



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on February 10, 2025, in the Boonton High School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order, and the following statement was read: Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Daily Record, the Citizen and the Boonton Town Clerk; and posted on the District website and at the Board of Education Office.

Members present at roll call were: Jennifer Darling, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Matthew Mondino, Brianna O'Halloran, Daniel Piccioni, Andrew Portas. Absent was/were: Christopher Cartelli, Elaine Doherty.

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately three members of the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School Student Representative, Talia Adamo: Girls & boys basketball, spring sports, Student Council Spirit Week, middle school dance, Penny Wars
2. Boonton High School Student Representative, Ashley Suplicki: Candy Grams by the sophomore class, Peer Leadership Club, Seniors v. Faculty basketball game, Wrestling, spring sports
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
4. Home School Association (HSA)
5. Town Council by Marie DeVenezia: Study for the Daress Theater
6. ESC of Morris County: None
7. MCSBA by Mrs. Darling: Meeting last week, Unsung Heroes, Irene LeFebvre Award
8. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: DC visit, legislators are concerned about uncertainty

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration
 - General District News and Updates: Alerts, snow days / giveback days
 - Report of Alternative Access Scores
 - Enrollment & Preschool Lottery
 - CST building renovations, BHS lockers
 - Staffing Needs for 2025-2026
 - Major Facility Areas of Focus for 2025-2026: BHS roof, SSS bathrooms

- Technology Areas of Focus for 2025-2026: WiFi upgrades, servers, back-ups, phone system, Apptegy
 - Student Information System Exploration
 - Calendar for 2025-2026
2. Curriculum & Instruction
- Professional Development: Preschool, Language, Service learning/work-based learning
 - Data analysis, Math roundtable
 - Academy & AVID Updates
 - Instructional Initiatives: Sheltered instruction, Seal of Biliteracy, Honors/Dual credit
3. Operations
- Projects: BHS roof, BHS lockers, CST renovations
 - FY26 budget: Working through a projected deficit due to significant increases in healthcare premiums, out-of-district placements and roofing, while State Aid is uncertain until February 27, and Extraordinary Aid is always an estimate. The district has banked cap of \$591,377 and a new enrollment adjustment of \$351,671 available for 25-26. Options include assigning FY25 available balance towards FY26 or reducing the lease-purchase; withdrawing from capital reserve to reduce the lease-purchase and/or towards payments on the lease-purchase; using more fund balance; and reducing the scope of the roof project. BOE tentative approval is scheduled for 3/10, but could be any day up to 3/19, when it's due to the State.
4. Policy: None
5. Other: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

John Tolochko: Inquired about renovating Fireman's Field

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Joyce and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved the Minutes of the following meetings by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Doherty.

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: January 27, 2025 ([enclosure](#))
2. Executive session: January 27, 2025 ([enclosure](#))

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

Mr. Valle, responding to a question about item #1, said that the district is advertising to fill the position.

On a motion by Mr. Mondino and seconded by Mr. Joyce, the Board approved Administration PK-8 resolutions #1-8 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Doherty.

1. Letter of Resignation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Sandra Harmon, Middle School Math Teacher John Hill School, effective April 30, 2025, for the purpose of retirement.
2. Field Trip: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destination for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grades 6-8	Union County Performing Arts Center

3. Before and/or After School Middle School Academic Support: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff members for academic support at John Hill School for up to 2 days per week, 1 hour per day, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, based on student enrollment, effective from January 27, 2025:

Jennifer Sanazzarro Monica Nieves Sheila Barrientos Cindy Tserkis

4. Long-Term Leave Replacement Preschool Teacher: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Joan Dolan as the long-term leave replacement Preschool Teacher at Boonton High School, at a salary of \$66,915 (Step 3 MA) prorated from March 10, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

5. Compensation for additional teaching periods: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff members compensation in the amount of \$1,400.00 prorated from January 13, 2025, for additional teaching responsibilities at John Hill School:

Erika Faruolo Linden Klein Christine Jackson
Meg DiNapoli Victoria Pauciello

6. Bridges to Learning 2025 Summer Programs: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following Bridges to Learning 2025 Summer Programs:

- Early Learner's Academy for incoming and current Pre-K Students at School Street School June 30th - August 1st, excluding July 4th
- Summer After Camp Bridges Program for students entering Kindergarten through 6th Grades at John Hill School June 30th - August 1st, excluding July 4th
- Summer Theater Program for students entering grades 6th - 9th Grades at John Hill School/Boonton High School - June 30th - July 11th, excluding July 4th
- Summer Enrichment for students entering Kindergarten - 8th Grades at John Hill School August 4th - August 15th including before care and aftercare

7. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement for Student State ID# 9931083037-B at PG Chambers School for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning February 3, 2025 at a tuition cost of \$499.78 per day (90 days), and that transportation be arranged as needed.

8. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 6093593356-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning January 24, 2025, with instruction to be provided by LearnWell Education at a rate of \$60.75 per hour.

PK-12

On a motion by Mr. Joyce and seconded by Mr. Mondino, the Board approved Administration PK-12 resolutions #1-7 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Doherty.

1. District Calendar for 2025-2026 School Year: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the district calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.
([attachment](#))

2. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grade 11 Guidance Department	NJ National College Fair, NJ Expo Center
Grades 9-12 CBI	Sazon, Michaels (Parsippany) Thai Cuisine Pasquales, Curly's, Kinnelon High School
Grades 9-12 (Business Academy/FBLA)	Metlife Stadium
Grades 9-12 (Criminal Justice Academy)	NJ State Police Museum
Grades 9-12 (Teaching & Learning Academy)	Rutgers University Graduate School of Education
Grades 10-12 (FBLA)	Harrah's Convention Center
Grades 10-12 (Marketing Class)	Business Owners on Main Street
Grades 11-12 (Peer Leadership)	School Street School - Read Across America

3. Addition to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Joan Dolan as teacher to the 2024-2025 substitute list.
4. Staff Member for Crowd Control: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Vanessa DeJesus for Crowd Control at events as required for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Volunteer Coaches: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following volunteer coaches at Boonton High School for the 2024-2025 school year:

Kathie Foley as volunteer Boys Tennis Coach
Mark Stanic as volunteer Track and Field Coach, pending receipt of substitute certification

6. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 5740385473-B for up to 5 hours per week beginning January 29, 2025, with instruction to be provided by Prime Healthcare Services – St. Clare’s, LLC at a rate of \$55.00 per hour.
7. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board of Education approves the provision of home instruction for the following students for up to 10 hours per week each, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$40.00 per hour:

Student State ID# 5021258138-LP, beginning February 3, 2025, and
Student State ID# 8011425262-LP, beginning February 5, 2025

HIB REPORT

On a motion by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mr. Mondino, the Board approved the HIB resolution by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O’Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Portas. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Doherty.

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to affirm the findings and recommendations on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaint: JHS #4 and BHS #5.

POLICY

OPERATIONS

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Mondino, the Board approved Operations resolutions #1-8 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O’Halloran, Mr. Piccioni, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Doherty.

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$39,630.71	02/10/2025	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$67,509.30	02/10/2025	General ACH (attachment)
\$308,021.44	02/10/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$5,820.00	02/10/2025	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$151.00	02/10/2025	Student Activity JHS ACH (attachment)
\$1,385.00	02/10/2025	Student Activity SSS checks (attachment)
\$3,200,670.24	12/1 - 12/30/2024	Electronic checks, including payroll (attachment)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending December 31, 2024. ([attachment](#))
3. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary ([attachment](#)) and Treasurer ([attachment](#)) for the month ending December 31, 2024; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.

4. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$1,193,489.60 1/15/2025
 \$1,104,588.72 1/30/2025
 \$265,712.57 1/31/2025

5. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts.

Name	Date (s)	Workshop / Conference	Total Cost
Rebecca Kipp-Newbold	4/2/2025	Supervising Work Based Learning Cohort, Virtual Workshop	\$832.00
Maribel Martinez	2/21/2025	District Homeless Liaison Roundtable Randolph, NJ	\$13.25
Maribel Martinez	2/28/2025	NJAPSA Winter Academy	\$54.23
David Huguen	3/6/- 3/9/2025	NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships, Atlantic City, NJ	\$3090.84
Louisa Sinatra	3/6/- 3/9/2025	NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships, Atlantic City, NJ	\$465.84
Anthony Shovlowsky	3/6/- 3/9/2025	NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships, Atlantic City, NJ	\$465.84
Jason Klebez	4/2/2025	Supervising Work Based Learning Cohort 2, Virtual Workshop	\$832.00
Alan Masters	4/2/2025	Supervising Work Based Learning Cohort 2, Virtual Workshop	\$832.00
Luisa Iuliano-Cabrera	4/2/2025	Supervising Work Based Learning Cohort 2, Virtual Workshop	\$832.00
Vincenzo LoGuidice	3/3/2025	Tri-State High School Psychology Teacher Workshop, South Orange, NJ	\$23.16

6. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 02/10/2025 to organizations, provided all required documents are submitted. District teams have priority. No activities on days school is closed. Use of all gyms and fields are coordinated with the Athletic Director. All permits are pending building administration final approval and receipt of documentation.

Permit # Requested by / Facility / Dates
 2502-0000 Boonton SEPAG: Transition Fair
 BHS Cafeteria, Parking lot
 Thursday 5/1/2025 (5:00-8:30 PM)

2502-0001 Boonton Parks & Recreation: Open Play Pickleball
 JHS Gym
 Tuesday 4/1/2025 (6:45-9:00 PM)

2502-0002 Boonton Parks & Recreation: Spring Track
 BHS Track
 Sundays 3/30-6/8/2025 (12:00-2:00 PM)

7. Professional Services: The Board approves the proposal for Boonton High School Roof Replacement, Areas 1, 2 and 3 to H2M architects & engineers for \$159,400.
8. Disposal of Surplus Property: The Board authorizes disposal of the following surplus property that is no longer needed for public use, by sale conducted directly with the Board and/or through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 and Local Finance Notice 2008-9, while reserving the right to accept or reject any offer submitted; surplus property shall be sold in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property; property not sold within 60 days may be discarded.

Location	Item
John Hill School	Savin copier ID #L9844

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Katsakos: Boonton Historical Society is closing to prepare a new exhibit

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Next meeting is February 24, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 8:30 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Joyce, all present voted to approve the following resolution to enter Executive Session.

Be it resolved, that the following portion of this meeting dealing with the following generally described matters shall not be open to the public: Personnel matters; Current or Potential Litigation; and Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege. Be it further resolved, that it is anticipated that the matters to be considered in private may be disclosed to the public at a later date when confidentiality is no longer required. Be it further resolved, that private consideration is deemed required and is permitted because of the following noted exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act: Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy; Related to investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; Related to pending/anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the Public body is or may be a party; and Falls within the attorney-client privilege and confidentiality is required.

On a motion at 8:46 pm by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mr. Mondino, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:47 by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mr. Joyce, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: