

**The Somerset Hills School District  
SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 21, 2011**

**Call to Order**

The Special meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mrs. Hawkins, Vice 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 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	Absent	Also Present
Robert Baker	Donna Coons	Peter Miller
Deborah Hawkins	John Dorr	Nancy Lee Hunter
Linda Kragie	Karen McMahon	Barbara Walls
Nancy Palazzolo		
Caitlyn Parker		
Louis Palma		
Lauriann Swadba		

**Executive Session**

At 2:00 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: Student Hearing

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. Hawkins seconded the motion to adjourn to executive session and the resolution was passed by unanimous vote of 8-0. The Board returned to public session at 2:56 p.m. Mrs. Hawkins reported that the Board discussed a Student Hearing.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Palma moved resolution #1, seconded by Mr. Baker. Resolution #1 was approved by a roll call vote of 7-0.

Action 1. Approve Out of School of Suspension  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the out of school suspension for B.H.S. student #2014736 until April 5, 2011, for a total of 20 days.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Palma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Ms. Kragie seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote of 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara Walls*  
Assistant Superintendent

**The Somerset Hills School District  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2011**

**Executive Session****Roll Call**

Present	Absent	Also Present
Robert Baker	Donna Coons	Peter Miller
Deborah Hawkins	John Dorr	Nancy Lee Hunter
Linda Kragie		Barbara Walls
Karen McMahan		
Nancy Palazzolo		
Caitlyn Parker		
Louis Palma		
Lauriann Swadba		

**Time Executive Session Began: 2:00 p.m.**

- Student Hearing

Mr. Miller explained the charge, possession of alcohol, first offense. Tomorrow is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the out of school suspension. The decision to be made is the length of the suspension.

Dr. Corbett, BHS Assistant Principal, provided an overview of the incident. There have been no other major incidents for this student prior to the March 8, 2011 possession of alcohol. This incident included a deviation that varied from the standard coding procedure because the student was uncooperative. The parent has been cooperative. Negative test for under the influence because the testing occurred approximately 4-5 hours later.

At 2:15 p.m. the student and parent entered the meeting. Mr. Miller explained to the student and her parent the purpose of the hearing and the way in which they will be notified of the results.

Student said she has had anxiety issues and drinking helps her get through the day. Mr. Miller and Board of Education members asked questions.

At 2:26 p.m. student and parent left the meeting. Mr. Miller told them they will be notified by noon Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, of the outcome of the hearing.

The Board discussed the hearing testimony that was presented. The following additional conditions were decided upon:

- Out of school suspension until April 5<sup>th</sup>. Return on April 6<sup>th</sup>. (20 days total).
- Extended substance evaluation through Catholic Charities.
- Re-admittance conference meeting with Mr. Grund every other day until further notice.

**Time Executive Session Ended: 2:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Walls  
Assistant Superintendent

