
**THE SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2017**

Call to Order and Welcome

Mrs. Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance**Oath of Office**

Mrs. Hunter administered the Oath of Office to:

1. Robert Baker
2. Greg DiGioacchino
3. Timothy McDonald

Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker Mr. McDonald
Mr. DiGioacchino Mr. Palma
Mrs. Hoppe Ms. Sooy
Mrs. Leiss Ms. Virtue

Also Present:

Frances Wood
Jennifer Shouffler
Nancy Lee Hunter

Mr. Palma informed the Board and the public that this would be his last year serving the Board of Education after 20 years.

Organizational Procedure

1. Nomination and Election of President

- 1(a) Motion to nominate Mr. Baker by Mrs. Leiss
Seconded by Ms. Virtue

- 1(b) Motion to nominated Mr. Palma by Mrs. Hoppe
Seconded Mr. DiGioacchino

Discussion: The Board discussed the fact that the Bedminster Representative would not be permitted to vote on Board President and Board Vice President, even though in the past it was allowed.

Roll Call Vote:

- 1(a) 3Y, 5N
1(b) 5Y, 3N

2. Nomination and Election of Vice President

- 2(a) Motion to nominate Mr. DiGioacchino by Mrs. Hoppe
Seconded by Ms. Sooy
Roll Call Vote of 4Y, 4N

Mr. DiGioacchino withdrew his name for consideration of Vice President. The mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion. Motion 2(a) was withdrawn.

- 2(b) Motion to nominate Mr. Baker by Mr. McDonald
Seconded by Ms. Virtue
Roll Call Vote of 7-0-1

Organizational Action Items

Moved by Mr. Palma, seconded by Mrs. Leiss. Organizational items #1-6 approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Action Resolution 1. Adoption of Code of Ethics for School Board Members *each Board Member reads one)*
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:
1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. 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.
 6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
 7. 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.
 8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
 9. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
 10. 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 Resolution 2. Re-Adopt All By-Laws & Policies
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all current Board Policies & By-Laws.

Action Resolution 3. Re-Adopt All Program & Curriculum
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts all existing Curriculum, on file in the Curriculum office.

Action Resolution 4. Re-adopt All District Tradebooks, Software, Motion Pictures/Films
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education re-adopts district tradebook list, software list, and media list, on file in the Curriculum office.

<u>Action</u>	5. <u>Board Representative Appointments</u>																										
<u>Resolution</u>	Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following group representative appointments: <u>N.J. School Board Association</u> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Delegate:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Somerset County School Board Association</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Somerset County Educational Services Commission</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Garden State Coalition of Schools</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Somerset Hills Education Foundation</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>HSA of Somerset Hills</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BES/BMS Member:</td> <td>BHS Member:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>Municipal Alliance</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member:</td> <td>Alternate:</td> </tr> </table>	Delegate:	Alternate:	<u>Somerset County School Board Association</u>		Member:	Alternate:	<u>Somerset County Educational Services Commission</u>		Member:	Alternate:	<u>Garden State Coalition of Schools</u>		Member:	Alternate:	<u>Somerset Hills Education Foundation</u>		Member:	Alternate:	<u>HSA of Somerset Hills</u>		BES/BMS Member:	BHS Member:	<u>Municipal Alliance</u>		Member:	Alternate:
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<u>Action</u>	6. <u>Board Committee Assignments</u>
<u>Resolution</u>	Resolved, that the following <u>Board Committees</u> be re-established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Facilities & Operations Policy Curriculum Personnel Negotiations Strategic Planning

Public Comment

Brian Haggarty, speaking as a Bedminster resident, had concerns about the difficulty in finding announcements of board meetings on the District web site. He thanked Julie Goetz for her years of service and gave support of Monica Burch as Bedminster's new representative.

Executive Session

At 7:15pm, Mr. McDonald moved the following, seconded by Ms. Virtue.

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 Student Matters and interviewing candidates for the Board of Education.

RESOLVED, that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed in the minutes to be released at the next regular meeting of the Board, provided 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. The Board returned to Public Session at 10:25pm.

Motion moved by Ms. Virtue, seconded by Mr. DiGiacchino. Motion moved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

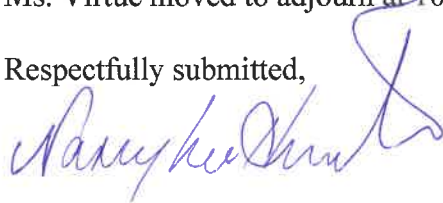
Action 1. Appoint Board Member

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education appoint Kathleen Tober as board member from Bernardsville effective January 4, 2017 - December 31, 2017.

Adjournment

Ms. Virtue moved to adjourn at 10:30pm, seconded by Mr. DiGiacchino. Motion approved by a vote of 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Lee Hunter
Board Secretary

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 or 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.