
**The Somerset Hills School District
PUBLIC INPUT & ACTION MEETING MINUTES –MARCH 9, 2011**

Call to Order

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

The meeting relocated to the Performing Arts Center. There were more than 150 staff and residents in attendance.

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**

Robert Baker

Donna Coons

John Dorr

Deborah Hawkins *arrived at 8:45 p.m.

Linda Kragie

Karen McMahon

Nancy Palazzolo

Caitlyn Parker

Louis Palma

Lauriann Swadba

Absent**Also Present**

Peter Miller

Nancy Lee Hunter

Barbara Walls

Executive Session

At 6:35 p.m., Mrs. Coons 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, Student Matters, Contracts, Negotiations and Litigation.

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 7:45 p.m. Mrs. Coons reported that the Board discussed student matters, personnel and litigation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence

1. Letter from Sean Sullivan, B.M.S. student
2. Letter from Todd and Kate Schmerler
3. Letter from Somerset Hills Parents of Exceptional Children
4. Letter from Kathleen Thorn
5. Letter from Lynn Sharp

Report of the Superintendent

1. Donations
Mr. Miller thanked the PAC Parents for their donation of \$1,000 for PAC lighting and the B.H.S. HSA donation of \$2,500 for student handbooks.
2. Student/Staff Recognition
The Somerset Hills Educational Professional Awards (formerly the Teacher Recognition Awards) were selected last week for outstanding teacher or educational professional. We are very proud to announce the recipients for each school:

Bedwell	Dawn King	3 rd Grade
Bernardsville Middle School	Joy White	8 th Grade Literacy
Bernards High School	Mara Hellman	Special Education

 Congratulations to all the winners!

This year's High School winner, Mara Hellman, will be retiring this year. Mara has been part of our Special Education team for 8 years in both the middle and high school and has always shown tremendous dedication to her students.

Also retiring is Louise Shapiro. Louise has been in the district for 10 years, initially at Bedwell and then at the middle school. Louise has been an enthusiastic and concerned teacher who also has volunteered on various district initiatives.

Mr. Miller Reported that:

Sam Rosin has been named a National Merit Scholarship Program FINALIST. The National Merit Scholarship Program will now select 8,400 Merit Scholarship winners from this group of finalists.

BHS musical, Godspell, will be performed March 11 and March 12 at 7PM and March 13 at 2:30.

3. Introduction of the 2011-2012 Budget
Mr. Miller and Mrs. Hunter gave a power point presentation introducing the 2011-2012 Budget to the Board of Education and responded to questions from the Board on the budget.

Public Questions & Comments

Mrs. Coons, President, read the following statement regarding the outsourcing of paraprofessionals and custodians.

The Board and administration has been and remains willing to meet with SHEA leadership to discuss a solution that would result in the same savings that would be achieved by outsourcing the custodians and paraprofessionals.

If we are unable to achieve a resolution and outsourcing occurs, all currently employed custodians and paraprofessionals will have the opportunity to be interviewed and hired. All paraprofessionals will continue to be trained by the district.

Mr. Foglia, SHEA representative, asked the Board if it was necessary to wait for the bids before proposing a counter offer on behalf of the custodians. Mrs. Hunter responded no. The number that we are looking at is \$432,807. Mr. Foglia asked that if the union makes concessions to save the paraprofessionals and custodians, isn't it true that the Board could still outsource these two groups? Mr. Miller responded that an agreement could be constructed whereby their jobs were protected.

Many residents and staff members asked the Board to reconsider the outsourcing of paraprofessionals and custodians. The sentiment was that the special education population would be put at risk and that the paraprofessionals and custodian jobs should be saved. The Board should not balance the budget on the back of the most vulnerable employees. Mr. Miller responded that the outsourced paraprofessionals would be interviewed and trained by the school district and would include as many of the existing staff as are interested. The entity providing the paraprofessional services would be Somerset County Educational Services Commission or the Morris Union Jointure Commission which are governed by the same New Jersey State laws and regulations regarding school employees, as the School District. A resident thanked the Board of Education for doing such a good job on the budget staying within CAP and reducing the school budget.

A custodian spoke on behalf of his group stating that they are willing to give back in order to keep their jobs. The Board responded that it was looking forward to seeing the proposal from the Association.

A staff member asked what positions would be reduced in the budget. The Superintendent responded that the final decision has not been made and the reductions would be done through attrition whenever possible.

Approval of Minutes

<u>Action</u>	1. <u>Approval of Minutes*</u>
<u>Resolution</u>	Ms. Kragie moved that the Public Input & Action, Executive and Open Public Community Finance meeting minutes of February 9, 2011 be approved. Mr. Palma seconded the motion.
<u>Roll</u>	call vote 10-0.

Finance**Committee Report**

Mr. Dorr gave the committee report.

Action Items

Mr. Dorr moved Finance resolutions 1-6, seconded by Mr. Palma. Resolutions 1-6 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

<u>Action</u>	1. <u>Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*</u>
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Resolution WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of February, 2011 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$4,212,387.84	\$4,212,387.84
(20) Special Revenue Fund	-\$10,077.50	-\$10,077.50
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$341,419.49	\$341,419.49
(40)Debt Service Fund	\$748,447.06	\$748,447.06
Total Government Funds	\$5,292,176.89	\$5,292,176.89

(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.

(Treasurers report will be distributed at the Board meeting.)

Action 2. Approve 2010-2011 Budget Transfers*

Resolution Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for February 2011.

Action 3. Payment of Bills*

Resolution WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented a check register dated February, 2011 covering check numbers 22701 to 22892 in the amount of \$3,793,318.20 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	\$3,491,995.30
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$157,996.98
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$2,269.22
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$88,048.36
(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$53,008.34
TOTAL	\$3,793,318.20

Action Resolution 4. Approve Waiver of Requirements Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills board of Education approve the Waiver of Requirements Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:
Whereas, NJAC 6:A23A-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
Whereas, the Somerset Hills Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it estimated having less Medicaid eligible classified students than the state guideline of 30 students in the 2011-2012 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 6:A23A-5.3 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Action Resolution 5. Approve Facility for Bedside Instruction*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ to provide bedside instruction for the 2010-2011 school year.

Action Resolution 6. Approval of Preliminary Budget Submission: 2011-2012*
RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education adopt the preliminary 2011-2012 Budget for submission to the County Superintendent of Schools for approval as per attachment; *
And, be it further
RESOLVED that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves that the 2011-2012 general fund tax levy of \$27,069,970 and the debt service fund tax levy of \$3,294,658 representing a total tax levy of \$30,364,628 which represents a 1.7% increase from the tax levy for 2010-2011;
And, be it further
RESOLVED that the Board Secretary be authorized to make minor adjustments as may be required by additional state information and/or the County Superintendent.
And, be it further
RESOLVED that a Public Hearing for adoption of the 2011-2012 Budget be held on March 30, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at The Community Room at Bernards High School.

Curriculum

Committee Report

Mrs. Palazzolo gave the committee report. The committee met on March 8th. The next meeting will be on March 22nd.

Action Items

Mrs. Palazzolo moved Curriculum resolutions 1-3, seconded by Mr. Palma. Resolutions 1-3 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

Action Resolution 1. 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) Annual William Paterson World Language Poetry Recitation Contest William Paterson University Wayne NJ	5/9/11	11	2	0
BHS	b) College Tour of Project Horizons Program County College of Morris Randolph NJ	3/25/11	10-12	2	0
BHS	c) Boys tennis training and matches Bethany Beach DE	3/31/11 (pm) to 4/3/11	10	1	0
BHS	d) Boys & Girls Spring Track Team competition University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia PA	04/28- 29/11	10	1	1

Action Resolution

2. Approve Professional Development*

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

School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Est. Cost	Date
BHS	a) Collins, Kay	Building Classrooms for the 21 st Century	\$ 64.26	4/16/11
BES	b) Craver, Marcella	Improving Memory & Achievement in the Classroom	\$239.00	4/7/11
BES	c) Dempsey, Gretchen	Activities to Connect to the new Common Core Standards	\$195.00	3/29/11
BMS	d) Dorfman, Olivia	Confratute – Univ. of Conn.	\$1,150.00	7/10-15/11
BES	e) Fischer, Susan	Building a Professional Learning Community	\$125.00	3/10/11
BHS	f) Grund, John	Project Adventure Level 2 Recertification	\$ 172.08	4/27-29/11
BHS	g) Janosko, Ashley	The PIKE Tour	\$ 138.20	3/28-30/11
BMS	h) LaCotta, Katherine	Visual Projects for Enhancing Art Program	\$ 215.00	4/14/11
BES	i) Lagatic, Christa	Helping Emotionally Challenged Students	\$120.00	4/7/11
BHS	j) O'Brien, Janice	Romeo & Juliet: More than a Love Story?	\$ 170.00	3/18/11
BES	k) Pike, Emily	Confratute – Univ. of Conn.	\$1,360.40	7/10-15/11
Olcott	l) Shouffler,	Building a Professional Learning	\$144.22	3/10/11

	Jennifer	Community		
Olcott	m) Shouffler, Jennifer	NY Core Conference	\$130.00	3/26/11
BHS	n) Venezio, Maria	Romeo & Juliet: More than a Love Story?	\$135.00	3/18/11
BES	o) Windisch, Mary Clare	Building a Professional Learning Community	\$125.00	3/10/11

Action
Resolution

3. Approve Calculation of Grade Point Average 2011-2012*
Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the following grade weighting change for calculation of Grade Point Average beginning in the 2011-2012 school year for the Bernards High School Class of 2015.

Current Chart for Weighting Grades at BHS

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
AP	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	0
H	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	0
Others	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

Proposed Chart for Weighting Grades at BHS starting with graduating Class of 2015

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
AP	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0
H	4.8	4.5	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.3	1.0	0.7	0
Others	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0

Facilities & Operations

Committee Report

No report.

Policy

Committee Report

Mrs. McMahon gave a report. Next meeting is April 12, 2011.

Action Items

Mrs. McMahon moved Policy resolutions 1-9, seconded by Mr. Palma. Resolutions 1-9 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

Action

1. First Reading and Adoption - Bylaw 0141.2 – Board Member and Term – Receiving District (Revised)

Resolution

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading and adoption of Bylaw 0141.2 – Board Member and Term – Receiving District (Revised).

Action

2. First Reading and Adoption - Policy 1230 – Superintendent’s Duties (Revised)

Resolution

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading and adoption of Policy 1230 – Superintendent’s Duties (Revised).

Action

3. First Reading and Adoption - Policy 2132 – School District Goals and Objectives (Revised)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading and adoption of Policy 2132 – School District Goals and Objectives (Revised).

Action 4. First Reading and Adoption - Policy 6150 – Tuition Income (Revised)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading and adoption of Policy 6150 – Tuition Income (Revised).

Action 5. First Reading – Policy 1522 – School – Level Planning (M) (Revised)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 1522 – School – Level Planning (M) (Revised).

Action 6. First Reading – Policy 2440 – Summer Session (New)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 2440 – Summer Session (New).

Action 7. First Reading – Policy 6220 – Budget Preparation (M) (Revised)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 6220 – Budget Preparation (M) (Revised).

Action 8. First Reading – Policy 6311 – Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (New)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 6311 – Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (New).

Action 9. First Reading – Policy 6820 – Financial Reports (M) (Revised)

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 6820 – Financial Reports (M) (Revised).

Personnel

Committee Report

Mrs. Hawkins gave the report. The committee met on March 7th. The next meeting is March 23rd.

Mr. Miller commented on the retirements of Mara Hellman and Louise Shapiro and thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the school district.

Action Items

Mrs. Hawkins moved Personnel resolutions 1-14, seconded by Ms. Kragie. Resolutions 1- 5, 7-10, 13-14 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0. Resolutions 6, 11, 12 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

All personnel action is on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Action 1. Approval of Paraprofessional

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Mary Walker, part time (3.8 hrs/day) special education paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,947 (prorated), effective March 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (Marchetta retirement)

Action 2. Approval of Paraprofessional

Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Sharon Bass, part time (3.8 hrs/day) special education paraprofessional at

Bernardsville Middle School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,947 (prorated), effective March 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (Weller retirement)

Action
Resolution

3. Approval of Paraprofessional

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Laura Pelos, part time (3.8 hrs/day) special education paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,947 (prorated), effective March 4, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (Marchetta retirement)

Action
Resolution

4. Approval of Paraprofessional

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Kimberly Johnson, part time (3.8 hrs/day) special education paraprofessional at Bedwell Elementary School, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$12,947 (prorated), effective March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (New)

Action
Resolution

5. Approval of Long Term Substitute

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Molly Walsh, long term substitute at Bedwell Elementary School, Level BA, Step 1, at a per diem rate of \$259, effective April 25, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (Ziolkowski parenthood leave)

Action
Resolution

6. Accept Retirement*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accepts, with regret, the retirement of Mara Hellman, special education teacher at Bernards High School, effective June 30, 2011, with thanks for 8 years of service to the district.

Action
Resolution

7. Amend Dates of Parenthood Leave

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education amend the dates of parenthood leave for Susan Daniw to March 14, 2011 through July 8, 2011.

Action
Resolution

8. Approval of Temporary Computer Technician

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the appointment of Maxwell Pike, temporary computer technician, 35 hours per week, at an hourly rate of \$27.00, effective March 14, 2011 through June 30, 2011. (Daniw parenthood leave).

Action
Resolution

9. Approval of Girls on Track Coaches

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following staff members as Girls on Track program coaches at an hourly rate of \$58.24. Program will run from March 31 through June 7, 2 days per week. (funded by the Municipal Alliance Committee):
Amanda Morawick
Melissa Paparozzi

Action
Resolution

10. Rescind Co-Curricular Position

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education rescind the following co-curricular position:

Middle School

Lisa Drew

Open Gym – Girls' Spring

Action 11. Approval of Athletic Positions*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following athletic positions for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>High School</u>		<u>Stipend</u>
Kelly Clark	Tennis: Men's Assistant (JV)	\$ 4,563
Nick Hemans	Men's Lacrosse	Volunteer

Action 12. Approval of Substitutes*
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following substitutes:

<u>Teacher</u>	
Nancy Carle	Sub Certificate
Michele Duskin	CEAS
Laura Pelos	Sub Certificate
Jeffrey Wyszowski	Sub Certificate
Mary Walker	Standard
Molly Walsh	CEAS
Andrienne Buss	CEAS

Paraprofessional
Sharon Bass
Laura Pelos
Mary Walker
Kimberly Johnson

Action 13. Accept Retirement
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education accepts, with regret, the retirement of Louise Shapiro, teacher at Bernardsville Middle School, effective June 30, 2011, with thanks for 9 years of service to the district.

Action 14. Approval of Girls on the Run Coaches
Resolution Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the following staff members as Girls on the Run program coaches at an hourly rate of \$58.24. Program will start April 7 for 10 weeks. (funded by the Municipal Alliance)

Karen Ayres	2.5 hours per week
Deborah Rokosky	2.5 hours per week
Marcy Craver	1.5 hours per week
Michele Freda	1.5 hours per week
Melissa Leonard	1.5 hours per week
Jessica Collins	1.5 hours per week

Neighborhood Relations

There has been no meeting. Mrs. Swadba reported that the landscaping issue has been resolved.

Community Relations

No meeting.

Supplementary Matters

It was announced that the Chili Cook-Off will be held on April 9, 2011.

Public Questions & Comments

Two residents commented on budget issues.

Adjournment

Mr. Palma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Ms. Kragie 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.**