

**The Somerset Hills School District  
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING MINUTES –NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

**Call to Order**

The Public Input & Action meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Coons, President.

**Welcome****Roll Call****Present**

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

**Absent**

Karen McMahan  
Caitlyn Parker

**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 Contracts Negotiations.

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 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Coons reported that the Board discussed personnel, litigation and contract negotiations.

**Pledge of Allegiance****Correspondence**

1. Thank You letter from Barbara Burns, BHS student

### **Report of the Superintendent**

1. Curriculum Presentation – Bedwell Support Programs for Reading and Math  
Ms. Phelan, Bedwell Principal, introduced Lauren Smith, Janis Virtue and Gretchen Dempsey who presented the Bedwell Elementary School Support Program for reading and math.
2. Student/Staff  
The Hobbit is being presented at the B.H.S. Pac Center on November 19, 20 & 21, 2010.  
The Digital Photography Show at Starbucks in Bernardsville begins Thursday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Baker who announced that the Borough of Bernardsville received bronze level Sustainable Jersey certification. Bernardsville completed an energy audit for the municipal buildings and a natural resource inventory, plus 14 other action items, to reach this level. Only 67 towns in NJ (or about 10%) are certified. Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Board of Education member and Co-Chair of the Borough Green Team, Robert Baker, accepted the award along with Mayor Lee Honecker.
4. Mr. Miller introduced Mrs. Hunter who announced that the district is eligible for the “Energy Star Leader Award” for 10% reduction in energy during the first 9 months of the SEE Program. In addition, B.M.S. is eligible for the “Energy Star Label Award” for superior energy management.

### **Public Questions & Comments**

1. Bernardsville Chief of Police Kevin Valentine presented a study to the Board of Education outlining his concerns on the proposed tree planting around Olcott Field and B.H.S. His concerns are related to campus security and public safety.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <u>Action</u>     | 1. <u>Approval of Minutes*</u>   |
| <u>Resolution</u> | Mr. Palma moved that the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes of October 13, 2010, be approved. Ms. Kragie seconded the motion. Roll call vote 8-0. |
| <u>Action</u>     | 2. <u>Approval of Minutes*</u>   |
| <u>Resolution</u> | Mr. Palma moved that the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes of October 26, 2010, be approved. Ms. Kragie seconded the motion. Roll call vote 8-0. |

### **Finance**

#### **Committee Report**

Mr. Dorr gave the report. The committee met on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The next meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Action Items**

Mr. Dorr moved Finance resolutions 1-10, seconded by Mr. Palma. The motions were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

Action  
Resolution1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification

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

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)</b>	<b>Treasurer Cash Balance (2)</b>
(10) General Fund	6,040,506.55	6,040,506.55
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(285,195.59)	(285,195.59)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	(1,284,592.78)	(1,284,592.78)
(40) Debt Service Fund	(550,406.57)	(550,406.57)
Total Government Funds	\$3,920,311.61	\$3,920,311.61

(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  
Resolution2. Approve 2010-2011 Budget Transfers

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

Action  
Resolution3. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated September 30, 2010 covering check numbers 21855 to 21863 in the amount of \$74,322.26 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:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
(10) General Fund	\$74,273.76
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$48.50
(30) Capital Projects Fund	-0-
(40) Debt Service Fund	-0-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	-0-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,322.26</b>

Action  
Resolution4. Payment of Bills\*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated October 31, 2010 covering check numbers 21864 to 22069 in the amount of \$3,382,778.81 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:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
(10) General Fund	\$3,179,847.71
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$142,635.79
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$2,368.20
(40) Debt Service Fund	-0-
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$57,927.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,382,778.81</b>

Action 5. Approve Federal Appropriations Grant  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve a Federal Appropriations Grant in the amount of \$312,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for a Cultural Tolerance Education Initiative, as set forth in the District Strategic Plan.

Action 6. Approve Energy Procurement Contract (Revised)\*  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve an electrical supply contract with Direct Energy for a 24 month term, beginning May 2011, whereby Direct Energy shall provide electrical power supply to the Somerset Hills School District at a rate of \$0.089 /kWh.  
Information Initial rate approved at October 13, 2010 meeting was \$.08919/kWh; final rate per contract is \$.089/kWh.

Action 7. Approve Fund Raiser  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the B.H.S. Math League Fund raiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Action 8. Acceptance Somerset County Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program Grant  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accept the Somerset County Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program Grant in the amount of \$748.00 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Action 9. Approve Tuition Student  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve B.H.S. tuition student, son of Ahni Kruger, Grade 9, for the 2011-2012 school year at a tuition to be determined.

Action 10. Amendment to IDEA ARRA Preschool Application  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve an amendment to the 2009-2011 IDEA ARRA Preschool Grant application to reflect a transfer of grant funds from Tuition (100-500) to Related Services (100-300) in the amount of \$18,374.

## Curriculum

### Committee Report

Mrs. Palazzolo gave the report. The committee met on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Action Items

Mrs. Palazzolo moved Curriculum resolutions 1-2, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

Action Resolution1. Approve Field Trips

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following field trips:

<b>School</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b># of Faculty</b>	<b># of Chaperones</b>
BHS	a) Photography/Technology Class Liberty Science Center Jersey City NJ	1/6/11	40	2	2
BHS	b) Advanced Photo Museum of Modern Art NYC	4/13/11	40	2	2
BHS	c) BHS Jazz Ensemble Six Flags Great Adventure Jackson NJ	5/27/11	16	2	0
BMS	d) 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip New York City	6/10/11	150	12	13
BMS	e) 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Band & Orchestra Choirs Music Festival Allentown High School Festival Allentown PA	5/13/11	182	4	20
BHS	f) Ski Team Stratton Mountain Stratton VT Ski Team Racing Training	12/9/10- 12/12/10	24	1	5

Action Resolution2. Approve Professional Development

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

<b>School</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Workshop/Conference</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Date</b>
BHS	a) Babicke, Dennis	Maximum Adobe Photoshop	\$179.00	11/22/10
BHS	b) Collins, Kay	Effective Strategies for Math Inclusion	\$195.00	11/22/10
BHS	c) DeRoberts, Theresa	Globalizing Schooling: New challenges for the next 30 years	\$153.60	12/3/10
BHS	d) Waddell, Lisa	2011 NJTEA Conference & Expo	\$100.00	3/18/11

BES	e) Butler, Coleen	Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Legal Issues	\$50.00	12/3/10
BES	f) Crowley, Sue	Winners-Bet Books for Children K-6	\$179.00	4/27/11
BES	g) Davis-Campbell, Malinda	Bullying: Practical Prevention Strategies	\$147.00	12/14/10
BES	h) Davis-Campbell, Malinda	Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Legal Issues	\$50.00	12/3/10
BES	i) Kirschner, Mindy	Children with ADHD, Language Processing & Sensorimotor Challenges	\$179.00	12/9/10
Olcott	j) Miller, Peter	Techspo 2011	\$474.76	1/27&28/11
BMS	k) Morawick, Amanda	A School Counselor's Role in Addressing Harassment, etc.	\$50.00	12/2/10
BHS	l) Dooley, Megan	Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Legal Issues	\$50.00	12/3/10
BES	l) Virtue, Janis	Looking Beyond Strategies to What Else is Involved	\$274.41	11/18/10
Olcott	m) Walls, Barbara	School Negotiations – The Christie Era	\$120.00	12/3/10
Olcott	n) Walls, Barbara	Personnel Management in Turbulent Times	\$120.00	1/11/11
Olcott	o) Walls, Barbara	Effective Contract Administration	\$120.00	4/7/11
Olcott	p) Walls, Barbara	Latest Legal Developments	\$120.00	5/5/11
BES	q) Weber-Hummel, Lisa	Supporting Students with Disabilities in GenEd Programs	\$17.72	4/1/11
BES	r) Windisch, Mary Clare	Looking Beyond Strategies to What Else is Involved	\$219.00	11/18/10

### **Facilities & Operations**

#### Committee Report

Mr. Palma gave the report. The committee met on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Action Items

Mr. Palma moved resolution 1, Ms. Kragie seconded the motion. The resolution was passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

The Board discussed Chief Valentine's concerns and the upcoming Planning Board meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Coons asked Mrs. Swadba to give the Neighborhood Relations report as it is relative at this time.

#### Neighborhood Relations

Mrs. Swadba reported that the Neighborhood Relations Committee met on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss landscaping concerns. The Committee believes that a compromise can be achieved.

- Action 1. Approve Annual Maintenance Budget Worksheet\*  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (Form M-1) calculation of \$125,023.

### Policy

#### Committee Report

Mrs. Walls reported that the Committee met on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Action Items

Mrs. Palazzolo moved Policy resolutions 1-5, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

- Action 1. Second Reading and Adoption Policy #2431.3 Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for Interscholastic Athletics – New

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #2431.3 Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for Interscholastic Athletics – New

- Action 2. Second Reading and Adoption Policy #2431.4 Concussion Testing and Return-to-Play – New

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #2431.4 Concussion Testing and Return-to-Play – New

- Action 3. Second Reading and Adoption Policy #4159 Support Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities - New

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #4159 Support Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities - New

- Action 4. First Reading and Adoption Policy #5460 High School Graduation – Revised

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the first reading and adoption of Policy #4159 High School Graduation – Revised.

- Action 5. First Reading Policy #5830 Pupil Fund Raising – Revised

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy #5830 Pupil Fund Raising – Revised.

### Personnel

#### Committee Report

No report.

All personnel action is on the recommendation of the Superintendent

#### Action Items

Mrs. Coons moved resolutions 1-7, seconded by Mr. Palma. The resolutions were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

Hearing on the Contract for the Superintendent

Mrs. Coons opened the hearing on the contract for the Superintendent and stated that N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 requires boards of education to permit the public to comment on any changes or amendments to certain administrative contracts. Mrs. Coons read a statement on behalf of the Board (attached to the minutes).

Mrs. Coons offered Congratulations to Mr. Miller on his new contract, with wishes for much success and happiness. "We are grateful to have you agree to continue as the leader of our district. While there are many loose ends that need to be tied up in the next few years, we have a great team in place to accomplish those goals under your leadership."

She thanked the board and the administrative team for all their hard work and support through the process.

"I just want to say that I am grateful and thankful to be able to work with such a remarkable group of people, your dedication, work ethic and diligence far exceed the norm. It is my honor to be a part of such a wonderful group."

Public Comment

No comment or questions on Mr. Miller's contract.

Action 1. Approval of Superintendent's Contract  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education hereby rescinds the Employment Agreement with the Superintendent of Schools and ratifies an agreement with a term of November 18, 2010, to the close of business on June 30, 2015.

Action 2. Accept Resignation  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accepts the resignation of Desiree DeNourie, part time special education paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, effective November 3, 2010.

Action 3. Approval of Paraprofessional  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Helen Patatoukas, part time (3.8 hrs/day) paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,947 (prorated), effective November 15, 2010, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Action 4. Approval of Salary Guide Advancement  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following salary guide advancement, retroactive to September 1, 2010, based upon the successful completion of the necessary graduate and PDI credits:

	<u>Step</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Anne Connor	16	MA+30 to MA+45	\$87,343

Action 5. Rescind Athletic Position  
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education rescind the following athletic position for the 2010-2011 school year:



<u>High School</u>		<u>Stipend</u>
Kyle Markovich	Ski Team: Head	\$6,495

Action Resolution 6. Approval of Athletic/Co-Curricular Positions  
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following athletic/co-curricular positions:

<u>High School</u>		<u>Stipend</u>
Timothy Mure	Ski Team: Head	\$6,495
Jade Pietroluongo	Musical: Spring Choreographer	\$ 4,158
Jonathan Cherng	Fencing – Volunteer	
Andrew Martino	Men’s Basketball – Volunteer	
Kyle Markovich	Ski Team – Volunteer	
<u>Middle School</u>		
Carrie Malwitz	Peer Tutoring (funded by The Somerset Hills Youth Services Commission and Municipal Alliance Committee)	\$ 1,000

Action Resolution 7. Approval of Substitutes  
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following substitutes:

<u>Teacher</u>	
Janice Backer	Sub Certificate
Gerald Cerza	Sub Certificate
Janel Ellard	Standard Certificate
Joseph Laramendia	CEAS
Kathleen Ryerson	Standard Certificate
Jessica Wetzel	Standard Certificate
Patricia Wilkinson	Sub Certificate
<u>Nurses</u>	
Janice Backer	
Janet Blasi	
Amy Einhorn	
Melissa Jordan	
Jennifer Luisi	
Kathleen Maurice	
Kristen Rasner	
<u>Custodian</u>	
Kim-Lang Chan	

### Community Relations

Mrs. Coons gave the report. The Committee met on October 27, 2010.

### Supplementary Matters

None.

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**Public Questions & Comments**

1. Mr. DiGiacchino asked the Board to give a lot of thought to Chief Valentines' concerns. The Board should not compromise the safety of our kids. Mr. DiGiacchino asked what was the rationale for dropping the appeal of Judge Ciccone's decision. No other district in the State is required to go to the Planning Board on these matters.
2. Mrs. Kellogg questioned why the school district would release a photo to be used for a politician's campaign. Mr. Miller responded that the photo in questions was taken by the Bernardsville News, not the school district.
3. Mr. DiGiacchino commented on discouraging politicians from using our students' pictures in political campaigns.
4. Mr. Lincoln said that the neighbors have demonstrated a willingness to compromise and have been volunteering their efforts to assist the school district in completing the project.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Ms. Kragie seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of 8-0.

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.**

Mrs. Coons, President, shared the following with the public:

Mr. Miller has served at the Somerset Hills School District for 32 years. The positions Mr. Miller served as include, the Superintendent and Interim Superintendent for 7 years, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum director, Director of guidance, Technology Teacher and Coordinator just to name a few. We attribute the fact that our referendum was completed on time and under budget to the profound leadership of Mr. Miller. You would be hard pressed to find any other NJ construction project that can tout that accomplishment.

Presently, there are many schools districts with interim superintendents in the state. As we embark on creating a budget, hiring a new high school principal, working on shared services and preparing for the upcoming contract negotiations with the Union, we have only one choice for leadership in the district and that is to return Pete Miller as superintendent. We need to hire a high school principal whom will need support and direction as they assimilate into our school culture and mission while administering the curriculum goals and strategic plan. With our superintendent this board has been very successful in reducing spending and lowering administrative costs while maintaining programming at little or no increase to the tax payer. With the possibility of additional cuts we need the experience of Mr. Miller and his team to be able to accomplish that as we begin to prepare for negotiations and try to maintain a strong staff and be fiscally responsible.

We know that negotiations will be arguably more challenging than in the past and we remain as a district with only one administrator that has any history. Who will it be that remains to administer this new contract after we all walk away from the negotiating table? There will be only one leader that has the experience, history, and relationships to work on rebuilding those bridges that affect the education of our students. Unlike any other organization, our greatest asset is children and we need to remember that it is our job to protect and educate them in a safe comfortable environment.

With that said, superintendent contract discussions began in August and the executive county superintendent approved all key elements in early September and followed up with a letter of confirmation that was received on November 1. Mr. Miller has volunteered to accept a three year pay freeze, with the elimination of disability and life insurance, and no tuition reimbursement. He will contribute 1.5% of his salary toward healthcare and accept a contract that includes a potential merit bonus. His total net loss is 14.2% of previous compensation. This is a model for all future employment contracts district wide. As compared to the proposed Governor Christie model of a capped superintendent salary the difference is \$31,000.00/year\* and risking the quality of our education, which directly impacts the value of our homes.

At this juncture, we believe this is the most prudent and responsible thing that this board of education can do to protect the education of our students, support our staff and be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers.

\*I district compensation is: \$ 157,500 + 15% bonus = \$181,000.