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**The Somerset Hills School District**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 6, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Hunter called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance****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 reorganization 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.

**Oath of Office**

Mrs. Hunter administered the Oath of Office to:

1. Mindy Hoppe
2. Janis Virtue

**Roll Call**

Present

Mr. Baker

Mrs. Coons

Mr. DiGiacchino

Ms. Goetz

Mrs. Hoppe

Mrs. Palazzolo

Mr. Palma

Ms. Virtue

Absent

Ms. Sooy

Also Present

Frances Wood

Jennifer Shouffler

Nancy Lee Hunter

**Organizational Procedure****1. Nomination and Election of President**

Motion to nominate Mr. Baker by Mrs. Coons

Seconded by Ms. Virtue

No other nominations

Voice Vote: 8-0

**2. Nomination and Election of Vice President**

Motion to nominate Mr. Palma by Mrs. Coons

Seconded by Ms. Goetz

No other nominations

Voice Vote: 8-0

**Organizational Action Items**

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- Action 1. Adoption of Code of Ethics for School Board Members\*  
(each Board Member reads one)
- Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopts the Code of Ethics for School Board members:
- A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:
- a) 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.
  - b) 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.
  - c) 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.
  - d) 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.
  - e) 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.
  - f) I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political
    - i. groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
  - g) 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.
  - h) I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
  - i) I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
  - j) 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.
- Action 2. Re-Adopt All By-Laws & Policies
- Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all current Board Policies & By-Laws.
- Action 3. Re-Adopt All Program & Curriculum\*
- Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all existing Curriculum, on file in the Curriculum office.
- Action 4. Re-adopt All District Tradebooks, Software, Motion Pictures/Films\*
- Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts district tradebook list, software list, and media list, on file in the Curriculum office.
- Action 5. Board Representative Appointments
- Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following group representative appointments:

N.J. School Board Association

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Delegate        | Alternate |
| Mr. DiGiacchino | T.B.D.    |

Somerset County School Board Association

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Member    | Alternate       |
| Mr. Baker | Mr. DiGiacchino |

Somerset County Educational Services Commission

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Member     | Alternate |
| Mrs. Hoppe | T.B.D.    |

Somerset Hills Education Foundation

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Member     | Alternate       |
| Ms. Virtue | Mr. DiGiacchino |

HSA of Somerset Hills

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| BES/BMS Member | B.H.S. Member |
| Mrs. Palazzolo | Mrs. Coons    |

Municipal Alliance

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Member    | Alternate      |
| Mr. Palma | Mrs. Palazzolo |

Action Resolution 6. Board Committee Assignments  
Resolved, that the following Board Committees be re-established:

- Finance
- Facilities & Operations
- Policy
- Curriculum
- Personnel
- Negotiations

Action Resolution 7. Accept Resignation  
Mr. Palma moved, seconded by Mr. DiGiacchino that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the resignation of Board Member Susan Petrilli effective December 18, 2015. Resolution was approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Supplemental Matters

1. Mr. Baker announced that the Far Hills board position is open and the Board will be accepting applications.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Baker moved the following:

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: Student 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.

Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. The Board returned to public session at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Baker reported that the Board discussed Student Matters.

#### **Adjournment**

Ms. Goetz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. DiGiacchino. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Lee Hunter*

Board Secretary