
The Somerset Hills School District
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 24, 2010

Call to Order

The Public Input & Action meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mrs. Coons, President.

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.

Roll Call**Present**

Robert Baker
Donna Coons
John Dorr
Deborah Hawkins
Linda Kragie
Karen McMahon
Nancy Palazzolo
Louis Palma
Alice Rose
Lauriann Swadba

Absent

Deborah Hawkins

Also Present

Peter Miller
Nancy Lee Hunter
Barbara Walls

Executive Session

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Palma 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: 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.

Mrs. McMahon seconded the motion to adjourn to executive session and the resolution was passed by unanimous vote of 9-0. The Board returned to public session at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Coons reported that the Board discussed personnel and student matters.

Pledge of Allegiance**Correspondence**

None

Report of the Superintendent

1. Student/Staff Recognition

Mr. Miller congratulated Bedwell Elementary School for being selected a 2010 NJ State School of Character. Bedwell's Character Education program has been a model for other schools and we are very proud of this recognition. Mr. Ciulla, Assistant Principal, has been instrumental in this program and submitting the application. In attendance tonight, in addition to Mr. Ciulla are, Amy Phelan, Melissa Schwartz, Malinda Davis-Campbell, Allen Thurlow, Judi Jensen, Karen Schessler, and Marcy Craver, present tonight. Parents Sharon Warren and Kelly Uber were not present.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Anything Goes." The production this past weekend was wonderful. Bernards High School's senior Mark Neff, B.H.S. Ski Team, the defending State Champion 2009, finished this season overall #2 State Champion. The entire BHS boys ski team finished #1 Slalom State Champs - # 3 Overall State Champs. B.H.S. senior Megan Masuret, was named to the All State Team as she had fastest average of times in all league races of any female skier in the State.

2. Presentation of 2010-2011 School Budget

Mr. Miller and Mrs. Hunter gave a power point presentation on the 2010/2011 School Budget. Mr. Miller commented that this was the most challenging budget he has ever had to put together. Next year's budget will be an even greater challenge. Mrs. Hunter commented on the use of new grant funds to offset the budget.

Public Questions & Comments

Members of the public commented on the 2010/2011 budget regarding pension monies, benefits, salary increases and offered suggestions as to where the district could save money regarding staff members and sports. One suggestion was to have more volunteers in the district assisting in activities. There was discussion on staff reductions, retirements, class size and busing. Questions were asked about where staff reductions would be coming from. The public also commented about the need for the Association to come to the table and open up the contract.

Loretta Crowley, Bedwell Librarian, was very concerned about the impact of reducing the library aide at Bedwell. Bedwell's book circulation is about 35,000 a year.

Approval of MinutesAction1. Approval of Minutes*Resolution

Mr. Palma moved that the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes of March 10, 2010, be approved. Mrs. Swabda seconded the motion. Roll call vote 7-0-2. Mr. Dorr and Mrs. McMahon abstained.

Finance**Committee Report & Discussion**

No report.

Action Items

Mr. Dorr moved Finance resolutions 1-6, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

**Action
Resolution**1. **Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification**

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of February, 2010 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$5,596,957.45	\$5,596,957.45
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$216,534.79	\$216,534.79
(30) Capital Projects Fund	(\$969,020.21)	(\$969,020.21)
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$731,673.62	\$731,673.62
Total Government Funds	\$5,576,145.65	\$5,576,145.65

(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 overexpended 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**2. **Approve 2009-2010 Budget Transfers**

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of 2009-2010 budget transfers for February 2010.

**Action
Resolution**3. **Payment of Bills***

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated March 17, 2010 covering check numbers 20259 to 20357 in the amount of \$3,437,354.80 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	\$1,476,704.50
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$37,373.03
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$19,974.52
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$1,871,180.62
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$32,122.13
TOTAL	\$3,437,354.80

Action Resolution 4. Approve Bergen County Special Services School District Contract*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve a contract for home instruction by the Bergen County Special Services School for student 2013234.

Action Resolution 5. Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Budget *
RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopt the 2010-2011 Budget for submission to the County Superintendent of Schools for approval:

RESOLVED that the 2010-2011 school year tax levy be approved as follows:

General Fund	\$26,539,186
Debt Service	\$3,323,846
TOTAL	\$29,863,032

RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following ballot question for the April 20, 2010 Annual School Election:

RESOLVED that there should be raised for the General Fund **\$26,539,186** for the ensuing school year (2010-2011), to be allocated amongst the three regional school district municipalities as follows:

Bernardsville	\$19,385,143
Far Hills	\$1,576,210
Peapack/Gladstone	\$5,577,833

Action Resolution 6. Approve of Maximum Travel Appropriation*
RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education include in the 2010-2011 tentative budget a maximum travel appropriation of \$75,000. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. The 2010-2011 proposed budget will allow for a maximum regular business travel amount of \$1,500 per employee.

Curriculum

Committee Report & Discussion

Mrs. Palazzolo reported that they will be a meeting on April 6th to discuss the B.M.S. sports program.

Action Items

Mrs. Palazzolo moved Curriculum resolution 1, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

Action Resolution1. 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) Spring Track Team Penn Relays Carnival Track Meet University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA	4/22-23- 24/10	12	2	1
BHS	b) Spring Track Team New York Relays Icahn Stadium Randall's Island, NY	4/17/10	20	3	0
BHS	c) Life/Transition Skills Class Local businesses Bernardsville	4/7-14- 21-28 5/5-12- 19-26 6/2-9/10	5	1	1

Facilities & OperationsCommittee Report & Discussion

No report.

Action Items

Mr. Palma moved Facilities & Operations resolution 1, seconded by Ms. Kragie. The resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

Action Resolution1. Approve Disposal of Equipment

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following items to be sold at the County of Somerset auction:

Quantity	Serial Number	Item	Manufacturer	Model
1	1574627	Overhead Projector	3M	VOP-9050
1	635362	Overhead Projector	3M	213
1	674500	Overhead Projector	3M	213
1	1574632	Overhead Projector	3M	VOP-9050
1	1390049	Overhead Projector	3M	9050
1	4083139	Digital Camera	Olympus	D-600L
1	FE05507	CD & Cassette Recorder	Califone	Spirit 1776
1	KC 23753	CD & Cassette Recorder	Califone	2385AV-03
1	LOIA11254A	Palmcorder	Panasonic	PV-L651D
1	11043721	Video AC Adaptor	Panasonic	PV-A19
1	8926386	Camcorder	JVC	GR-AX30U

1	06950188	Adapter	JVC	CPS 020
1		Cassette Adapters	Lenmar	VCA24
1	1249361	Filmstrip Projector	Dukane	28A55
1	CJ060775	Audio Tape Recorder	Califone	1300AV
1	CH492466	Audio Tape Recorder	Califone	3132AV
1	XXXXXXXXXXXX	16MM Projector	Bell & Howell	2580A
1	2107374	Carousel Slide Projector	Kodak	850H
1	XXXXXXXXXXXX	PA System	Dukane	
1		Armoire - Cherry	Appx. 5'Hx4'Wx30"	
1		Armoire - Maple	Appx. 5'Hx4'Wx30"	
1		Armoire - Oak	Appx. 5'Hx4'Wx30"	
2		White Tables	3'x5'	Formica
6		Chairs	Red Stripe	Low Back
1		Office Chair	Blue	Hi Back
2		NISS Brand Vacuum Parts	Misc. Parts	New in box
1		Pedestal Table	3'x3'	
5		TV/AV Stands on Wheels		
1		RCA 19" TV		
1		GE 19" TV		
1		RCA Monitor		
1		Gateway Destination Monitor		

Policy**Committee Report & Discussion**

Mrs. McMahon stated that the committee will meet on April 5th.

Action Items

Mrs. McMahon moved Policy resolutions 1-3, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

Action Resolution 1. **Adoption Policy #0131 Bylaws and Policies–Revision**
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #0131 Bylaws and Policies.

Action Resolution 2. **Adoption Policy #5533 Pupil Smoking (M) –Revision**
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #5533 Pupil Smoking (M).

Action Resolution 3. Adoption Policy #7434 Smoking on School Grounds (M) –Revision
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #7434 Smoking on School Grounds (M).

Personnel

Committee Report & Discussion

No report.

Action Items

Mrs. Palazzolo moved Personnel resolutions 1-2, seconded by Mr. Baker. The resolutions were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

All personnel action is on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Action Resolution 1. Accept Resignation
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accepts the resignation of Tanya Podchaski, biology teacher at Bernards High School, effective June 30, 2010.

Action Resolution 2. Approval of Substitutes
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following substitutes for the 2009-2010 school year:

<u>Teacher</u>	
Michelle Corallo	Sub Certificate
Arthur Falgione	Sub Certificate
James Sheppard	Sub Certificate

Neighborhood Relations

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 6th.

Community Relations

Ms. Kragie announced that there will be a budget presentation at each of the Borough Council meetings.

Supplementary Matters

The Annual Chili Cook-off is scheduled for April 17, 2010.

The Board thanked Alice Rose, Bedminster representative to the Board, for her outstanding contributions to the work of the Board over these past 3 years. Mrs. Rose will not be seeking another term. Mrs. Rose thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and gave some suggestions to continue this work.

Public Questions & Comments

None

Adjournment

Mr. Palma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote of 10-0.

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.**