
**The Somerset Hills School District
Public Input & Action Meeting -December 16, 2020
Virtual**

Call to Order

Mrs. Leiss called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Roll Call

Present (Remotely)

Mr. Baker	Mrs. Santoro
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Tober
Ms. Frenda	Ms. Virtue
Mr. McDonald	Mrs. Wry
Ms. Nathans	Mrs. Leiss

Also Present:

Gretchen Dempsey
Coleen Butler
Jinnee DeMarco
Derlys Gutierrez, Esq.

Executive Session

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.

Mrs. Santoro moved to adjourn Executive Session at 7:10pm, Mr. McDonald seconded. The Board returned to Public Session at 7:31pm

Pledge of Allegiance**Roll Call**

Present (Remotely)

Mr. Baker	Mrs. Santoro
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Tober
Ms. Frenda	Ms. Virtue
Mr. McDonald	Mrs. Wry
Ms. Nathans	Mrs. Leiss

Also Present:

Gretchen Dempsey
Coleen Butler
Jinnee DeMarco
Derlys Gutierrez, Esq.

Correspondence

1. Mr. McDonald submitted a letter of resignation from the Board, effective this evening.
2. Suzie Stevinson sent an email regarding winter sports.

Suspend policy for public meetings

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education suspends its policies relating to in person board meetings and authorizes virtual board meetings to occur during this period of emergency due to the COVID 19 emergency as referenced in Executive Order 103 and pursuant to Bylaw 131.

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student Representatives' Reports-BMS Representatives Casey Hoeckele and Nathaniel Lim, and BHS Representative Lucy Taylor, reported on student activities, sports and achievements.
2. Board Recognition - Retirees

- a. WHEREAS, Paula Gray has been employed from September 2001 through November 2020 as a Teacher; and

WHEREAS, Paula Gray exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Paula Gray's retirement effective November 2020, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

- b. WHEREAS, Donald Swanson has been employed from September 2011 through June 2020 as a Teacher; and

WHEREAS, Donald Swanson exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Donald Swanson's retirement effective August 2020, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

- c. WHEREAS, Cynthia Matero has been employed from February 2007 through January 2021 as a Regular Paraprofessional; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Matero exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Cindy Matero's retirement effective January 2021, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

- d. WHEREAS, Edward Poandl has been employed from September 2015 through February 2021 as a Teacher; and

WHEREAS, Ed Poandl exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Ed Poandl's retirement effective February 2021, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

3. Covid 19 Update - Coleen Butler

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

1. Lynn Weltler, SHEA President - Request for virtual learning after the holidays.
2. Pamela Crerant, Paraprofessional - has been quarantined and requests for virtual learning after holidays.
3. Allen Thurlow, teacher - extend remote learning until mid-January.
4. Nicole Boyce, teacher- asked to quarantine and wants remote learning to extend after winter break.
5. Stephen Sands, teacher- Thanks the BOE and Administration for contact tracing and safety measures. Reported on scientific findings for safe procedures of Covid.
6. Rosemarie Rizzuto, teacher- request for remote learning to continue after holidays.

Approval of Minutes*

Mrs. Wry made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting and the Special Meeting of November 30, 2020. Ms. Virtue seconded. Minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

1. Approval of Minutes

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for November 18, 2020 and the Special Meeting minutes for November 30, 2020.

FINANCE

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on December 9, 2020.
- B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1- 12, Mrs. Tober seconded. Items #1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0; items #6, 7 and 10 were approved by a 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 2020 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$7,520,322.77	\$7,520,322.77
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$ 349,842.81	\$ 349,842.81
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$ 371,191.25	\$ 371,191.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$ 604,778.02	\$ 604,778.02
Total Government Funds	\$8,846,134.85	\$8,846,134.85

(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 2020-2021 Budget Transfers*

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for November, 2020.

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	\$2,435,162.01
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$ 6,379.62
(30) Capital Projects Fund	--
(40) Debt Service Fund	--
(60) Cafeteria Fund	--
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,033,500.77
TOTAL	\$3,475,042.40

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached December 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	\$670,712.26
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$ 27,750.71
(30) Capital Projects Fund	--
(40) Debt Service Fund	--
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$ 1,727.50
(90) Agency Fund	--
TOTAL	\$700,190.47

5 Approve Parent Organization Fundraiser*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	Somerset Hills Ice Hockey Association	BHS	Local Dine & Shop Days	12/17/2020 -06/2021
b	Somerset Hills Ice Hockey Association	BHS	Gift Card Sales	12/17/2020 -06/2021
c	Somerset Hills Ice Hockey Association	BHS	Journal Ad Sales	12/17/2020 -06/2021

6 Approve Parent Organization Fundraiser

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following parent organization fundraisers for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Organization	School	Event	Date
a	HSASH	BES	GOT Sneakers Fundraiser: Collection of used athletic footwear for less fortunate in SA, Africa, EU, Caribbean	Jan-Mar 2021

7. Approve Special Education Schools

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following schools for the 2020-2021 school year and/or ESY:

	Student ID#	Provider	Location
a.	8166393899	Pillar School	Livingston, NJ
b.	8664505632	Stanhope Middle School	Stanhope, NJ
c.	7435542741	Shepard Middle School	Kinnelon, NJ

8. Approve Settlement Agreement*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hill Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the settlement agreement for student ID #3788018586 for the 2020-2021 School Year and/or ESY and 2021-2022 School Year.

9. Approve Tuition Student*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves 12th grade tuition student, #9810491616, from North Hunterdon-Voorhees School District for the 2020-2021 school year.

10. Accept Donation

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from HSA made possible through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President's Grant Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation . This grant will be used for the purchase of document cameras and projectors at the Bedwell School.

11. Accept Donation*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts a donation in the amount of \$25,000 from SHEF (The Somerset Hills Education Foundation) to support the acquisition of electronic Educational Subscriptions.

12. Approve Special Education Schools*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following schools for the 2020-2021 school year and/or ESY:

	Student ID#	Provider	Location
a	4362084900	Shepard High School	Morristown, NJ

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on December 9, 2020.

B. Action Items: None

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Virtue gave the report. The committee met on December 8, 2020.

B. Action Items: Ms. Virtue moved items #1-4, Ms. Cooper seconded. Items #1, 3 and 4 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0, item #2 was approved by a vote of 10-0.

1. Approve Field Trips

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BMS	VIRTUAL STEAM Tank Groups: Students invent, modify or change an idea to solve real world problems	17	1	N/A

2. Approve Professional Development*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Est. Cost
a	BHS	Camuto, L.	AP Mentoring: Spring Support for AP Computer Science Principles	Jan - May 2021	\$399.00
b	District	Koransky, J	Creating Sanctuary Classrooms, and Schools	January 15, 2021	\$100.00
c	District	Fischer, S.	Center for Literacy Development Spring 2021 Online Webinar Series	Various	\$99.00

3. Approve Professional Development

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Est. Cost
a	BMS	Tchorz, V.	Teaching Research Skills, Critical Thinking, and Creative Note Taking	December 3, 2020	\$50.00

4. Approve Action Research Project

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following research project:

	School	Name	Project	University
a	BMS	McGinn, J.	Action Research	Saint Elizabeth University Masters Program in Educational Leadership

PERSONNEL AND POLICY

A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. Santor gave the report. The committee met on December 8, 2020.

PERSONNEL

A. Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved items #1-12, Ms. Cooper seconded. Items #1-3, 6, 8 and 12 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0; items #4, 5, 7, 9-11 were approved by a vote of 9-0.

1. Accept Retirement*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the retirement of the following Employee:

	Name	School	Position	Effective
a	Poandl, Edward D.	BHS	Teacher MA: Industrial Arts	02/01/2021

2. Approve Substitutes*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Last	First	Substitute Position	Certification
a	Kane	Elizabeth S.	Teacher	County Substitute Certificate
b	Iorillo	Sara M.	Teacher	County Substitute Certificate

3. Approve Overloads*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following BHS overloads for the 2020-2021 school year.

	Course	Teacher	Term	Salary	OVERLOAD Salary <i>prorated</i>
a	US History I	Pietrolungo, J.	MP3	\$72,875.00	\$3,037.07
b	Sociology A	Clark, K.	MP3	\$103,095.00	\$4,296.48
c	US History I	Murphy, T.	MP3	\$72,875.00	\$3,037.07
d	AP Computer Science Principles	Camuto, L.	MP3	\$72,875.00	\$3,037.07
e	Pre Calculus A	Cherng, J.	MP3	\$72,875.00	\$3,037.07
f	Algebra 2 (A)	Collins, K.	MP3	\$103,095.00	\$4,296.48
g	Algebra 2 (A)	O'Brien, K.	MP3	\$64,575.00	\$2,691.17
h	Algebra 1	Fallas, H.	MP3	\$61,480.00	\$2,562.18

4. Amend Approval Leave Replacement Teacher

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the approval of the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Young, Meghan	BES	Teacher-Leave Replacement	Gelsinger	MA	8	\$69,495.00 <i>prorated</i>	01/25/2021- 06/18/2021

5. Amend Approval Family Medical Leave

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the approval the following family medical leave of absence dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Leave Dates	Amended Leave Dates
a	Gelsinger, A.	BES	Teacher	03/11/2019 - 01/25/2021	3/11/2019 - 06/18/2021
b	9667	BMS	FT Paraprofessional	11/19/2020 - 2/11/2021	11/19/2020 - 2/19/2021

6. Approve Leave of Absence under Family First Coronavirus Response Act*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following leave of absence under Family First Coronavirus Response Act dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Employee ID	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
a	9080	BHS	Sec	11/30/2020	12/14/2020
b	8888	District	Transportation	12/02/2020	12/14/2020
c	8199	BHS	Teacher	12/07/2020	12/08/2020
d	8553	BHS	Teacher	12/07/2020	12/08/2020
e	8821	BHS	Teacher	12/09/2020	12/09/2020

7. Approve Leave of Absence under Family First Coronavirus Response Act

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following leave of absence under Family First Coronavirus Response Act dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Employee ID	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
a	9774	BMS	Special Services	12/01/2020	12/11/2020
b	9088	BMS	Teacher	12/18/2020	12/23/2020
c	8458	BMS	Teacher	12/07/2020 12/15/2020	12/07/2020 12/22/2020

8. Approve Contact Tracing*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contact tracing hours for staff members at their 2020-2021 per hour rate:

	Name	Position	School	Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate
a	Connor, Anne	Nurse	BHS	50	\$76.02
b	Worstell, Laura	Nurse	BHS	15	\$41.32

9. Approve Contact Tracing

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contact tracing hours for staff members at their 2020-2021 per hour rate:

	Name	Position	School	Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate
a	Ryan, Suzanne	Nurse	BMS	30	\$72.67

b	Pane, Patricia	Nurse	BES	30	\$52.93
c	Gomez, Melissa	Nurse	BES	15	\$41.32

10. Approve Family Medical Leave of Absence

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following family medical leave of absence dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

	ID#	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
a	9188	BES	Teacher	10/28/2020	01/29/2021
b	8533	BMS	Teacher	03/24/2021	06/18/2022

11. Approve Leave Replacement Certified Staff

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following leave replacement certified staff for the 2020-2021 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to the law*:

	Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
a	Hoblos, Lina	BES	BCBA	MA	9	\$65,980.00 prorated	<i>Pending Clearance</i>

12. Approve Bernards High School Coaches*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following coaches for the 2020-2021 school year.

	Sport	Coach	Position	Stipend
a.	Ice Hockey	Paul Manore	Head Coach	\$7,200
b.	Ice Hockey	Dan Spautz	Asst. Coach	N/A

POLICY

A. Action Items: Mrs. Santoro moved items #1 and 2, Ms. Virtue seconded. Items #1 and 2 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

1. First Reading*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the first reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy / Regulation #	Title
P7510	Use of School Facilities (Changes to (R7510 still outstanding)
P8420	Emergency & Crisis Situations
P8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs
P0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency

2. Second Reading*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the second reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy / Regulation #	Title
P6440	Cooperative Purchasing (M) (Revised)
P6470.01&R6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M) (New)
P7440&R7440	School District Security (M) (Revised)
P7450	Property Inventory (M) (Revised)
P3216	Dress and Grooming (Teaching Staff Members)
P4216	Dress and Grooming (Support Staff Members)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Tober gave the report. The committee met on December 10, 2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

Mr. McDonald read his resignation letter, thanking the board and administration and urged parents in the district to apply for his vacant position. Mrs. Leiss thanked Mr. McDonald for his 5 years on the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Jianna Grau, teacher- Thanked the BOE and Bedwell Administration. Her third grade class did well during the fall and advocated for Covid testing.
2. Sarah Falzarano, teacher- needs advance notice to avoid disruption.
3. Jeff Falzarano, teacher- expressed appreciation to Mr. McDonald. Concerned about not approving winter and spring sports. Sports for students helps them and coaches want to be there for them.
4. Suzie Stevinson, parent- concerned about winter sports coaches not having contracts and the impact on students.

Mrs. Leiss commented that the Board is following NJSIAA recommendations on timing to return.

5. Wendie LaBruno, teacher- Parents have option to keep students home, especially students at risk, but staff don't have that option.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm, Mr. McDonald seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Jinnee DeMarco
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)

