The Somerset Hills School District
Special Meeting Agenda - November 2, 2026 - 5:15 PM
Bernards High School - Community Room

Call to Order & Welcome

Board President Mrs. Frenda called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

Ms. Ballard	Mrs. Librera
Ms. Clark-Emery	Mrs. Santoro
Mrs. Hunt	Mrs. Frenda

Absent: Mrs. Albert, Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Hoppe, Mrs. Wry

Also Present:
Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent
Mr. Richard Liguori, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Hope Blackburn, Esq., Busch Law Group

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.

Executive Session

Mrs. Librera made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:17 p.m. Mrs. Santoro seconded the motion.

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.
And, be it further,
RESOLVED that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed when the Board's consideration of the subject matter has been closed, or that such matter does not adversely affect the rights of prospective, current, or past public officers, or personnel of the Board, unless such individuals have in writing requested the disclosures of such discussion at a public meeting and provided such public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to return to Public Session at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Ballard seconded the motion.

Public Comments - seeing no one from the public, Mrs. Santoro moved to close public comments. Mrs. Hunt seconded. All present voted in favor.

Adjournment
Mrs. Santoro moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Mrs. Librera seconded the motion. All in favor. Ayes: 6-0-0.

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)