

**The Somerset Hills School District
Special Meeting
July 15, 2026 - 6:30 pm
Bernards High School - Community Room**

Call to Order & Welcome

Board Vice President Mrs. Santoro called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ms. Ballard | Mrs. Hoppe |
| Ms. Clark-Emery (arrived 6:38 pm) | Mrs. Hunt |
| Ms. Cooper | Mrs. Librera |
| Mrs. Gomez | Mrs. Santoro |

Absent: Mrs. Wry, Mrs. Frenda

Also Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Norms

Before a Meeting
● 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
● 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

2026-2027 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.

Public Comment - Actionable Agenda Items

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

CURRICULUM

- A. Curriculum Action Item #1 - Dr. Brotschul discussed that this is an annual renewal sent to the DOE. Ms. Cooper moved item #1, Mrs. Hoppe seconded.

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

1. Approve the Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan*
RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the District's Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan.

POLICY

- A. Administrative Presentation and Discussion: Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices. Dr. Brotschul led the discussion, emphasizing differences between the three schools. Various pertinent questions arose from Board members, all of which were addressed by Dr. Brotschul.
- B. Policy Action Items. Mrs. Hunt moved items #1-2, Ms. Cooper seconded.

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

1. Abolishment*
RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the abolishment of the following policy:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
P 2363	Student Use of Privately Owned Technology

2. First Reading*
RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
P 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices
R 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices
P 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities
P 8662	Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles - To and From School

Public Comment

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

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ms. Cooper liked the truncated Board President announcements prior to public comment.
2. Mrs. Santoro appreciated the work of the administrators and staff present over the summer months.
3. Ms. Clark-Emery inquired about comments that may arise via email. Mrs. Santoro indicated Board members randomly do receive comments, and Mrs. Frenda as Board President would address those.

Adjournment

Ms. Cooper moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Mrs. Librera seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Liguori
Business Administrator / Board Secretary

***Note: The areas of permitted voting for the Bedminster district representative of the Board of Education are: (a) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district; (b) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils; (c) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; (d) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district; (e) Any matter directly involving the sending district pupils or programs and services utilized by those pupils; (f) Approval of the annual receiving district budget; (g) Any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by sending district pupils; (h) Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district pupils; and (i) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education including, but not limited to, the selection of the board president or vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of education.**

(cf: P.L.1996, c.103, s.1)