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**THE SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2019**

**Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Ms. Goguen, Board Secretary.

**Pledge of Allegiance****Executive Session**

Mrs. Leiss moved the following at 5:30pm, Ms. Virtue 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.

The Board returned to public session at 6:05pm.

**Oath of Office**

Ms. Goguen administered the Oath of Office to the following elected individuals:

1. Jamie Leiss
2. Janis Virtue
3. Nicole Cooper

**Roll Call**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Gretchen Dempsey  
Jennifer Shouffler  
Heather Goguen

**Organizational Procedure**

1. Nomination and Election of President

Motion to nominate Mrs. Jamie Leiss by Mrs. Heather Santoro.

Seconded by Ms. Janis Virtue.

Any other nominations - None

Voice Vote: Mrs. Leiss was approved by a vote of 9-0.

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2. Nomination and Election of Vice President  
Motion to nominate Mr. Timothy McDonald by Ms. Janis Virtue.  
Seconded by Mrs. Kathy Tober  
Any other nominations - None  
Voice Vote: Mr. McDonald was approved by a vote of 9-0.

### Organizational Action Items

Mr. DiGiacchino moved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the organizational action items #1-7; Mr. McDonald seconded. Items #1-4, 6 and 7 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0. Ms. Burch moved to table item #5, Mr. DiGiacchino seconded. Item # 5 was tabled by a vote of 9-0.

1. Adoption of Code of Ethics for School Board Members\*  
(each Board Member reads one)

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
3. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
5. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

2. Re-Adopt All By-Laws & Policies

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all current Board Policies & By-Laws.

3. Re-Adopt All Program & Curriculum\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all existing Curriculum, on file in the Curriculum office.



**Executive Session**

Mrs. Santoro moved the following at 6:20pm, Ms. Burch 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.

RESOLVED, that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed in the minutes to be released at the next regular meeting of the Board, provided 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.

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:43pm.

**Appoint Board Member**

Ms. Virtue moved the following motion, Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Mayle was approved by a vote of 7-2.

1. Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education appoint Mr. Jan Mayle as a board member from Bernardsville effective January 2, 2019 - December 31, 2019.

**Adjournment**

Mr. McDonald moved to adjourn at 9:44pm, Mrs. Tober seconded. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 9-0.

\*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)

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Goguen  
Board Secretary