
**The Somerset Hills School District
Regular Meeting Agenda - March 16, 2022
Executive Session - 6:30 P.M.
Public Input & Action - 7:30 P.M.
Bernards High School Media Center**

Call to Order & Welcome

Mrs. Santoro called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Baker	Mr. Joyce
Mrs. Clark-Emery	Ms. Nathans
Ms. Cooper	Mrs. Santoro
Mrs. deGrandpré	Mrs. Tober
Mrs. Frenda	Mrs. Wry

Also Present:

Dr. Gretchen Dempsey
Dr. Coleen Butler
Mrs. Jinnee DeMarco
Ms. Derlys M. Gutierrez, Esq.

Executive Session

Mrs. Wry moved the following at 6:03 p.m., Mrs. Frenda seconded.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Report of the Superintendent

1. *School Law Talks - NJ Law surrounding Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)* - Board Attorney, Derlys Gutierrez, Esq.
2. Student Representatives’ Report
3. 2022-2023 Budget Presentation- Dr. Gretchen Dempsey, Superintendent, and Ms. Jinnee DeMarco, Business Administrator and Board Secretary
4. Board Recognition - Retirees

- WHEREAS Fred Trumpy has been employed from September 1994 through June 2022 as a Teacher of Music and;

WHEREAS, Fred Trumpy exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in his duties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Fred Trumpy's retirement effective July 1, 2022, and extend to him congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

- WHEREAS Colleen Zuppa has been employed from September 2003 through June 2022 as a Paraprofessional and;

WHEREAS, Colleen Zuppa exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Colleen Zuppa's retirement effective July 1, 2022, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

- WHEREAS Carol Guedez has been employed from March 2018 through April 2022 as a Paraprofessional and;

WHEREAS, Carol Guedez exemplified expertise, commitment, and professionalism in her duties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Somerset Hills School District and Board of Education recognize Carol Guedez's retirement effective April 11, 2022, and extend to her congratulations and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

Public Comments for Actionable Agenda Items

None

Seeing no one from the public, Ms. Cooper moved to close public comments, Mrs. deGrandpré seconded.

Approval of Minutes*

Mrs. Frenda moved to approve the minutes for February 23, 2022, Ms. Cooper seconded.

Minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Board Members Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro

1. Approval of Minutes

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the Public Input & Action and Executive meeting minutes for February 23, 2022.

FINANCE

- Committee Report & Discussion: Mr. Baker gave the report. The committee met on March 10, 2022.
- Action Items: Mr. Baker moved items #1-7, Mrs. Frenda seconded.

Items #1-7 were approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

1. Board Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Board Certification*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has received the Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of January 2022 showing the following balances:

FUND	Board Secretary Cash Balance (1)	Treasurer Cash Balance (2)
(10) General Fund	\$10,145,353.20	\$10,145,353.20
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(\$124,023.84)	(\$124,023.84)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$371,191.25	\$371,191.25
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$806,428.82	\$806,428.82
Total Government Funds	\$11,198,949.43	\$11,198,949.43

(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.

2. Approve 2021-2022 Budget Transfers*

Resolved that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the attached list of budget transfers for January 2022.

3. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached January 2022 check registers with the recommendation that the checks 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	
(10) General Fund	\$3,405.96
(20) Special Revenue Fund	—
(30) Capital Projects Fund	—
(40) Debt Service Fund	—
(60) Cafeteria Fund	—
(90) Agency Fund	—
TOTAL	\$3,405.96

4. Payment of Bills*

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has presented attached February 2022 check registers with the recommendation that the checks 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	
(10) General Fund	\$3,471,709.65
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$16,480.86
(30) Capital Projects Fund	—
(40) Debt Service Fund	—

(60) Cafeteria Fund	\$61,406.22
(90) Agency Fund	\$1,057,271.64
TOTAL	\$4,606,868.37

5. Approve Special Education Schools*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following schools for the 2021-2022 school year and/or ESY:

	Student ID#	Provider	Location	Tuition
a	7435542741	East Mountain School	Belle Mead, NJ	\$58,246.20 (\$23,622.07 prorated)
b	2779193661	Shepard School	Kinnelon, NJ	\$65,016.12 (\$20,451.08 prorated)
c	2649079881	Shepard Preparatory High School	Morristown, NJ	\$65,895.21 (\$20,418.42 prorated)

6. Approve Tentative 2022-2023 Budget*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approves the 2022-2023 school year and that the Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline and to make all necessary adjustments to the budget to comply with State regulations.

2022-2023	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Total Expenditures	\$43,598,714	\$970,357	\$3,087,912	\$47,656,983
Less Anticipated Revenue	\$9,666,012	\$970,357	\$298,483	\$10,928,852
Taxes to be Raised	\$33,938,702	\$0	2,789,429	\$36,728,131

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, approves the following capital project and the withdrawal of \$752,787 from the Capital Reserve account to provide funding for the following projects/equipment for the 2022-2023 school year:

Bernards High School Turf Replacement
 District Technology Infrastructure Upgrade
 Bernards High School Interior Door Panic Hardware Replacement (A Wing)
 Bernardsville Middle School Media Center Planning
 Bedwell Elementary Kiln Relocation

Total costs for this project are \$752,787, which represent expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. And to advertise said tentative budget in the Bernardsville News or Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 27, 2022 at 7:30 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2022-2023 School Year.

7. Approve Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2022-2023*

WHEREAS, the Somerset Hills Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:1.1 et. seq. Requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:1.1 et. seq. , but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of district Travel, and Reimbursement Forms; now THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:1.1 et. seq. Education out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with 6A:23B:1.2 (b), to a maximum expenditure of \$75,000.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Wry gave the report. The committee met on March 9, 2022.

B. Action Items: Mrs. Wry moved items #1-2, Mrs. Tober seconded.

Items #2 was approved by roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

Item #1 was approved by roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

1. HIB Report

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying cases presented on February 23, 2022, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent.

- BMS #12, #14, #15, #16

2. Approve Girls Volleyball*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Girls Volleyball program for Bernards High School effective 2022-2023 school year.

CURRICULUM

A. Committee Report & Discussion: Ms. Cooper gave the report. The committee met on March 8, 2022.

B. Action Items: Ms. Cooper moved items #1-3, Mrs. Frenda seconded.

Items #1 and 3 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-1. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

Item #2 was approved by a roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

Ms. Cooper abstained on Item #3(c)

1. Approve Field Trips*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following field trips:

	School	Trip	# of Students	# of Faculty	# of Chaperones
a	BHS	RVCC Planetarium - Branchburg, NJ	09	03	0
b	BHS	Studio 7 Gallery - Bernardsville, NJ	20	01	0
c	BHS	Bedwell Tomato Sale - Bernardsville, NJ	08	03	0
d	BHS	Natirar - Peapack, NJ	08	03	0
e	BHS	RVCC Accuplacer Exam - Branchburg, NJ	03	01	0
f	BHS	RVCC SIP Students - Branchburg, NJ	03	01	0

2. Approve Professional Development

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date(s)	Est. Cost
a	BES	d'Anunciacao, J.	NJ Association of Behavior Analysis Conference	04/01	\$0
b	BMS	Garofalo, L.	HIB Law Update	05/18	\$125
c	BMS	Walker, C.	50 Best Strategies for Enhancing Science Instruction	05/05	\$279

3. Approve Professional Development*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

	School	Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Est. Cost
a	BHS	Ferrara, J.	AP Physics Reading Leadership	5/27 - 6/9	\$0
b	BHS	Szostak, D.	AP Reading Macroeconomics	6/2 - 6/10	\$0
c	Central	Cooper, N	NJSBA: Spring Education Symposium	04/26-04/27	\$150

PERSONNEL

- A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. deGrandpré gave the report. The committee met on March 10, 2022.
 B. Action Items: Mrs. deGrandpré moved items #1-10, Mrs. Tober seconded.

Items #1,4,5,7,9-10 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

Items #2,3,6,8 were approved by a roll call vote of 9-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

1. Accept Retirement*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the retirement of the following employee:

	Name	School	Position	Effective
a	Trumpy, Fred	BHS	Teacher MA+60/Doc	07/01/2022
b	Joe Foglia	BHS	Teacher BA+15	07/01/2022

2. Accept Retirement

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the retirement of the following employee:

	Name	School	Position	Effective
a	Zuppa, Colleen	BMS	Paraprofessional	07/01/2022
b	Guedez, Carol A.	BES	Paraprofessional	04/11/2022

3. Amend Approval Family Medical Leave

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the approval the following family medical leave of absence dates for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years:

	ID	School	Position	Leave Dates	Amended Leave Dates
a	8533	BMS	Teacher MA+45	02/16/2021 - 04/11/2022	02/16/2021 - 06/30/2022
b	8857	BES	Teacher MA	Nov 29, 2021 - Jan 31, 2022	Nov 29, 2021 - Jan 31, 2022

4. Amend Approval Leave Replacement Teacher*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Dates
a	Dunker, Jeffrey	BHS	Social Studies	8739	MA MA+15	2	\$66,300 \$68,800 <i>prorated</i>	02/24 - 6/30

5. Approve Athletic/Co-Curricular Positions*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following BHS co-curricular and athletic stipends for the 2021-2022 school year:

	Last Name	First Name	BHS Co-Curricular Position	Season	Stipend
a	Paterno	Amy	Assistant AD: Spring (50%)	Spring	\$1,900 (50% of \$3,800)
b	O'Reilly	Brendan	Open Gym: Spring	Spring	\$1,750

6. Approve Athletic/Co-Curricular Volunteer

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following BMS volunteer for the 2021- 2022 school year:

	Last Name	First Name	Season	Position
a	DeSimone	David	Spring	Track

7. Approve Athletic/Co-Curricular Volunteer*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following BHS volunteer for the 2021- 2022 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

	Last Name	First Name	Season	Position
a	DeMarrais	Douglas	Spring	Baseball

8. Amend Approval Leave Replacement Teacher

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the approval of the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year:

	Name	School	Position	Replace	Level	Step	Salary	Dates
a	Tlack, Laila	BMS	Teacher BA	8533	BA	2-3	\$61,300	09/01/2021- 4/11/22 06/18/2022

9. Approve Job Descriptions*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following job descriptions:

- *Athletic Coach - Head*
- *Athletic Coach - Assistant*

10. Approve Appointment Non-Certified Staff*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education approve the appointment of the following non-certified staff for the 2021-2022 school year, *subject to further investigation pursuant to law*:

Name	School	Position	Replace	Salary	Effective
DiEgidio, Louis	District	Custodian	9776	\$46,410 <i>prorated</i>	04/18/22 <i>Pending Clearance</i>

POLICY

- A. Committee Report and Discussion. Mrs. deGrandpré gave the report. The committee met on March 10, 2022.
- B. Action Items: Mrs. deGrandpré moved items #1-2, Mrs. Tober seconded.

Items #1-2 were approved by a roll call vote of 10-0-0. Voting: Ayes: Baker, Clark-Emery, Cooper, deGrandpré, Frenda, Joyce, Nathans, Tober, Wry, Santoro.

1. First Reading*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the first reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy / Regulation #	Title
P2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment <i>(M) (Revised)</i>
P2431.4 & R2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries <i>(M) (Revised)</i>
P2451	Adult High School <i>(M) (Revised)</i>
P3233	Political Activities <i>(Revised)</i>
P0000.01 & P0000.03	Bylaw Introductions (Duplicates) - Abolish

2. Second Reading*

Resolved, that the Somerset Hills Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the second reading of the following bylaw, policy & regulation:

Policy / Regulation #	Title
P2622 & R2622	Student Assessment <i>(M) (Revised)</i> and <i>(M) (New)</i> respectively
R2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services <i>(M) (New)</i>
P8465 & R8465	Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts <i>(M) (Revised)</i>
P5131 & R5131	Student Random Drug Testing

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- A. Committee Report & Discussion: Mrs. Frenda gave the report. The Ad Hoc Committee met on March 11, 2022.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATTERS

- Mrs. Frenda thanked Mrs. Gutierrez for the HIB presentation and explained the process.
- Mrs. Gutierrez further explained HIB and Code of Conduct.
- Mrs. Tober thanked Dr. Dempsey and Mrs. DeMarco for the budget presentation and all the administrator's hard work with the budget preparation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Steve Tobin - resident, parent - Equity is not equality. The two concepts could not be more different.
 2. Michael Fulton - resident - concerned about Critical Race Theory being taught to our students.
- Mrs. Frenda moved to close public comments, Ms. Cooper seconded.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baker moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Clark-Emery seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

***Note: The areas of permitted voting for the Bedminster district representative of the Board of Education are: (a) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district; (b) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils; (c) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; (d) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district; (e) Any matter directly involving the sending district pupils or programs and services utilized by those pupils; (f) Approval of the annual receiving district budget; (g) Any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by sending district pupils; (h) Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district pupils; and (i) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education including, but not limited to, the selection of the board president or vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of education.**

(cf: P.L.1996, c.103, s.1)