



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

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The Boonton Town Board of Education, of Morris County, New Jersey, held a meeting at Boonton High School, 306 Lathrop Ave, Boonton, NJ, at 6:30 pm on March 10, 2025.

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.

Members present at roll call were: Christopher Cartelli, Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Brianna O'Halloran, Daniel Piccioni. Matthew Mondino arrived at 6:34 pm. Absent was: Andrew Portas.

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**LIAISON REPORTS**

1. John Hill School student representative Kiera Shiels: Read Across America, Spirit Week, spring sports, band field trip, fundraiser at Bako's, talent show
2. Boonton High School student representative Ashley Suplicki: Spring sports, La Copa, GSA, boys & girls wrestling, PLC
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA): None
4. Home School Association (HSA): None
5. Town Council by Marie Devenezia: Meeting on March 3, contract for Town Hall parking lot, ordinance for one-way street
6. ESC of Morris County: None
7. MCSBA by Mrs. Darling: Meeting on April 2
8. NJSBA: None
9. Other: Historical Society has an exhibit on March 23, and Native Plant Society offers a free seed library

**WORK OF THE BOARD**

1. Administration
  - Staffing: Appointments of paras and math teachers
  - Programming: "Music Man" spring musical, Read Across America, BHS Passion Project, JHS art recognitions, BHS Honors Arts Show, BHS internship program, AVID interviews
  - Professional Development: Early dismissal on March 3 and full day on March 31

- Academies and AVID: Trips to colleges, NJ State Police, Rutgers & Seton Hall, Students2Science, PizzaHQ, Glassworks Studio, Aviation Institute of Maintenance, digital badges, senior passion projects
- 2. Operations: Mr. Gardberg reviewed the budget process and three scenarios for Board approval tonight.
- 3. Policy: Mrs. Katsakos commented on approving the final read of policies.

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

- Steve Bossen asked about bills for phones and about informing the public about the budget before the meeting when it is adopted
- Marie Devenezia asked about advertising the budget

### **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

#### **MINUTES**

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

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: February 24, 2025 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: February 24, 2025 (enclosure)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **PK-8**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Mondino, the Board approved Administration PK-8 resolutions #1-9 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None

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 K-2 (CBI)	McDonald's, Boonton Holmes Library
Grades 3-8 (CBI)	Boonton Holmes Library
Grade 8 (AVID)	Caldwell University
Grades 6-8 (Music)	Calvary Temple & Dorney Park

2. Long-Term Leave Replacement Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Motaleb Taher as a Long-Term Leave Replacement Paraprofessional at School Street School, at a salary of \$38,382 (Step 1), prorated from March 11, 2025 through May 2, 2025.
3. Appointment of Preschool Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kim McGreevy to the position of Preschool Paraprofessional, Boonton High School, at a salary of \$39,348 (Step 4), prorated from April 10, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

4. Appointment of Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Jeffrey Wiswall to the position of Paraprofessional, John Hill School, at a salary of \$39,348 (Step 4), prorated from March 25, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Movement on Salary Guide: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the following staff member's movement on guide in accordance with the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Boonton Education Association, retroactive to February 1, 2025:

Employee	Placement on Guide
Denise Esmail	Step 17 MA+15 to Step 17 MA+30

6. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Support Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Tina Cosentino and Soheir Hassan\* as Adult Support Staff for the Bridges to Learning Before/After School Program at John Hill School for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$23.00 per hour.  
\*Pending receipt of background clearance
7. Appointment of Long Term Leave Replacement Math Teacher: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Ruzena Sucharova as the long-term leave replacement Math Teacher, John Hill School, at a salary of \$101,245 (Step 17 MA/30) prorated from April 22, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
8. Appointment of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Jeffrey Tavalacci to the position of Math Teacher, John Hill School, at a salary of \$94,515 (Step 17 BA/15) effective August 27, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.
9. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board of Education approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID #4885742630-B for up to 10 hours per week beginning March 3, 2025, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$40.00 per hour.

## PK-12

On a motion by Mrs. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, the Board approved Administration PK-12 resolutions #1-11 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Portas.

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 9-12 (STEM)	Universal Technical Institute
Grades 9-12 (CBI)	Curly's, Walk in Town, Willowbrook
Grades 11-12 (FBLA)	Essex County Hospital Center

2. Appointment of Assistant to the Business Administrator: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Leslie Alfano-Barboza to the position of Assistant to the Business Administrator, at a salary of \$55,591, prorated from April 22, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Extra Hours: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves up to 40 total hours (after work hours) for Leslie Alfano-Barboza between March 11, 2025 and April 21, 2025 for assistance in the Business Administrator's Office at a rate of \$26.73 per hour.
4. Unpaid Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves an unpaid leave of absence for Jordan Goldson, Special Education Teacher Boonton High School from April 22, 2025 through May 9, 2025.
5. 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 February 2025. (Enclosure)
6. Volunteer Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves Daniel Drugac as a volunteer track and field coach for the 2024-2025 school year.
7. 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 10 hours per week beginning February 24, 2025 with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$40.00 per hour.
8. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for the following students to be provided by Prime Healthcare Services – St. Clare's, LLC at a rate of \$55.00 per hour:  
  
Student State ID# 5740385473-B for up to 5 hours per week beginning February 27, 2025  
Student State ID# 4781002764-B for up to 5 hours per week beginning March 5, 2025
9. Outside Evaluation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Dr. Sostre-Oquendo, MD to conduct a Psychiatric Evaluation for Student State ID #2341880031-B at a cost of \$1,000.00.
10. 2025 Special Education Extended Year Programs: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following 2025 Special Education Extended Year Programs, to be held at John Hill School:  
  
Program Dates: July 7, 2025 through August 1, 2025 (Monday - Friday)  
  
Preschool from 8:30 am-11:30 am  
Grades K-12 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm
11. Sign Language Interpreter: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Sign Language Interpreter for Extracurricular Activities for out-of-district Student State ID# 4789637065-B during the 2024-2025 softball season, as needed, not to exceed \$12,000.

## HIB REPORT

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

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board affirms the findings and recommendations on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaints: BHS #7, SSS #2, SSS#3.

## POLICY

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

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

### Final 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. Cartelli and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved Operations resolutions #1-11 by roll call. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce (except #5), Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni (except #5). NO: Mr. Joyce (#5), Mr. Piccioni (#5). ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Portas.

### 1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$39,736.00	03/10/2025	Cafeteria ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$80,197.06	03/10/2025	General ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$55,446.55	03/10/2025	General checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$198.70	03/10/2025	Student Activity BHS ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$952.20	03/10/2025	Student Activity BHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$320.00	03/10/2025	Student Activity JHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )

2. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.  
     \$1,117,648.10     2/15/2025  
     \$1,092,844.42     2/28/2025
3. 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	4/10/2025	Preschool Inclusion Leadership Conference, West Windsor, NJ	\$109.86
Rosemarie Sullivan	4/29/2025	OFAC Fingerprinting Training Morris Plains, NJ	\$9.49
Mia Fondacaro	7/28 - 7/29/2025	Tomorrow's Teachers Summer Training, Teaneck, NJ	\$550.00
Melanie DiBartolo	5/2/2025	NJ Special Ed Annual Summit Monroe, NJ	\$201.98
Petra Wiehe Lieberman	4/24 - 4/25/2025	NJABA Conference Somerset, NJ	\$253.85
Robin Schwalb	3/13/2025	Autism and Threat Assessment Training, Morristown, NJ	\$8.93
Jordan Goldson	6/30 - 7/1/2025	Tomorrow's Teachers Summer 2025 Training, Virtual	\$550.00

4. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 03/10/2025 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
2502-0008	Lumen Gentium Academy: Spring Play BHS Auditorium Monday – Saturday April 7-12/2025 (3:00 – 9:00 PM)
2502-0009	Boonton Hills & Valley LAX: Indoor Practice BHS Gym Tuesday 2/25/25 (6:30-9:00 PM)
2502-0010	Tri Town LL: Evaluations BHS Main Gym Friday 3/7/2025 (6:15-8:00 PM)
2502-0012	Girl Scout Troop 98289: Meeting JHS Media Center Thursday 3/20/2025 (6:00-7:30 PM)
2502-0013	Girl Scout Troop 98529: Meeting JHS Media Center Thursday 4/24/2025 (6:00-7:30 PM)

2503-0000      BHS Boys LAX: Booster Parents  
                     BHS Concession Stand  
                     During Home Games 3/27-5/22 (11:00 AM- 8:00 PM)

5. 2025-2026 Tentative Budget: The Board approves the 2025-2026 tentative budget using state aid figures; submission of the tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6; advertising the tentative budget in The Citizen newspaper in accordance with the form suggested by the NJ Department of Education and according to law; and holding a public hearing at the meeting on April 28, 2025.

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
Budget	36,857,868	1,061,603	1,425,300	39,344,771
Tax Levy	22,934,459		1,073,353	24,007,812

6. Adjustment for Enrollment: The Board includes in the 2025-2026 tentative budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$222,665. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.
7. Capital Reserve Withdrawal: The Board of Education includes in the 2025-2026 budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the Boonton High School Partial Roof Replacement.
8. Professional Services: The Board approves the following maximum dollar limits for professional services and public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14, for the 2025-2026 school year; the School Business Administrator to track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and, if the need arises, to adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal board actions.

Legal:	\$110,000
Architecture/Engineering:	5,000
Audit:	35,190
<u>Physician:</u>	<u>19,656</u>
For a total amount of:	\$169,846

9. Maximum Travel Budget: The Board approves establishing the maximum travel expenditure amount of \$44,455, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., for the 2025-2026 school year, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year is \$63,455, of which \$18,982 has been spent and \$6,202 is encumbered to date.
10. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement: The 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, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 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, 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, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 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;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$44,455 for all staff and board members for the 2025-2026 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

11. Preschool Operational Plan: The Board approves submission of the Preschool Education Aid 2025-2026 District Enrollment and Planning Workbook to the NJ Department of Education, and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,472,166.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

- John Tolochko commented about progress with Firemen's Field
- Steve Bossen asked about progress on the Strategic Plan and with the binder initiative

#### **OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

- Next meeting is March 24, 2025
- Mrs. Doherty suggested recognizing our unsung heroes
- Mrs. Katsakos commented on FBLA winning the Consumer Bowl

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion at 7:53 pm by Mr. Piccioni and seconded by Mrs. O'Halloran, all present voted to approve the following resolution to enter Executive Session. Mr. Cartelli left the meeting.

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**

Mr. Mondino left the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Adjourn executive session and return to open session.



On a motion at 8:38 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PK-8**

On a motion by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved Administration PK-8 resolutions #10 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Ms. O'Halloran. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Piccioni. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mr. Mondino.

10. Termination of Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the termination of Employee #1185, effective February 27, 2025.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 8:32 by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mrs. O'Halloran, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: