

The Somerset Hills School District
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING AGENDA – MARCH 10, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30P.M.
PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE ROOM AT BERNARDS HIGH SCHOOL
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING – 7:30 P.M.
THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT BERNARDS HIGH SCHOOL

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome

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 regular 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.

III. Roll Call

IV. 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, Litigation and Contract 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 a public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Correspondence

VII. Report of the Superintendent

1. Student/Staff Recognition
2. 2010/2011 Budget Update

3. Energy Improvement Plan Presentation by Ameresco

VIII. Public Questions & Comments

We very much welcome input from the public. Public comments are welcome at this time on any agenda item. Towards the end of the meeting there is a second public forum on any topic. Please state your name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes, but an individual may speak a second time after all others who wish to speak on the topic have been heard. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, the Board President or Superintendent may address the comment. In accordance with New Jersey Statute, the Board will not discuss matters regarding specific personnel. Thank you for your input.

IX. Approval of MinutesAction1. Approval of Minutes*Resolution

Resolved, that the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes of February 24, 2010, 2010 be approved.

X. Finance

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

Action1. Payment of Bills*Resolution

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated March 4, 2010 covering check numbers 20145 to 20239 in the amount of \$1,720,193.70 with the recommendation that they 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	AMOUNT
(10) General Fund	\$1,699,519.01
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$20,674.69
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-0-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-0-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-0-
TOTAL	\$1,720,193.70

Action2. Approve 2008-2009 Void Checks*Resolution

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves to void the 2008-2009 general fund checks:

Check Date	Check No.	Vendor	Amount
10/31/2008	15883	Kurtz Bros.	\$1,046.79
11/25/2008	16098	Kurtz Bros.	\$214.42
11/25/2008	16130	NJEMA	\$130.00

12/31/2008	16325	Maschio's Food Service	\$80.00
12/31/2008	16410	Slam in the Schools, LLC	\$2,500.00
1/30/2009	16512	Margaret Hariri	\$1,326.00
1/30/2009	16556	Lorraine Mocco	\$442.00
1/30/2009	16770	Khambone Singsongkahn	\$91.00
1/30/2009	16984	Maschio's Food Service	\$ 213.75
4/23/2009	17188	Essentially Ellington/Jazz	\$75.00
4/23/2009	17313	Vanderhoof Transp.	\$450.00
5/13/2009	17408	McDougal, Littell & Co.	\$323.50
6/16/2009	17604	Patrick Cozza	\$442.00
6/18/2009	17818	Patricia Boteler	\$117.23
6/18/2009	17901	Orchard Hill	\$80.00
6/30/2009	18099	Sophia Seelig	\$135.86
6/30/2009	18102	Development Workshop	\$10.00
6/30/2009	17947	Suplee, Clooney & Co.	\$15,675.00
	Prior Year VOID Checks		\$23,352.55

Action
Resolution

3. Approve Renewal of Settlement Agreement
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the renewal of an annual settlement agreement on behalf of student #1152.

Action
Resolution

4. Approve Daytop Contract*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve a contract with Daytop-New Jersey for student 2013234.

Action
Resolution

5. NJSBA Resolution I
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve NJSBA Resolution I:

Restoration of 2009-2010 State School Aid Cuts

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education recognizes that sound financial management is necessary to support the school program; and
WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills School District bases its budget on academic goals, current needs and data collected through a long-range planning process; and
WHEREAS, the district's prudent expenditure practices have resulted in an excess surplus of \$2,330,943 during the current fiscal year; and
WHEREAS, current state law requires districts to apply these excess funds toward the 2010-2011 school budget in order to control local property taxes;
WHEREAS, through its policy of sound fiscal management, the Somerset Hills Board of Education has placed in reserve for the current school year \$294,226 to ensure that maintenance and facility repairs do not affect its financial stability; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 14, the Governor has frozen the Somerset Hills school district's current-year state aid in an amount equal to its excess surplus and 25 percent of its capital reserve and other reserve accounts; and WHEREAS, the aid cut unfairly targets the Somerset Hills School District and others that accumulated additional surplus and/or put aside reserve funds as the result of sound financial practices; and

WHEREAS, by forcing the expenditure of these surplus funds in the current school year, the Somerset Hills School district will not have them available to control next year's school property taxes; and

WHEREAS, replenishment of reserve accounts next year will divert limited resources from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 will have a negative impact on property taxpayers and the education program in the Somerset Hills School District in 2010-2011. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education urges the state Legislature and the Governor to pursue other means to resolve the state's current-year budget gap without jeopardizing school programs or penalizing property taxpayers in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such an alternative should leave in place school districts' excess surplus, as well as their capital reserves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Christopher Bateman and Assembly Representatives Peter Biondi and Denise Coyle; and be it further RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Action
Resolution

6. NJSBA Resolution II

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve NJSBA Resolution II:

Suspension of 2010 School Budget Elections

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2010, Governor Christopher Christie issued Executive Order 14, which froze current-year state aid payments in more than 500 local school districts, including Somerset Hills School District; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 sets out a process whereby affected school districts would use their excess surplus and portions of reserve accounts to make up for the loss of current-year aid, a strategy that will have an uncertain impact on next year's (2010-2011) school budgets; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have been advised of four possible scenarios concerning their 2010-2011 state aid allocations, adding to the uncertainty over future school finances; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's annual budget message, through which official state school aid amounts for 2010-2011 will be released, has been postponed until March 16; and

WHEREAS, local school boards must finalize proposed budgets for placement on the election ballot by April 3, a span of less than three weeks; and
 WHEREAS, the lack of complete information about state school funding and the compressed budget timelines will pose a burden to local school districts in developing intelligent, responsible budgets; and
 WHEREAS, the scheduling of the school budget referendums on April 20 precludes the allotment of additional time needed for budget development; and

WHEREAS, proposed school budgets are controlled by a tax-levy cap and undergo thorough review by the state's Executive County Superintendents, thereby ensuring efficient and responsible use of taxpayer funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education urges Governor Christopher Christie and the state Legislature to take necessary action to suspend the 2010 school budget elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to permit certification of school tax levies based on the budgets approved by local boards of education following the public hearings required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 22-10 et seq.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to adjust the school budget calendar to extend timelines for the budget development, hearing and adoption process, thereby enabling school districts to develop responsible budgets necessary to meet state and local education goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Christopher Bateman and Assembly Representatives Peter Biondi and Denise Coyle; and be it further
 RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

XI.

Curriculum

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

Action Resolution

1. Approve Field Trips*

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

School	Trip	Date(s)	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
BHS	a) Peer Leadership Advisory Board Project Adventure Beverly, MA	6/28- 7/2/10	8	2	0
BHS	b) A/B & IB Calculus, Math Studies, AP Stat	5/28/10	104	6	0

	Eureka! Apply Your Imagination Bergen performing Arts Center Englewood NJ				
BHS	c) English IIIA Lord of the Flies Morristown Community Theater, Morristown	4/28/10	120	5	0

Action Resolution

2. Approve Professional Development

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

School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Est. Cost	Date
BES	a) Craver, Marcella	NJ Alliance for Social Emotional & Character Development Conference	\$ 75.00 (paid by Municipal Alliance)	3/22/10
BES	b) Davis Campbell, Malinda	NJ Alliance for Social Emotional & Character Development Conference	\$ 75.00 (paid by Municipal Alliance)	3/22/10
BMS	c) Dorfman, Olivia	Confratute – University of Connecticut	\$ 1,279.11 (Title II funds)	July 11-16, 2010
BMS	d) Pike, Emily	Confratute – University of Connecticut	\$ 1,260.36 (Title II funds)	July 11-16, 2010
BMS	e) Ryan, Suzanne	An Eating Disorder Workshop	\$ 50.00	3/20/10

Action Resolution

3. Approve BHS Textbook Adoption*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following Bernards High School Advanced Placement Economics textbook for the 2010-2011 school year:

Principles of Economics, 5th edition (2009)

Publisher: Holt McDougal

XII. Facilities & Operations

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

XIII. Policy

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

Action Resolution 1. Adoption Policy #0174 Legal Services (M) Revision

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Adoption of Policy #0174 Legal Services (M).

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- Action Resolution 2. Adoption Policy #0177 Professional Services (M)
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #1570 Internal Controls (M).
- Action Resolution 3. Adoption Policy #1570 Internal Controls (M) – Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #1570 Internal Controls (M).
- Action Resolution 4. Adoption Regulation #1570 Internal Controls (M) – Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Regulation #1570 Internal Controls (M).
- Action Resolution 5. Adoption Policy #1620 Administrative Employment Contracts – Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #1620 Administrative Employment Contracts.
- Action Resolution 6. Adoption Policy #5338 Diabetes Management (M) – New
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #5338 Diabetes Management (M).
- Action Resolution 7. Adoption Policy #5512.01 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (M)-Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #5512.01 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (M).
- Action Resolution 8. Adoption Policy #6471 School District Travel (M) – Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #6471 School District Travel (M).
- Action Resolution 9. Adoption Policy #6111 Special Ed Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M)-Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #6111 Special Ed Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M).
- Action Resolution 10. Adoption Regulation #6111 Special Ed Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M)-Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Regulation #6111 Special Ed Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M).
- Action Resolution 11. Adoption Policy #6360 Political Contributions (M) –Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of #6360 Political Contributions (M).
- Action 12. Adoption Policy #6660 Student Activity Fund (M) - Revision

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #6660 Student Activity Fund (M).

Action 13. First Reading Policy #0131 Bylaws and Policies–Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #0131 Bylaws and Policies.

Action 14. First Reading Policy #5533 Pupil Smoking (M) –Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #5533 Pupil Smoking (M).

Action 15. First Reading Policy #7434 Smoking on School Grounds (M) –Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #7434 Smoking on School Grounds (M).

Action 16. First Reading Policy #9700 Special Interest Groups - Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #9700 Special Interest Groups.

XIV. Personnel

A. Committee Report & Discussion:

B. Action Items:

All personnel action is on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Action 1. Approve Appointment of Long Term Substitute
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Jessica Wetzel, long term substitute at Bernardsville Middle School, Level BA, Step 1, at a per diem rate of \$251.00, effective May 28, 2010, for the 2009-2010 school year. (Marashlian)

Action 2. Approval of HSPA English Instructor*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve Suezette Given as a HSPA English Instructor, two 1-hour sessions, at an hourly rate of \$55.76.

Action 3. Approval of Co-Curricular Positions*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following co-curricular positions:

Bedwell

Mary Clare Windisch	Team Leader – Grade 1	\$2,335 (prorated)
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Bernards High School

Sarah Falzarano	Assistant AD: Spring	\$3,800
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Action 4. Approval of Substitutes*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following substitutes for the 2009-2010 school year:

Teacher

Lauren Senko Sub Certificate
Bonnie Welch Sub Certificate

- XV. Neighborhood Relations**
- XVI. Community Relations**
- XVII. Supplementary Matters**
- XVIII. Public Questions & Comments**
- XIX. Adjournment**

Resolutions:

***Note: The areas of permitted voting for the Bedminster district representative of the Board of Education are: 1) tuition charged by the sending district and bill lists or contracts to be used for the sending district's pupils; 2) new capital construction to be used by the sending district's pupils; 3) appointment, transfer of removal of teaching staff serving the sending district's pupils, including central administration; 4) addition or deletion of curricular or extracurricular programs involving the sending district's pupils.**