

The Somerset Hills School District
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2017

Call to Order & Welcome

Mr Palma called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:		Absent:	Also Present:
Mr. Baker	Mrs. Leiss	Mr. McDonald	Frances Wood
Ms. Burch	Mr. Palma	Ms. Sooy	Jennifer Shouffler
Mr. DiGioacchino	Mrs. Tober		Nancy Lee Hunter
Mrs. Hoppe	Ms. Virtue		

Executive Session

Mr. Palma moved the following at 5:05pm.

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.

Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The Board returned to public session at 7:45pm.

Correspondence

None

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student/Staff Recognition

- Wrestling Coach David Brothers introduced Alex Mastronardi who had an excellent wrestling career at BHS.
- Boys & Girls swim team- Coach Ed Tsuzuki introduced record setters Jessica Snyder (100 yard breaststroke), Matt Voight (average points per season), and Ryan van Dijk (boys single season scoring record as well as a new BHS career point scoring record). Also both the boys and girls swim teams were named Skyland Conference, Raritan Division Champions and won the North 2, Group C NJSIAA sectional championship.
- BHS Ski Team was invited to the Race of Champions. Coaches Tylor Kahl and Kay Lister introduced ski team members Jack Hyman, Lilah Sniderman, Isabel Haut and Jack Sena. A video was shown.

2. Academic Report – Mr. McCarron, Dr. Panik, Daina Gulbis and Jennifer Sciarra gave a presentation on the Bedwell Gardens The presentation was very well received. The group requested that the Board keep the Gardens project going.
3. Student Representative Report – Student representative Frederick Ludtke reported on student activities, academics, and student issues. Students are really excited about the new Media Center and the Language Lab.

Public Questions & Comments

Mr. Palma made a statement to the public that the Board is not discussing an athletic cut policy tonight. The topic was brought up under a curriculum report and the various committees are reviewing the policy.

Mr. Foglia, president of the Somerset Hills Education Association (SHEA), gave a petition to the BOE stating concerns on the change in insurance companies from AmeriHealth to Aetna, and Brown & Brown as the Health Benefit consultant. SHEA would like to avoid litigation but they have definite concerns.

Approval of Minutes*

Action 1. Approval of Minutes

Resolution Ms. Virtue moved and Mr. DiGiacchino seconded that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for March 22, 2017. Minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Finance

A. Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee did not meet this month.

B. Action Items: Mr. Baker moved Finance items #1-9, seconded by Mr. DiGiacchino. Resolutions #1-4 and #6-9 were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0. Resolution #5 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0-1.

Action 1. Adoption of the Final 2017-2018 Budget*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve for the 2017-2018 school year as approved by the Somerset County Executive Superintendent of Schools as follows:

2017-2018	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Total Expenditures	\$37,891,147	\$845,207	\$3,293,350	\$42,029,704
Less Anticipated Revenue	\$ 7,148,235	\$845,207	\$ 239,263	\$ 8,232,705
Taxes to be Raised	\$30,742,912	0	\$3,054,087	\$33,796,999

Action 2. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

Resolution WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of March 2017 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$6,717,852.89	\$6,717,852.89
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$159,413.55	\$159,413.55
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$2,016,209.41	\$2,016,209.41

(40)Debt Service Fund	(\$811,899.48)	(\$811,899.48)
Total Government Funds	\$8,081,576.37	\$8,081,576.37

(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 over-expended 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.

Action
Resolution

3. Approve 2016-2017 Budget Transfers*

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for March, 2017.

Action
Resolution

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached check register 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	MARCH	APRIL
(10) General Fund	\$69,006.35	\$3,986,733.28
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$565.00	\$63,991.09
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$0	\$273,905.98
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$0	\$0
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$0	\$1,620.33
TOTAL	\$69,571.35	\$4,326,250.68

Action
Resolution

5. Approve Group Medical and Rx Drug Insurance Carrier*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education make the following changes to its group medical and Rx drug insurance carrier, effective July 1, 2017:

- Terminate its participation in the Public Employer Trust, underwritten by AmeriHealth Insurance Company of New Jersey, Inc.

- Select Aetna as its group medical & rx drug insurance carrier, at the rates, benefits, terms, and conditions represented in their proposal of February 22, 2017. Benefits will be guaranteed "equal to or better than" the district's current program, per the Aetna guarantee letter dated February 22, 2017.

- Designate Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc., as the Board's broker-of-record for our new Aetna program. Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc. is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in all matters related to these programs.

· Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc.'s responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, negotiating annual renewal rates, marketing our group insurance programs, and aiding our staff in the resolution of billing, enrollment, and claim problems.

· Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors, Inc. is authorized to receive commission payment from Aetna, percentages for which are included in Aetna's proposed rates.

· All appropriate Board of Education staff are authorized to take such action and affect such documentation as necessary to implement this change.

Action 6. Approve Parent Organization Fundraiser*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following parent organization fund raiser for the 2016-2017 school year:

Organization	School	Event	Date
a) Laxbackers	BHS	Selling merchandise and food at games	Spring 2017
b) Project Graduation 2018	BHS	Bistro 73 Ladies Luncheon	May 16, 2017

Action 7. Approve Out of District Transportation Contract

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following out of district transportation contract for the 2016-2017 school year:

Student ID	Host District	Dates	Amount
2018411	Lakeland Regional H.S.	Mar 2017 - Jun 2017	\$2,304

Action 8. Approve Settlement Agreements*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the settlement agreements for the following students:

Student ID
2018038
2020475
2017257
2024276

Action 9. Approve Parent Organization Fundraiser*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following parent organization fund raiser for the 2016-2017 school year:

Organization	School	Event	Date
Lacrosse	BHS	Selling T-Shirts outside of Kings in Bedminster	5/7/17

Curriculum

A. The committee met on April 5, 2017; Ms. Virtue gave report.

B. Ms. Virtue moved items #1-3; Mrs. Leiss seconded. Items #1 & 3 were approved by a roll call vote of 7-0, item #2 was approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

- Action** 1. Approve Field Trips
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following field trips:

School	Trip	Date(s)	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a. BES	Gr. 3 & 4 Enrichment Class- Liberty Science Center	June 8	23	3	0

- Action** 2. Approve Field Trips*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following field trips:

School	Trip	Date(s)	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a. BHS	Special Ed class- Lakota Wolf Preserve-Columbia, NJ	May 4	8	6	0
b. BHS	Special Ed class - Space Farms - Sussex, NJ	June 2	8	6	0
c. BHS	Special Ed class & Peer Mentors- Somerset Patriots	June 7	21	4	0

- Action** 3. Approve Professional Development
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following professional development:

School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Est. Cost	Date
a.. BHS	Dooley, Megan	NJACAC Conf.- Presenting on how to counsel families when college is not the next step- Long Branch	\$195.46	May 22
b.. BHS	Drew, Lisa	Changing How We Feel by Changing How We Think- W. Orange	\$79.00	May 9
c. BHS	Drew, Lisa	Addiction and the Brain-New Concepts & Theories- Piscataway	\$100.71	June 1
d. BHS	Neigel, Scott	Skyland Scholar Athletic Luncheon- Bridgewater	0	Apr. 24
e. BHS	Pietroluongo, Jade	Chinese Culture- Newark	\$175.00	May 4
f. BHS	Sosely, Anna	Fairleigh Dickinson LD Program	0	May 18
g. BHS	Stolarz, Liz	Turning Fear of Failure into Fuel for Success- Fairleigh Dickinson, Madison	0	May 18
h. BMS	Craver, Marcy	Changing How We Feel by Changing How We Think- W. Orange	\$90.00	May 9
i. BMS	Obert-Thorn, Karrie	K-4 Literature for Struggling Readers-FDU Teaneck Campus	\$200.00	Aug. 1-2
j. District	Lucas, Doug	ERIC North 14th Annual Training Seminar (Security)- Red Bank	\$30.00	May 5
k. District	Vail, Peggy	Annual Cooperative Transportation Meeting - Piscataway	\$12.15	May 4
l. District	Vail, Peggy	School Transportation Supv Meeting - Wayne	\$27.96	May 5
m. BHS	Hunkele, Heather	Josten's Spring Planning, Workshop Covers Workshop & Design Session- New Providence, NJ	0	May 25
n. BHS	O'Brien, Janice	Josten's Spring Planning Workshop- Covers Workshop & Design Session- New	0	May 25

		Providence, NJ		
o. BES	Panik, Meredith	Turning Fear of Failure into Fuel for Success- Fairleigh Dickinson, Madison	0	May 18

Facilities & Operations*

Mr. Palma moved items #1-3, Mr. DiGiacchino seconded. Items #1-3 were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Action Resolution

1. Interscholastic Athletic Association Membership*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve Bernards High School as a member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to participate in the approved interschool athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA.

Action Resolution

2. HIB Report*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on April 26, 2017 and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent.

Action Resolution

3. District Calendar*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve change to 2016-2017 District Calendar. Due to snow day, early dismissal Professional Day on March 15, 2017 changed to delayed opening on May 30, 2017.

Policy

Mr. Palma moved items #1-3, Mrs. Hoppe seconded. Items #1-3 were approved by a roll call vote of 7-0.

Action Resolution

1. Second Reading and Adoption
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations: (attachment)

Policy #	Title
a) 2460 P	Special Education
b) 2460 R	Special Education
c) 2460.1 R	Special Education - Location, Identification, and Referral
d) 2460.8 R	Special Education - Free and Appropriate Public Education
e) 2460.9 R	Special Education - Transition From Early Intervention Programs to Preschool Programs
f) 2460.15 R	Special Education - In Service Training Needs for Professional and Paraprofessional Staff
g) 2467 P	Surrogate Parents and Foster Parents
h) 7510 P	Use of School Facilities

Action Resolution

2. Approve Statement of Assurance
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the attached Statement of Assurance for the revisions to the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures.

Action Resolution 3 First Reading
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations: (attachment)

Policy #	Title
a) 0000.01 Bylaw	Introduction
b) 0000.02 Bylaw	Introduction
c) 0000.03 Bylaw	Introduction
d) 2320 P	Independent Study Program ABOLISHED
e) 2415.06 P	Unsafe School Choice Option
f) 2464 P	Gifted and Talented Students
g) 2622 P	Student Assessment
h) 5116 P	Education of Homeless Children
i) 5116 R	Education of Homeless Children
j) 2460.08 R	Special Education - Free and Appropriate Public Education
k) 2460.16	Special Education - Instructional Material to Blind or Print-Disabled Students

Personnel

- A. The committee met on April 18, Mrs. Leiss gave the report.
B. Mrs. Leiss moved items #1-13, Mrs. Tober seconded. Items #1, 2, 3, 10 and 11 were approved by a roll call vote of 7-0; items # 6-9 and 12-13 were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0; items #4 & 5 were approved by a vote of 7-1.

Action Resolution 1. Accept Resignation
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the resignation of the following employee:

Name	School	Position	Effective
Amin, Sadia	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional	3/30/17

Action Resolution 2. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the appointment of the following non-certified staff for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Effective
Canny, Emma	BES	Special Education Paraprofessional	Amin	B	1	\$15.54/hour	4/19/17

Action Resolution 3. Approve Student Teacher
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following student teacher for the 2017-2018 school year:

Student Teacher	School	Subject	Mentor	Date
Marisa Curcio	BMS	Music	Stephen Sands	Fall 2017

Action 4. Approve Job Description*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following job description:
Assistant School Business Administrator

Action 5. Approve Appointment Certified Staff*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the appointment of the following certified staff for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	School	Position	Salary	Effective
DeMarco, Jinnee	Olcott	Assistant School Business Administrator	no change	4/27/17

Action 6. Rescind Co-Curricular Positions*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education rescind the following co-curricular positions for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	School	Position	Stipend
Lachac, Luke	BHS	Track & Field: Men's & Women's Assistant Coach	\$6,000

Action 7. Approve Co-Curricular Positions*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following co-curricular positions for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	School	Position	Stipend
a) Pair, Randall	BHS	Media Center After Hours Supervisor	\$25.00/hour
b) O'Brien, Janice	BHS	Media Center After Hours Supervisor	\$25.00/hour
c) Snyder, Allison	BHS	Media Center After Hours Supervisor	\$25.00/hour
d) Silva, Karen	BHS	Media Center After Hours Supervisor	\$25.00/hour
e) DiMarco, Thomas	BHS	Track & Field: Men's & Women's Assistant Coach	\$6,000

Action 8. Accept Retirement*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the retirement of the following employee:

Name	School	Position	Years of Service	Effective
Collins, Virginia	BHS	Secretary	18	7/31/17

Action 9. Approve Substitutes*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following substitutes for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	Substitute Position	Certification
a) DaSilva, Stacie	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Credential
b) Gulbis, Daina	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute Credential
c) Tigse-Samaniego, Dolores	Custodian	n/a
d) Gallaway, Katherine	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate
f) Cooperstein, Rhonda	Teacher/Paraprofessional	Standard Certificate

- Action 10. Accept Resignation
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the resignation of the following employee:

Name	School	Position	Effective
Shindelman, Rozanna	BMS	School Psychologist	May 20, 2017 or sooner as determined by the superintendent

- Action 11. Approve Student Teacher
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following student teacher for the 2017-2018 school year:

Student Teacher	School	Subject	Mentor	Date
Hailee Clifton	BES/BMS	Health & Exercise Science Teaching	Amy Paterno & Timothy Palek	Fall 2017

- Action 12. Representative Assembly of the Educational Services Commission of NJ*
Resolution Pursuant to enacted legislation, P.L.192-1989, Chapter 254, the Somerset Hills Regional School District Board of Education elected Dr. Frances Wood to the Representative Assembly of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey at their meeting held on April 26, 2017 from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

- Action 13. Approve Parenthood Leave*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following parenthood leave for the 2017-2018 school year:

Name	School	Position	Date
Snyder, Allison	BHS	Teacher	10/9/17 - 6/30/18

Public Questions & Comments

Jennifer Walsh commented on the cut policy. She is in favor of not making any changes to the current policy.

Louis Romano also spoke in favor of no changes to the current cut policy.

Heather Santoro was very happy to hear the co-seating discussion on Latin. Also, she stated that the Bedwell Gardens and Mr. McCarron have had a very positive impact on her daughter.

Strategic Planning Committee

The first committee meeting was on April 20. Mr. Palma reported that this meeting was a success, attended by 35 people. The next 2 meetings are May 2 and May 15.

Supplementary Matters

Mr. DiGioacchino thanked Pat Riley for help with the greenhouse. He said Pat's fingerprints are all over the school district as a coach and a contributor.

Ms. Virtue thanked Jim McCarron, Meredith Panik and the parents for the work on the Bedwell Garden.

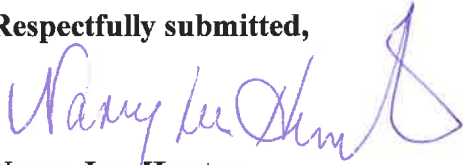
Mr. Baker announced that April 29 is electronic recycling day.

Mr. Baker moved to return to Executive Session at 9:55pm; Mr. DiGioacchino seconded. The Board returned to public session at 10:30pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Palma moved for adjournment at 10:30pm; seconded by Ms. Virtue. Meeting adjourned by a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



**Nancy Lee Hunter
Board Secretary**