

- Continued from March 10, 2026: Random Drug Testing

The committee has decided to research studies surrounding similar policies and will discuss this research, policy costs and what the goal of said policy is at the next meeting on May 12th. Will determine at that time if there is a Committee “ask” of the administration regarding the policy and corresponding regulation.

Discussion: Mrs. Santoro noted that random drug testing was also addressed at Student Services.

B. Action Items: None.

C. Policy Old Business / New Business: None.

STUDENT SERVICES

A. Committee Report & Discussion of Actionable Agenda Items: Mrs. Frenda gave the report. The committee met on March 31, 2026. The following items were discussed:

1. Extracurricular Activity Information
 - a. 562 students paid their co-curricular (or had it waived) at BHS. That is 81% of our students.
 - b. BMS forthcoming
2. School Start Times - communication regarding the shift in times went out to the school community.
3. Wisdom Circuits - considering a pilot of a program called Wisdom Circuits. This platform will help identify and provide appropriate supports for individual students experiencing achievement gaps.

Discussion: None.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Librera moved items #1-2, Mrs. Cooper seconded.

Item #2 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 8-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Ms. Ballard, Ms. Clark-Emery, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Librera, Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda. Abstain: Mrs. Gomez. Absent: Mrs. Santoro.

1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on March 18, 2026, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

| School | Report # | Outcomes |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| BES | 1 | Unfounded |
| BMS | 22 | Founded |
| BMS | 23 | Founded |

| HIBs to Date (25-26 SY) | Founded | Unfounded | Split | Total |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|
| BES | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| BMS | 15 | 6 | 2 | 23 |

2. Approve School Start Times for the 2026-2027 SY*

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following school start/end times for the 2026-2027 school year:

| School | Start Time | End Time |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Bernards High School | 7:55 am | 2:51 pm |
| Bernardsville Middle School | 8:00 am | 2:56 pm |
| Bedwell Elementary School | 9:05 am | 3:41 pm |

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

Board Announcements

- Mrs. Clark-Emery asked for clarification on no HIBs for approval at BHS.

Public Comments

- Erica Wasserman - Bernardsville - granddaughter of Holocaust survivor, appreciates curriculum but urged District to be more proactive.
- Andrew Melia - Bernardsville - has a student at Bedwell, happy to hear i-Ready is a supplement and commended the District's approach.
- Hannah Vinegra - Bernardsville - 4-year member of the ski team, pushed for a paid second coach.
- Silvia Gils - Bernardsville - discussed personal defamation, policy 5756 and related court cases.
- Maura McGrail - Bernardsville - thanked the Board for progress this year.

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

Adjournment

Ms. Ballard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 9-0-0.

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)