
**The Somerset Hills School District
Public Input & Action Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2019**

Call to Order & Welcome

Mrs. Leiss called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Welcome to a meeting of the Board of Education of Somerset Hills. Please be advised that this and all meetings of the Board are open to the public and media, consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act: (Chapter 231 Laws of 1975), and that advance notice required therein has been provided. This is a meeting of the Board of Education of Somerset Hills at which formal action may be taken. The public will have an opportunity to be heard as shown on the Agenda.

Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker	Mr. Mayle
Ms. Burch	Mr. McDonald
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Santoro
Mr. DiGioacchino	Mrs. Tober
Mrs. Leiss	Ms. Virtue

Also Present:

Gretchen Dempsey
Coleen Butler
Heather Goguen (left meeting at 7:27pm, returned 7:42pm)

Executive Session

Mr. Mayle moved the following at 6:31pm, Mr. McDonald 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: Personnel, Student Matters, Contracts, Negotiations and Litigation.

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 a public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

Mr. McDonald moved to adjourn Executive Session at 7:43pm, Ms. Burch seconded. All approved. The Board entered Public Session at 7:44pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call**Present:**

Mr. Baker Mr. Mayle
 Ms. Burch Mr. McDonald (left meeting at 9:16pm)
 Ms. Cooper Mrs. Santoro
 Mr. DiGiacchino Mrs. Tober
 Mrs. Leiss Ms. Virtue

Also Present:

Gretchen Dempsey
 Coleen Butler
 Heather Goguen

Correspondence

None

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Representatives' Reports- BHS-Hailey Cordero and BMS-John Tober and Angus McDonald reported on student activities, academics and athletics at their respective schools.
2. The Board recognized the BHS Boys Varsity Soccer team and the BHS Girls Varsity Field Hockey team for their State Conference Titles.
3. Academic report- Dr. Dempsey gave the second part of the Strategic Planning report.

Public Questions & Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

1. Jim Fitzsimmons spoke about doing online fundraising for the Boys Lacrosse team. Mrs. Leiss said it was discussed last year and the Board felt it was not a good option.
2. Lou Palma asked about the second reading of the policy regarding transportation. He also wanted to thank Mr. DiGiacchino for his service to the Board.

Approval of Minutes*

Ms. Burch made a motion to approve the November 20, 2019 Board minutes, Mr. Mayle seconded. Minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0-1.

1. Approval of Minutes

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for November 20, 2019.

FINANCE, FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The Committee met on December 4, 2019.

FINANCE

Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-7, Mr. DiGiacchino seconded. Items #1-7 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of November 2019 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$ 7,314,500.88	\$ 7,314,500.88
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$ 218,371.09	\$ 218,371.09

(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$ 500,191.25	\$ 500,191.25
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$ 547,341.29	\$ 547,341.29
Total Government Funds	\$ 8,580,404.51	\$ 8,580,404.51

(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 2019-2020 Budget Transfers*

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the attached list of budget transfers for November 2019.

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached November check registers with the recommendation that the checks be paid, and Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the following bills be paid and an itemized list be filed with the minutes of this meeting:

FUND	
(10) General Fund	\$1,929,687.85
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$ 40,628.05
(30) Capital Projects Fund	--
(40) Debt Service Fund	--
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$ 60,395.99
(90) Agency Fund	\$ 714,282.51
TOTAL	\$2,744,994.40

4 Approve Parent Organization Fundraiser*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	Boys Basketball	BHS	NY Knicks ticket raffle at Dec 4 Pasta Party & Home Games	various
b	Boys Lacrosse	BHS	50/50 ticket sales	Jan & Feb

5 Approve Special Education School *

Resolved, that the Somerset Hill Board of Education approve the following school for the 2019-2020 School Year and/or ESY, as of December 5, 2019:

Student ID#	Provider	Location
3079518242	Shepard Prep. High School	Morristown, NJ

6. Approve 2020-2021 Budget Development Schedule*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the attached 2020-2021 Budget Development Schedule.

7. Approve Out of District Transportation Contract*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following out of district contract for the 2019-2020 school year:

Student ID	Host District	Dates	Amount
2018411	Lakeland Regional HS	July 8, 2019-June 30, 2020	\$5870.83

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-3, Mr. DiGiacchino seconded. Items #1 & 3 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0, item # 2 was approved by a vote of 8-0.

1. HIB Report*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on November 20, 2019 and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent.

- BMS #2
- BHS #1

2. Bus Evacuation Drills

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Bus Evacuation Drills for the 2019-2020 school year. Reports for the drills are on file in the Business Office.

School	Date
Bedwell Elementary School	November 22, 2019

3. Approve Summer Camp*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the contract for the Somerset County YMCA Summer Camp to be held at Bernards High School in the summer of 2020.

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. McDonald gave the report. The Committee met on December 3, 2019.

B. Action Items: Mr. McDonald moved items #1-5, tabling items 1c, 3g,h,and k. Ms. Cooper seconded. Items #1 and 3 (with exception of tabled items) were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0. Items #2, 4 and 5 were approved by a vote of 9-0.

1. Approve Field Trips*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BHS	AP European History: Metropolitan Opera - New York, NY	13	2	0
b	BHS	Photo Club: The Vessel - New York, NY	45	4	1

e	BHS	BHS Wrestlers: State Wrestling Tournament - Atlantic City, NJ	TBD	3	0
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2. Approve Field Trips

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BMS	Forensics Club: Long Valley Middle School - Long Valley, NJ	8-12	1	0
b	BES	First Grade: Red Mill Village Museum - Clinton, NJ	95	8	15
c	BMS	Fifth Grade: Intrepid Museum - New York, NY	113	11	7
d	BMS	Sixth Grade: Adventure Aquarium and Battleship - Camden, NJ	115	6	10

3. Approve Professional Development*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Est. Cost
a	BHS	Hoppe, Mike	School Start Time Workshop - Bridgewater, NJ	12/13/19	0
b	BHS	Neigel, Scott	School Start Time Workshop - Bridgewater, NJ	12/13/19	0
c	BHS	Resnick, Victoria	NJIT Counselor Day - Newark, NJ	12/13/19	0
d	BHS	O'Connor, Leslie	Observe use of block schedule in Phys. Ed. - Madison, NJ	TBD (1 day)	0
e	District	Dempsey, Gretchen	Techspo - Atlantic City, NJ	1/30-1/31/20	\$572
f	BHS	Simoneau, Jon	Frank Glazier Mega Clinic - Atlantic City, NJ	2/21/20	\$357
g	BHS	Brothers, David	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament - Atlantic City, NJ	3/5-3/6/20	\$832.70
h	BHS	McCarthy, Quentin	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament - Atlantic City, NJ	3/5-3/6/20	\$165
i	BHS	Resnick, Victoria	Ramapo College School Counselor Luncheon - Mahway, NJ	12/6/19	0
j	BHS	Resnick, Victoria	Principal and Counselor Program - Branchburg, NJ	12/5/19	0
k	BHS	Vitollo, Michael	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament - Atlantic City, NJ	3/5-3/6/20	\$165
l	BHS	Walker, Jaime	Affirmative Action Officer Certificate Program - Monroe, NJ	12/13, 2/11, 3/31	\$462.09
m	District	Dempsey, Gretchen	School Start Time Workshop - Bridgewater, NJ	12/13/19	0
n	District	Latzke, Sarah	Personnel Coordinators Roundtable - Califon, NJ (2/26/19 and two dates TBD)	Various (3)	0
o	District	Slockblower, Jeremy	Techspo- Atlantic City, NJ	1/30-1/31/20	0
p	District	Butler, Coleen	Affirmative Action Officer Certificate Program - Monroe, NJ (12/13, 2/11, 3/31)	various	\$450
q	BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies Capstone Presentation - Gallaway, NJ	12/12/19	0

4. Approve Professional Development

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Est. Cost
a	BMS	Craver, Marcella	Anxiety and School Avoidance - Paramus, NJ	3/19/20	\$62.96
b	BMS	Porter, Shane	How to Teach Holocaust - New Brunswick, NJ	1/30/20	\$3.57
c	BMS	Fabregas, Kelly	Intervention Strategies for Struggling Learners in Mathematics Grades 6-9 - New Brunswick, NJ	2/3/20	\$205
d	BMS	O'Halloran, Annie	Empowering Students Who Ask, "When Are We Ever Going to Use This Math?" - New Brunswick, NJ	3/27/20	\$205
e	BMS	Aronow, Maureen	Intervention Strategies for Struggling Learners in Math 6-9 - New Brunswick, NJ	2/3/20	\$205
f	BMS	Marashlian, Nicole	STEM Ideas and Inspiration: Ewing Township, NJ	1/14/20	0
g	BMS	McGovern, Courtney	STEM Ideas and Inspiration: Ewing Township, NJ	1/14/20	0

5. Approve Family Math Program

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following hours for the Family Math Program in January at Bedwell School. The rate is \$40/hour, for a total cost of \$1680.

- Grade K-1 Patrice Leavenworth, Penny Maddaluna, and Phyllis DeStefano (7 hours each)
- Grade 2-3 Truc-Lan Vu, Debbie Rokosky, and Monica DeMarco (7 hours each)

PERSONNEL AND POLICY

Committee Report and Discussion: Mrs. Santoro gave the report. The Committee met on December 3, 2019.

PERSONNEL

Action Items: Ms. Santoro moved items #1-15, Ms. Virtue seconded. Items # 1, 2, 5-9, 12 and 13 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0, items #3, 4, 10, 11 and 14 were approved by a vote of 9-0. Item #15 was approved by a vote of 9-0-1

1. Accept Resignation*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the resignation of the following Employee:

	Name	School	Position	Effective
a	Lawson, Thomas	BHS	Swimming: Assistant	12/2/19

2. Approve Family Medical Leave of Absence*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following family medical leave of absence dates for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
a	Reitz, Cameron	BHS	Teacher	3/30/20	Start of 2020-2021 school year

3. Approve Family Medical Leave of Absence

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following family medical leave of absence dates for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
a	Gelsinger, Allison	BES	Teacher	3/11/2020	Start of the third marking period 2021

4. Approve Appointment Paraprofessional

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the appointment of the following Paraprofessional staff for the 2019-2020 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Arthur, Michelle	BES	Paraprofessional Special Education-B (Part-Time)	1	\$16.56/Hr	Pending Clearance
b	Pelley, Lauren	BMS	Paraprofessional Special Education-B (Part-Time)	2	\$16.75/Hr	Pending Clearance
c	Upender, Astha	BES	Paraprofessional Special Education-B (Part-Time) *4 Hours*	1	\$16.56/Hr	Pending Clearance

5. Approve Substitutes*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Last	First	Substitute Position	Certification	Effective
a	Ghodbane	Rachida	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Certification	Pending Clearance
b	Johannessen	Leslie	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Certification	Pending Clearance
c	Krungold	Ruth	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Certification	Pending Clearance
d	Panza	Josiah	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Certification	Pending Clearance

6. Amend Approval Co-Curricular Positions*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following co-curricular positions for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Last	First	School	Co Curricular Positions	Stipend
a	Albanese-DeMair	Christine	BHS	Swimming: Volunteer Assistant	\$5,400
b	Lau	Dawn	BHS	Musical Spring: Assistant Director Director	\$2,225 \$4,550

7. Approve Bernards High School Overloads*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following overloads for the 2019-2020 school year.

Certification	Teacher	Periods per Week	Term	Sections	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary	Dates (FMLA Leave)
Financial Literacy	Clark, Kelly	2	FY	0.4	\$99,995.00	\$1,566.98	Dates: 2/4/20 - 4/10/20

8. Home Instructor*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following home instructor for the 2019-2020 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

Name	Position	Certification	Effective
Suriyan, Patchi	Home Instructor	Chemistry CEAS	Pending Clearance

9. Approve Leave Replacement Teachers*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following leave replacement teachers for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Rizzo, Elissa	BHS	Teacher	Murphy	MA+30	4	\$67,340.00 prorated	2/3/20 - 4/10/20

10. Amend Approval Leave Replacement Teachers

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following leave replacement teachers for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Tolley, Elizabeth	BMS	Teacher (LR)	Froysland	BA	1	\$57,310 prorated	9/10/19-1/24/20 4/3/19
b	Alvaro, Allison	BES	Teacher (LR)	Jablonski	BA	1	\$57,310 prorated	9/6/19 - 1/24/20 4/3/19

11. Approve Appointment Certified Staff

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the appointment of the following certified staff for the 2019-2020 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Wertman, Suzanne	BMS	Teacher	MA	Step 2-3	\$62,080 Prorated	2/11/20 or sooner - June 2020 (Pending Clearance)

12. Approve Translator/Interpreter*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following Translators/Interpreters for the 2019-2020 school year:

	Name	Position	Rate
a	Carreiro, Olivia	Teacher	\$59.11/Hr

13. Approve Unpaid Absences*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following unpaid absences for the 2019-2020 school year:

Name	School	Position	# of Requested days	Dates
Walley, Joy	BHS	Paraprofessional	Various	2/11-2/13, 3/27, 3/30, 3/31, 4/16-4/24

14. Accept Resignation

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the resignation of the following employee:

Name	School	Position	Effective
Nigro, Marc	BMS	Paraprofessional Special Ed - B (part-time)	12/22/2019

15. Approve S.H.A.A. Memorandum of Agreement*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Somerset Hills Administrators Association (S.H.A.A.) dated December 10, 2019 and corresponding salary guides.

POLICY

Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved to table item #1, Mr. DiGiacchino seconded. Item was tabled until The January 29, 2020 meeting.

1. Second Reading*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the second reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

	Policy / Regulation #	Title
a	P-8600	Student Transportation (M) (Revised)
b	R-8600	Student Transportation (Revised)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Tober gave the report. The Committee met on December 5, 2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

- Mr. DiGiacchino spoke about a few topics that he would like the Board to continue pursuing.
- Mrs. Santoro spoke about a session at NJ School Boards to have students participate in a board meeting. She would like to explore this idea.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Wendi LaBruno spoke about the rotate drop schedule.
- Jeff Hammond spoke as a council member. The council is applying for a Technical Service Grant continuing the Ridewise program to other streets in Bernardsville, This grant is sponsored by the North Jersey Transportation Authority. The council wants the Board of Education to be listed as stakeholders on the grant. The Board wants to research and will get back to council.
- Lou Palma asked whether other Boards have public comments at beginning of meeting about agenda and non-agenda topics.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn at 9:56pm, Mr. Mayle seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Goguen
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)