
**SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
MINUTES (amended)
February 5, 2013**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Coons, President. Mrs. Hunter took roll call.

Mayor Honecker called the meeting to order for the Borough of Bernardsville. Mrs. Jones took roll call.

Members of the public including Jim Parker, Mayor of Bedminster, the Borough Recreation Committee, members of the Bedwell HSA and other interested parties were in attendance at the meeting.

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 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 at the conclusion of the presentation..

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Coons introduced the purpose of tonight's meeting:

1. Safety at Bedwell/BMS Campus
2. Discussion of Athletic Fields

Bedwell/BMS campus: Safety Concerns

Various options to improve safety were discussed. It was agreed that an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss safety with Mr. Rossi and Mr. dePoortere from the Borough and Mr. Palma and members of the Board's Facilities & Operations Committee would be formed. Also, it was agreed that the installation of speed tables for the Bedwell/BMS campus would be expedited.

Athletic Fields**a) B.H.S. Lower Field:**

Mr. Fran Mullin of T&M Associates presented the current conceptual plans for the lower field at Bernards High School. The proposal is to improve the lower field at B.H.S. and utilizing 11,000 yards of dirt that Chase Bank has agreed to donate to the Board of Education. The Board asked the Borough to waive the tree replacement portion of the ordinance, the Borough agreed and said they would place it on the agenda for the February 11, 2013 Council meeting. The Board agreed to submit the tree removal permit to the Borough by Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Mrs. Coons moved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the improvements to B.H.S. lower field as outlined by T&M Associates in its proposal dated February 5, 2013. Ms. Kragie seconded the motion. The resolution was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

b) Chestnut Field:

The Board of Education is proposing the construction of a turf field at Chestnut Field. The property is owned primarily by the Borough, with a portion being owned by the Board of Education. There was a discussion regarding field usage. The Board discussed that as part of a usage agreement, the Borough would have the right of first refusal on week-days after 6 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays for the new field. A preliminary plan for Chestnut Field had been prepared by RBA Engineering and was available for the public to view. The cost of the turf field is estimated at \$1.3 million. The Board of Education is requesting that the Borough bond for the cost of the turf field. The Board of Education proposed that it would repay the bond through the Borough.

The Borough agreed to discuss this at its upcoming meeting on February 11, 2013. The Board agreed to draft a Usage Agreement for the field.

Adjournment

Ms. Kragie moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Swadba. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lee Hunter

Board Secretary