



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

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Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on February 24, 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 Building at 434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**LIAISON REPORTS**

1. John Hill School student representative: None
2. Boonton High School student representative Ashley Suplicki: Student Leadership Conference, Seniors v. Faculty volleyball, Consumer Bowl, Copa tourney, Powder puff flag football, Spring play, GSA, Wrestling teams
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) by Gabriella Lanza: Gertrude Hawk chocolate, Boonton swag, school store at JHS, Box Tops, Flocking, Spirit wear, Membership
4. Home School Association (HSA): None
5. Town Council by Marie DeVenezia: Asked for the name of the spring play (Music Man); Town passed resolutions waiving summer program residency requirements for families of first responders and handicapped parking; car show in April.
6. ESC of Morris County: None
7. MCSBA: None
8. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: New member training weekend; nominating committee; federal and state issues
9. Other by Mrs. Katsakos: Historical Society's new exhibit opens on 3/1

## **SUPERINTENDENT**

1. District News and Updates: BHS student touched up an historic aerial photo; FBLA competition; State Police helicopter on 4/11; PTA store at JHS; Dentistry presentation at SSS; Preschool registration; PD on early dismissal day of 3/3 and full day of 3/31
2. FY26 Budget: With a range of assumptions and estimates, the budget is facing a \$375k deficit, but State aid notices are expected on 2/27.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

Steve Bossen asked if Policy/Regulation 5516 is for high school only and suggested there should be a similar policy for staff if it's not in place.

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **MINUTES**

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

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: February 10, 2025 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: February 10, 2025 (enclosure)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PK-8**

On a motion by Mr. Cartelli and seconded by Mr. Joyce, the Board approved Administration PK-8 resolutions #1-7 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

1. 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
Grades 3-6 (Gifted and Talented)	Morristown Unitarian Fellowship
Grade 8	Round Valley Recreation

2. Compensation for additional teaching period: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Denise Esmail compensation in the amount of \$1,440.00 prorated from January 13, 2025, for additional teaching responsibilities at John Hill School.
3. Long-Term Leave Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Saima Choudhry as the Long-Term Leave Paraprofessional at John Hill School, at a salary of \$38,382 (Step 1), prorated from February 25, 2025 through approximately March 31, 2025.

4. Appointment of Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Adriana Torres to the position of Paraprofessional, School Street School, at a salary of \$39,348 (Step 4), prorated from March 11, 2025 through June 30, 2025, pending receipt of background clearance.
5. Revise Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the leave of absence request previously approved on December 9, 2024 for Taylor Burke to start March 8, 2025 to now start February 24, 2025.
6. Revise Long-Term Leave Assignment: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the Long-Term Leave assignment previously approved on February 10, 2025 for Joan Dolan, long-term leave replacement Preschool Teacher Boonton High School, to begin on March 10, 2025 to now begin on February 24, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
7. 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 ten hours per week, beginning February 10, 2025, with instruction to be provided by LearnWell Education at a rate of \$60.75 per hour.

**PK-12**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Piccioni, the Board approved Administration PK-12 resolutions #1-5 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Ms. O’Halloran, Mr. Piccioni, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

1. District On-Roll Report: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the District’s On-Roll Report for the month of January 2025. (Enclosure)
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:

<u>Grade/Group</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Grades 9-12 (Aviation Academy)	Morristown Airport
Grades 9-12 (Criminal Justice Academy)	County College of Morris
Grades 10-12 (FBLA)	Harrah's Convention Center
Grades 11-12 (CBI)	County College of Morris
Grade 10 (AVID)	John Hill School

3. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for the following students for up to ten hours each per week, to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$40.00 per hour:

Student State ID# 7074459611-B, beginning February 12, 2025, and  
 Student State ID# 6559734140-LP, beginning February 24, 2025

4. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 1579684123-B for up to ten hours per week beginning February 11, 2025 with instruction to be provided by New Pathways Counseling, Inc. – St. Clare’s, LLC at a rate of \$650.00 per week.

5. Extracurricular/Instructional Aide Services (Unified): Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kathleen Post to assist/supervise students as needed during after-school Unified events for up to 3 hours per event, based on student attendance to events, during the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$29.80 (Step 4) per hour.

### **HIB REPORT**

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

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: BHS #6.

### **POLICY**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the reading of the following:

#### First Reading

Revised Policy #5460 - High School Graduation (Attachment)

Revised Policy #5512 - Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (Attachment)

Revised Policy #5516 - Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Attachment)

New Regulation #5516 - Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Attachment)

Revised Policy #5533 - Student Smoking (Attachment)

Revised Regulation #5533 - Student Smoking (Attachment)

Revised Policy #5701 - Academic Integrity (Attachment)

Revised Policy 5710 - Student Grievance (Attachment)

Revised Policy #7441 - Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and On School Grounds (Attachment)

Revised Regulation #7441 - Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and On School Grounds (Attachment)

Revised Policy #8500 - Food Services (Attachment)

Revised Policy #9320 - Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (Attachment)

Revised Regulation #9320 - Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (Attachment)

### **OPERATIONS**

On a motion by Mr. Piccioni and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved Operations resolutions #1-4 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$23,541.86	02/24/2025	Cafeteria ACH ( <u>attachment</u> )
\$40,194.57	02/24/2025	General ACH ( <u>attachment</u> )
\$368,404.01	02/24/2025	General checks ( <u>attachment</u> )

\$29.98	02/24/2025	Student Activity BHS ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$420.00	02/24/2025	Student Activity BHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$1,507.00	02/24/2025	Student Activity JHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )

2. 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
Jessica Green	2/13/25	Pension Review and Updates Whippany, NJ	\$206.00
Robert Davidon	3/7/25	STEM Workshop Morris Plains, NJ	\$7.80
Jessica Harbeson	3/20 - 3/21/25	SESEBA Institute Piscataway, NJ	\$577.00

3. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 02/24/2025 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

2408-0012      Boonton PTA: Multicultural Festival  
JHS Gym, Lobby, Cafeteria, Upper Field, Parking Lot, Playground  
Thursday 5/21/2025 (3:00 – 9:00 PM)  
**(Date revised from 5/22 to 5/21 previously approved 9/9/24)**

2502-0005      Boonton PTA TREPS\$: Marketplace  
JHS Gym, Cafeteria, Lobby, Parking Lot  
Thursday 3/27/2025 (3:00 – 10:00 PM)

2502-0007      Girl Scout: Meeting  
JHS Media Center  
Wednesday 2/19/2025 (6:00-7:30 PM)

4. Tuition Agreement: The Board approves the agreements for Student State ID #5410927889 to attend New Brunswick Public Schools, per the McKinney-Vento Act, for 19 days in 2022-2023 for \$4,838.46 and for 161 days in 2023-2024 for \$40,995.97, inclusive of transportation.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Bossen asked about the impact of removing DEI, and Mr. Valle said we are waiting for NJDOE guidance; asked for the next step in addressing an issue with a teacher, and Mr. Valle said it is with him; and asked how districts have attempted to make changes at the State level, and Mrs. LeFebvre and Mr. Gardberg said that state associations actively do this.

Tyler Cechony asked about the binder initiative at BHS, and Dr. Kipp-Newbold responded about the goals and methods prescribed by AVID.

## **OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

- Next meeting is March 3, 2025
- Mrs. Doherty complimented how the BHS nurse has improved the process for sports physicals
- Ms. Devenezia said she could not attend the special meeting scheduled for March 3

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion at 8:03 pm by Mr. Portas and seconded by Mrs. Darling, 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.

## **ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

Adjourn executive session and return to open session.

On a motion at 8:25 pm by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. Darling, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

## **ADMIN PK-12**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Piccioni, the Board approved Administration PK-12 resolution #6 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mr. Mondino.

6. Termination of Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the termination of Employee #1519, effective February 13, 2025.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 8:36 pm by Mr. Piccioni and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: