

**The Somerset Hills School District
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

Call to Order

The Public Input & Action meeting was called to order at 7:30 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
Deborah Hawkins
Linda Kragie
Karen McMahon
Nancy Palazzolo
Louis Palma
Alice Rose
Lauriann Swadba

Absent

John Dorr

Also Present

Peter Miller
Nancy Lee Hunter
Barbara Walls

Executive Session

At 6:30 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 10-0. The Board returned to public session at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Coons reported that the Board discussed personnel and litigation items while in executive session.

Pledge of Allegiance**Correspondence**

None.

Report of the Superintendent1. **Student/Staff Recognition**

Mr. Miller reported B.H.S that Coach Dave Szostak has been selected to receive the NFHS 2009 State of New Jersey Coach of the Year award for Girls Indoor Track. Congratulations to Coach Szostak! The Bernards boys and girls teams finished in an impressive 3rd place behind Bridgewater and Pingry at the Cougar Invitational. The boys swimming team is undefeated and ranked #16 in the State. The boys and the girls fencing teams won the district championships this weekend. Catherine Shih is ranked #15 nationally in the Pole Vault. She broke her own BHS record with a jump of 11' 7" in Las Vegas last weekend.

Bedwell

Congratulations to Ms. Kristine Hall's 2008-2009 Grade 3 class who will be mentioned in the dedication of Suzy Kline's latest book, Horrible Harry Goes Cuckoo, her latest (not yet published) addition to the popular Horrible Harry series. The dedication reads, "Ms. Hall's third grade class at Bedwell Elementary School in Bernardsville, New Jersey, for inspiring the director's chair".

2. **NJQSAC Update**

Mr. Miller reported that the district received passing scores on QSAC in each area. The County Office will now send the results to the State Dept. of Ed for verification; official results will be released sometime in May. This was a monumental task, and our success would not have been possible without the help of our entire staff, administrators, BOE and many community members.

(Passing = 80%)

Operations Management	100%
Fiscal Management	94%
Instruction and Program	93%
Personnel	95%
Governance	100%

3. **Grant Funding Update**

We were recently notified that we will receive a \$312,000 Federal Appropriation Grant to implement a comprehensive Cultural Tolerance Education Initiative to increase students' understanding of various world societies and their traditions, customs and way of life in an effort to broaden their understanding of international politics and religion. The establishment of three new courses will further this goal: a comparative world religions course at Bernards High School, a global politics and conflict course also to be taught at Bernards High School and an in-depth geography course at Bernardsville Middle School. The grant request, prepared by Millennium, our grant consultant, was taken from the District's Strategic Plan. The Board thanked Millennium Strategies.

Public Questions & Comments

None

Approval of MinutesAction 1. Approval of Minutes*Resolution Mrs. Hawkins moved that the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes of January 13, 2010 be approved. Mr. Palma seconded the motion. Roll call vote 9-0.**Finance****Committee Report & Discussion**

Mrs. Hunter gave the report. The Committee met on February 2, 2010 to discuss the 2010/11 budget.

Action Items

Mrs. Rose moved Finance resolutions 1-6, seconded by Ms. Kragie. Resolutions 1-2-3-5-6 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0. Resolution 4 was approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Action 1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*Resolution WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of December, 2009 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$6,057,672.67	\$6,057,672.67
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$154,223.58	\$154,223.58
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$(969,020.21)	\$(969,020.21)
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$272,279.12	\$272,279.12
Total Government Funds	\$5,515,155.16	\$5,515,155.16

(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 2. Approve 2009-2010 Budget Transfers*Resolution Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of 2009-2010 budget transfers for December 2009.Action 3. Payment of Bills*

Resolution WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated January 27, 2010 covering check numbers 19729 to 20031 in the amount of \$ 3,057,992.10 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	\$2,986,353.95
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$66,822.85
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-0-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-0-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$57,325.49
TOTAL	\$3,110,502.29

Action 4. Approve B.E.S. Pennies for Haiti Fund Raiser
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the B.E.S. Pennies for Haiti fundraiser.

Information A 3rd grade student is heading this fund raiser.

Action 5. Approve Revised Application for NCLB Grant Funds*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education authorizes revised application and approves funds for Fiscal Year 2010 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) grants as follows:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Public Allocation</u>	<u>Non Public Allocation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Title II Part A	\$28,074	\$1,688	\$29,762
Title II Part D	\$ 276	\$ 17	\$ 293
Title III	\$10,815	Not Accepted	\$10,815
Title IV	\$ 3,270	Not Accepted	\$ 3,270
Title I			Not Accepted

Action 6. Approve Waiver of Requirements Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Waiver of Requirements Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:
Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2010-11, and
Whereas, the Somerset Hills Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having less Medicaid eligible classified students than the state guideline of 30 students in the 2010-11 budget year.
Now Therefore Be It
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Somerset an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2010-11 year.

of
school

Curriculum**Committee Report & Discussion**

Mrs. Palazzolo gave the report. The Committee met on February 2, 2010.

Action Items

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

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
BMS	a)BMS Robotics Club Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School, Bridgewater, NJ Middle School Robotics Team Challenges	3/20/2010	18	1	1 + parents
BMS	b)BMS Band, Orchestra, Choirs Holmdel HS/Great Adventure, Holmdel, NJ Music Festival Trip	5/21/2010	155	5	15

Action**2. Approve Professional Development****Resolution**

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following professional development:

School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Est. Cost	Date
BES	a) Julian, Jane Kay	Reading Clubs in Action	\$ 199.00	2/22/10
BES	b) Seelig, Sophia	Reading Clubs in Action	\$ 199.00	2/22/10
BHS	c) Caswell, Jeff	N.J. Driver Education Updates	\$ 55.00	2/18/10
BES	d) Davitt, Robin	Girls on the Run Coach Training	\$ 100.00	2/27/10
BHS	e) Ferrara, Jim	American Physical Society Physics Workshop	\$ 243.88	2/11&12/10
BES	f) Jongema, Holly	Girls on the Run Coach Training	\$ 100.00	3/6/10
BHS	g) Trumpy, Fred	N.J. Music Educators State Conference	\$ 180.00	2/19/10

Facilities & Operations**Committee Report & Discussion**

Mr. Palma gave the report. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010.

Action Items

Mr. Palma moved resolution 1-3, seconded by Ms. Kragie. The resolutions passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.

Action Resolution 1. Authorization to Conduct School Election*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education authorizes the Board Secretary to take all action necessary to conduct the annual school election from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:60, and be it further
Resolved, that the Board Secretary be authorized to conduct the drawing for ballot positions on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the office of the Board of Education.
Information: Three (3) Board seats are open for Bernardsville residents and no Board seat is open for Peapack-Gladstone or Far Hills this year. Petitions for persons who wish to be placed on the ballot must be filed with the Board Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1 2010. Petition and school board candidate kits may be obtained from the Board Secretary between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 25 Olcott Avenue, Bernardsville, NJ

Action Resolution 2. Adoption – 2010-2011 School Calendar Option 4*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopt the 2010-2011 school calendar Option 4, as attached.

Action Resolution 3. Renewal of Agreement for Energy Income*
WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) is a party to an agreement with North America Power Partners, LLC (hereinafter referred to as “NAPP”), dated February 18, 2009; and
WHEREAS, the Board is interested in extending the agreement for an additional one (1) year term consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement and any addenda thereto;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board finds that NAPP is providing services under the agreement in an effective and efficient manner; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby agrees to extend the Agreement for an additional one (1) year term, as the price change as part of the one (1) year extension does not exceed the change in the index rate for the twelve (12) months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available, and the terms and conditions of the agreement shall remain substantially the same; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall deliver a copy of this resolution to NAPP as evidence of its intention to renew the agreement.

PolicyCommittee Report & Discussion

Mrs. McMahon reported on the committee. The next meeting is February 16, 2010.

Action Items

Mrs. McMahon moved resolutions 1-5, seconded by Mrs. Hawkins. The resolutions were passed by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Action 1. Adoption Policy #2560 Live Animals in School - Revision

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #2560 Live Animals in School.

Action 2. Adoption Policy #3126 Induction Program for Provisional Teachers - Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #3126 Induction Program for Provisional Teachers.

Action 3. Adoption Policy #3281 Inappropriate Staff Conduct - Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #3218 Inappropriate Staff Conduct.

Action 4. Adoption Policy #4281 Inappropriate Staff Conduct - Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the adoption of Policy #4281 Inappropriate Staff Conduct.

Action 5. First Reading Policy #6422 Budget Transfers – Revision
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #6422 Budget Transfers.

Personnel

Committee Report & Discussion

Mrs. Hawkins gave the committee report. She reported the committee met on January 21st and February 1st, 2010.

Action Items

Mrs. Hawkins moved resolutions 1-8, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Resolutions 1-2-3-6 were approved by a roll call vote of 8-0. Resolutions 4-5-7-8 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

All personnel action is on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Action 1. Approve Appointment of Paraprofessional
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Lisa Kotz as a part time Special Education Paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,648 (prorated) effective January 19, 2010, for the 2009-2010 school year.

Action 2. Approval of Parenthood Leave
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves a parenthood leave for Nicole Marshlian, teacher at Bernardsville Middle School, effective June 1, 2010 through the end of the first marking period (November 2010).

Action 3. Approval of Parenthood Leave
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves a parenthood leave for Lauren Smith, teacher at Bedwell Elementary School, effective May 3, 2010 through June 30, 2010.

Action 4. Approval of Unpaid Medical Leave*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves an unpaid medical leave with benefits (provided under FMLA, not to exceed 12 weeks) for Carolyn Benner, effective January 19 (p.m.) until further notice.

Action 5. Approval of Overloads*

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following overloads, effective January 12, 2010 until the end of the assignment (medical Benner):

Lisa Seela	\$82.13 per period
Lynda Burns	\$63.39 per period
Jeannette Bracero	\$46.49 per period
Dianne Berger	\$67.74 per period
Janice O'Brien	\$57.06 per period
Mara Hellman	\$86.19 per period

Action 6. Approval of Girls on the Run Coaches

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following coaches for Girls on the Run after school program at Bedwell. Program will run April 6 – June 10, Tuesday and Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$55.76. (This program is funded by the Somerset Hills Municipal Alliance):

Deborah Rokosky (full time)
 Sophia Seelig (full time)
 Karen Ayres (50%)
 Melissa Schwartz (50%)
 Holly Jongema (50%)
 Robin Davitt (50%)
Substitute Coaches
 Marcella Craver
 Jessica Collins
 Diana Sombers

Action 7. Approval of Substitutes*

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

Teacher

Maryann Amiano	Sub Certificate
Charles Johnson	Sub Certificate
Russell Kostelak	Sub Certificate
Robert Simon	CE

Bus Aide

Debra Sutula

Action 8. Approve Appointment of Computer Technician

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Robert Longueira, part time (8 hrs. per week) Computer Technician, at an hourly rate of \$27.55, effective February 9, 2010, for the 2009-2010 school year.

Neighborhood Relations

1. Mrs. Coons reported the committee met on January 19th. There was a discussion of driveway projects.

Community Relations

1. Mrs. Kragie reported that there will be a meeting on March 4.

Supplementary Matters

1. Mrs. Kragie mentioned the Chili Cook Off is coming up and items are needed for the silent auction.
2. Mr. Baker – There will be a meeting on Bernardsville Green Initiatives on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Bernardsville Library.
3. Mrs. Hunter shared with the Board and public a statement from the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools, Trudy Doyle, that the professional brochure on shared services distributed by the Somerset County Office was prepared by the Somerset County Business Partnership using grant funds.

Public Questions & Comment

1. Jim Ferrera, Bernardsville resident and B.H.S. teacher, likes the proposed calendar for 2010/2011. He said we lose a lot of days due to midterms, conferences, holidays, etc.

Adjournment

Ms. Kragie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mrs. Rose seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous 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.**