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**The Somerset Hills School District  
Regular Meeting Agenda - October 20, 2021  
Executive Session - 6:45 P.M.  
Public Input & Action - 7:30 P.M.  
Bernards High School Media Center**

**Call to Order & Welcome**

Mrs. Santoro called the meeting to order 6:47 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Mr. Baker	Ms. Nathans
Ms. Cooper	Mr. Rosin
Mrs. deGrandpré	Mrs. Santoro
Mrs. Frenda	Mrs. Tober
Mrs. Leiss	Mrs. Wry

Also Present:

Dr. Gretchen Dempsey  
Dr. Coleen Butler  
Mrs. Jinnee DeMarco  
Mr. Andrew B. Brown 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. Frenda moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:31 p.m., Mrs. deGranpré seconded. The Board returned to Public Session at 7:35 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Correspondence**

Non

**Report of the Superintendent**

1. Student Representatives’ Report - BHS representatives Mariel Pallante and Chris Sun gave their reports.
2. Chief Kevin Valentine of Bernardsville Police Department, *Office of Emergency Management* - Chief Kevin Valentine presented the Civilian Service Award to the Somerset Hills School District for appreciation of

continued partnership and efforts in support of the Bernardsville Office of Emergency Management-Mass Feeding initiative during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items**

None

Seeing no one from the public, Mrs. deGrandpré moved to close public comments, Mrs. Leiss seconded.

### **Approval of Minutes\***

Mrs. Frenda moved to approve the minutes for September 29, 2021, Ms. Cooper 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 September 29, 2021. .

### **FINANCE**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on October 13, 2021.

B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-11, Ms. Cooper seconded. Items #1, 2, 4-10 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Item #11 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0.

#### **1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification\***

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of August 2021 showing the following balances:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)</b>	<b>Treasurer Cash Balance (2)</b>
(10) General Fund	\$9,986,271.43	\$9,986,271.43
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(\$190,541.73)	(\$190,541.73)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$371,191.25	\$371,191.25
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$521,071.13	\$521,071.13
Total Government Funds	\$10,687,992.08	\$10,687,992.08

#### **(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 August 2021.

#### **3. Removed**

3. Approve Special Education Schools\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following schools for the 2021-2022 school year and/or ESY:

	<b>Student ID#</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Location</b>
a	8413813807	Hunterdon Prep	\$48,465	Annandale, NJ

4. Approve Group Medical and Rx Drug Insurance Proposal\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following proposal from Aetna procured by Brown & Brown Insurance, Inc.:

Monthly premium rates will be increased by 8.9% effective January 1, 2022.

5. Approve Transfinder Proposal\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Transfinder proposal for transportation software for 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$10,740.

6. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached August 2021 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:

<b>FUND</b>	
(10) General Fund	\$967.78
(20) Special Revenue Fund	--
(30) Capital Projects Fund	--
(40) Debt Service Fund	--
(60) Cafeteria Fund	--
(90) Agency Fund	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$967.78

7. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached September 2021 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:

<b>FUND</b>	
(10) General Fund	\$3,213,132.22
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$25,065.30
(30) Capital Projects Fund	--
(40) Debt Service Fund	--
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$112.00
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,063,088.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$4,301,397.58

8. Special Education Providers\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following service providers for the 2021-2022 school year and extended school year:

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Est. Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Technology for Education and Communication Consulting, Inc. (TECC)	Speech and Language Evaluations/AAC & AT Evaluations, Consultation & Training	Williamstown, NJ	\$5,000 - \$100 to \$975 per/service

9. Approve Student Settlement Agreement\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an agreement for Student #3957424154 for 2021-2022 school year and 2022 ESY.

10. Membership in New Jersey School Insurance Group Educational Risk & Insurance Consortium\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve membership in New Jersey School Insurance Group Educational Risk & Insurance Consortium - North , pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:18B-3a, for a period of three years from July 1, 2021 - July 1, 2024 for insurance coverage and risk management.

11. 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 2021-2022 school year:

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
a	Bedwell HSASH	BES	Winter Holiday Shop	December 21, 2021

## **FACILITIES & OPERATIONS**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Wry gave the report. The committee met on October 13, 2021.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Wry moved items #1-3, Ms. Cooper seconded. Items #1-3 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0.

1. Approve Statement of Assurance\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the statement of Assurance, WHEREAS, 18A:7a-3 et seq. and NJAC 6A:30.-1.1 et seq. establishes the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for evaluating performance of each school district, and

WHEREAS, the evaluation of the district will be based upon five (5) key components of school district effectiveness: instruction and program; personnel; fiscal management; operations; and governance, and

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education has conducted a self-evaluation in the

key components to assess the district's capacity and effectiveness using quality performance indicators, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) – Statement of Assurance for The Somerset Hills School District, is attested to for accuracy and approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

2. Amend the Safe Return Plan\* to conform with requirements of Chapter 27\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the District's *Safe Return Plan* as it is outlined in The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds Application to include the required elements of Chapter 27, Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction.

3. Approve to support Borough of Bernardsville Safe Route to School Sidewalk Project\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby supports Borough of Bernardsville's submittal of grant application and executing a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the sidewalks on West Street and Boyland Terrance Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project, and WHEREAS, the students who attend the Somerset Hills School District that resides in the project area will benefit from the above stated project.

## CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Cooper gave the report. The committee met on October 12, 2021.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-3, Ms. Nathans seconded. Items #1, 3 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0, Item #2 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Each board member abstained on their name for #3.

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	BHS	Madrigals to United Reformed Church	22	1	1
b	BHS	Bernards Choirs to Hersheypark	75	3	7

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	BES	DeRoberts, Theresa	Supporting Students with IEPs through UDL, Units of Study, and a Study of	12/8	0

			Particular Strengths of Common Learning Profiles		
b	BMS	Azevedo, Melanie	Supporting Students with IEPs through UDL, Units of Study, and a Study of Particular Strengths of Common Learning Profiles	12/8	0
c	BMS	Wertman, Suzanne	The Zones of Regulation	10/22	\$95

### 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	District	Heather Santoro	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
b	District	Robert Baker	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
c	District	Nicole Cooper	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
d	District	Kristen deGrandpré	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
e	District	Sam Frenda	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
f	District	Jamie Leiss	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
g	District	Larry Rosin	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
h	District	Kathy Tober	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
i	District	Pat Wry	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
j	District	Gretchen Dempsey	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
k	District	Coleen Butler	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75
l	District	Jinnee DeMarco	NJ School Boards Assoc- virtual	Oct. 26-28	\$75

## PERSONNEL

A. Committee Report and Discussion. The Personnel Committee did not meet this month.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Tober moved items #1-10, Mrs. Frenda seconded. Items #2, 3, 6, 8-9 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Items #1, 4, 5, 7, 10-11 were approved by roll call vote os 9-0-0.

### 1. Approve Part-Time Regular Education Paraprofessional

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve of the appointment of the following Part-Time Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Replace</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Hourly</b>	<b>Effective</b>
a	Arcelay, Christina	4390	Para-Reg Ed B Hourly Lunch/Recess Aide	1	\$16.34	<i>Pending Clearance</i>

2. Approve Co-Curricular and Athletic Positions\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following BHS co-curricular and athletic stipends for the 2021-2022 school year *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>BHS Co-Curricular Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
a	Ellis	Judge	Fall Play: Set Construction	\$2,500
b	Johnson	Alec	Men's Assistant Basketball Coach (JV)	\$7,125

3. Approve Salary Guide Level Advancement\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve salary guide level advancement for the following teacher for the 2021-2022 school year (*retroactive September 1, 2021*):

	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Current Level</b>	<b>\$ Old Salary</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>New Level</b>	<b>\$ New Salary</b>
a	Anderson, Richard	BHS	BA	\$69,105	10	MA	\$74,105
b	Bale-Pena, Matthew	BHS	MA	\$80,310	14	MA+15	\$82,810
c	Young, Joseph	BHS	MA	\$69,260	7	MA+15	\$71,760
d	Simoneau, Jon	BHS	MA	\$91,272	18	MA+15	\$93,654
e	O'Connor, Leslie	BHS	MA	\$82,675	15	MA+30	\$87,675

4. Approve Salary Guide Level Advancement

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve salary guide level advancement for the following teachers for the 2021-2022 school year (*retroactive September 1, 2021*):

	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Current Level</b>	<b>\$ Old Salary</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>New Level</b>	<b>\$ New Salary</b>
a	Palmieri, Jeremy	BES	BA	\$63,115	6	MA	\$68,115
b	McGinn, Jessica	BMS	BA+15	\$77,810	14	MA+15	\$82,810
c	Mirando, Stephan	BMS	BA	\$62,205	4-5	MA	\$67,205
d	Westfall, Sarah	BES	BA	\$64,260	7	MA+15	\$71,760
e	Hall, Kristine	BES	MA+30	\$106,368	21	MA+45	\$108,966
f	Kusnic, Cassandra	BES	BA	\$63,115	6	<del>MA</del> MA+15	<del>\$68,115</del> \$70,615

g	Thurlow, Allen	BES	MA+15	\$82,810	14	MA+30	\$85,310
h	Paterno, Amy	BES	MA+30	\$99,252	19	MA+45	\$101,640
i	d'Anunciacao, Jessica	BES	MA+30	\$74,260	7	MA+45	\$76,760

5. Approve Unpaid Absences

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following unpaid absences for the 2021-2022 school year:

	Name	School	Position	# of Requested days	Dates
a	Sarullo, Dally	BMS	Paraprofessional	2	12/17/21, 12/20/21

6. Approve Maintenance Stipends\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following maintenance stipends for the 2021-2022 school year:

	Last Name	First Name	Position	Stipend	Effective
a	Brenner	Kevin	Stipend-boiler	\$1,206.00	10/7/21
b	Pedrick	David	Stipend-boiler	\$1,206.00	10/7/21

7. 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 2021-2022 school year:

a	Employee ID	School	Position	Start Date	End Date
	8686	BMS	Teacher	10/25/2021	1/23/2022 (or sooner)

8. Approve Substitute Pay Rate Increase\*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the substitute rate increase for the 2021-2022 school year (*effective October 16, 2021*):

	Credentials	Rate
a	Teacher with Substitute Credential, CEAS or CE	\$105
b	Teacher with Standard Certificate	\$115
c	Teacher with Substitute Credential, CEAS or CE (Bedwell School Only)	\$126
d	Teacher with Standard Certificate (Bedwell School Only)	\$138

9. Approve Leave Replacement Teacher

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law:*

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Dates
a	Adams, Jennifer	BES	Teacher	8857	MA	4-5	\$67,205 <i>prorated</i>	11/30/21 - 6/30/22

10. Approve Non-Tenured Certificated Teacher

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Non-Tenured Certificated Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law:*

Name	School	Position	Level	Step	Salary	Starting
Marixza Acuña	BES	Teacher	BA	2-3	\$61,300 <i>Prorated</i> <i>(\$54,917 of salary will be funded by Title I funds)</i>	11/22/21 or sooner, pending clearance

**POLICY**

- A. Committee Report and Discussion: The Policy Committee did not meet this month.  
 B. Action Items: Mrs. Leiss moved items #1-2, Mrs. deGrandpré seconded. Items #1-2 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0.

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
P0164	Conduct of Board Meeting (Revised)
P1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (New)
R5131	Student Random Drug Testing (Revised)
P2422	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (M)
P2467	Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents (M)
P3224 & R3224	Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals (M) (Revised)
P5116	Education of Homeless Children (Revised)
P7432 & R7432	Eye Protection (M) (Revised)

P8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
R8420.1	Fire and Fire Drills (M) (Revised)
P8540	School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)
P8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill (M) (Revised)
P8600	Student Transportation (M) (Revised)3

2. Second 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:

<b>Policy / Regulation #</b>	<b>Title</b>
P0131	Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations (Revised)
P3142 & R3142	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member (Revised)
P3221 & R3221	Evaluation of Teachers (M) (Revised)
P3222 & R3222	Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators (M) (Revised)
P3223 & R3223	Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals (M) (Revised)
P4146 & R4146	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member (Revised)
P6471 & R6471	School District Travel (M) (Revised)

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs Frenda gave the report. The committee met on October 12, 2021.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS**

1. Mrs. Santoro attended Somerset County School Board's meeting with Mr. Baker and reported back to the board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Tyler Stevens - student - asked the board to reconsider Harvard Model Congress overnight field trip.
2. Andino Caminiti - student - disappointed that the board denied Harvard Model Congress overnight field trip, hope they will reconsider.
3. Allicen Librera - parent, resident - spoke about the Special Education program in the district, especially the preschool program.
4. Bill Librea - parent, resident - also spoke about the Special Education program in the district.
5. Barbara Long - resident - should not prevent students from going on out-of-town trips that require travel.
6. Kelsey Klein - BHS graduate - teaching about racism makes students understand each other better. Benefited from my education at BHS.
7. Mark Stevens - parent, resident - support of Harvard Model Congress overnight field trip. Urged the Board to reconsider.

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8. Kathleen Shepard - resident - discussed an American story, stop CRT and all such teachings in our schools.
  9. Erin Mistele - parent, resident - we support diversity and inclusion in our curriculum. Also, please reconsider Harvard Model Congree overnight trip.
  10. Steve Tobin - parent, resident - what is being promoted as not CRT is still promoting the same propaganda.
  11. Barabara Long - resident - spoke about 1776 curriculum k-12 done by Hillsdale College.
  12. Andino Caminiti - student - thanked the board for implementing teaching diversity.
  13. Steve Tobin - parent, resident - race is not mentioned in the Constitution.
- Mrs. Wry moved to close public comments, Ms. Rosin seconded.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Mrs. Leiss seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jinnee DeMarco  
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)**