



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

---

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on March 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 Matthew Mondino.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

1. John Hill School student representative: None
2. Boonton High School student representative Ashley Suplicki
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA): None
4. Home School Association (HSA): None
5. Town Council by Marie DeVenezia: Town budget, speeding on certain streets, car show, spring clean-up, slogan contest, Easter eggs
6. ESC of Morris County by Mrs. LeFebvre: Received the deed for property recently purchased
7. MCSBA by Mrs. Darling: Meeting on 4/2 to recognize Unsung Heros
8. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Upcoming conferences
9. Historical Society by Mrs. Katsakos: Opening yesterday for the new exhibit; upcoming visit by the fourth grade

**SUPERINTENDENT**

1. District News and Updates
  - a. School Street: Performances
  - b. John Hill: Students for Change, math night
  - c. Boonton HS: Photography by student Sage Hill earned a college scholarship, academy field experiences, National Honor Society
2. FY25 budget by Mr. Valle & Mr. Gardberg: Projected increase in premiums is trending up to 27% due to significant increases in claims paid in 2024 compared to 2023 and prior years. This will constrain funds available for the BHS partial roof replacement from for just the roof sections

in the worst condition. Proposals from Horizon and competitors are due by April 4 so direction by the Board on April 7 is needed for revising the budget. Board members agreed to pursue legal action against the State for underfunding.

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

None

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. Darling, 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, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Portas. ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

1. Regular session: March 3, 2025 ([enclosure](#))
2. Executive session: March 3, 2025 ([enclosure](#))
3. Regular session: March 10, 2025 ([enclosure](#))
4. Executive session: March 10, 2025 ([enclosure](#))

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PK-8**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, the Board approved Administration PK-8 resolutions #1-5 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. Bridges to Learning After School Enrichment Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Melinda Miksad for the Bridges to Learning After School Enrichment Staff to be paid \$40 - \$70 per class, based upon enrollment during the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Appointment of Custodian: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Ahmed Messeleka to the position of Custodian, School Street, at a salary of \$41,480 (Step 1), prorated from April 15, 2025 through June 30, 2025, pending clearance of background check.
3. Clinical Practice Internship: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Clinical Practice Internship for Adriana Torres, Felician University, for 175 hours between March 17, 2025 and May 9, 2025 at School Street School, under the supervision of Megan Bialek.
4. Outside Psychiatric Evaluations: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following outside psychiatric evaluations to be conducted by Dr. Sostre-Oquendo, MD, at a cost of \$1,000 each:

Student State ID# 5197785687-B  
Student State ID# 9092613712-B  
Student State ID# 7968816201-B

5. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Support Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Angela Brown as Adult Support Staff for the Bridges to Learning Before/After School Program for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$23.00 per hour.

## **PK-12**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, 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. 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 (Gateway Academy)	Stevens Institute of Technology
Grades 9-12 (CBI)	Cedar Grove High School, West Orange High School, Pompton Queen Diner, Patriots Park

2. Addition to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Diana Melo as a substitute custodian for the 2024-2025 school year, pending background clearance.
3. Dual Enrollment Agreement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Dual Enrollment Agreement between Boonton Public Schools and William Paterson University for the 2025-2026 school year. (Enclosure)
4. Memorandum of Understanding Between the University of Delaware and Boonton High School: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Delaware and Boonton High to establish a relationship in which students will participate in the University's Horn Entrepreneurship (UD Horn) Entrepreneurship Experience Lab (ExtreX) for the 2025-2026 school year. (Enclosure)
5. 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 four hours per day, beginning March 5, 2025, with instruction to be provided by New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care at a rate of \$650 per week.

## **HIB REPORT**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board affirms the findings and recommendations on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaint: BHS #8.

## POLICY

None

## OPERATIONS

Mr. Gardberg: Treasurer for helping to complete reports, DOE submission for roof, budget

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, the Board approved Operations resolutions #1-8 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.

\$24,417.18	03/24/2025	Cafeteria ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$31,607.01	03/24/2025	General ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$264,679.08	03/24/2025	General checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$1,700.00	03/24/2025	Student Activity BHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$743.92	03/24/2025	Student Activity JHS ACH ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$425.00	03/24/2025	Student Activity JHS checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
\$4,023,228.74	1/1 - 1/31/2025	Electronic checks ( <a href="#">attachment</a> )
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending January 31, 2025. ([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 January 31, 2025; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
4. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts.

Name	Date (\$)	Workshop / Conference	Total Cost
Christina Buck	5/20/2025	Intersectionality: Shaping Experiences and Creating Opportunities, New Brunswick, NJ	\$81.82
Melanie DiBartolo	4/9/2025	The Interaction Between Mental Health, Kenilworth, NJ	\$23.78
Jennifer Coleman	5/9/2025	Developing a Common Language for your ESL and Special Education Teams, Monroe, NJ	\$201.98
Kristin McGovern	5/9/2025	Developing a Common Language for your ESL and Special Education Teams, Monroe, NJ	\$201.98
Maribel Martinez	5/9/2025	Developing a Common Language for your ESL and Special Education Teams, Monroe, NJ	\$201.98
Maribel Martinez	5/14-5/16/2025	Spring Leadership Conference 2025 Atlantic City, NJ	\$1097.84

5. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 03/24/2025 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
2503-0001	BHS Boys LAX: Booster Parents BHS Cafeteria Tuesday 3/18/2025 (5:00 - 8:00 PM)
2503-0002	Tri Town LL: Opening Day JHS Upper Field, Parking Lot Saturday 4/5/2025 (9:00 AM -12:00 PM)
2503-0003	Claim to Fame: Dance Recital BHS Auditorium Saturday 6/14/2025 (1:00-8:00 PM)
2503-0004	OLMC: Met-Pat League Pentathlon BHS JV Baseball Field, Track Saturday 5/31/2025 (9:00 AM -2:30 PM)
2503-0005	Boonton PTA Family STEM Night JHS Gym, Cafeteria, Parking Lot Thursday 4/7/2025 (3:00 – 10:00 PM) <i>Revised to change the date from 4/10 to 4/7 (approved on 9/9/2024)</i>

6. DOE Submission: The Board authorizes H2M Architects and Engineers to submit the application for the Partial Roof Replacement at Boonton High School to the New Jersey Department of Education as an Other Capital project and that the Board is not seeking state funding, and to amend the District's Long Range Facility Plan as needed.
7. Transportation Agreement: The Board approves the transportation reimbursement for Student State ID# 6871142752-B for transportation to and from Pillar High School in Livingston for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid based on student attendance, not to exceed \$4,500.00.
8. 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. *(note: revised from 3/10/2025 for Special Revenue amount, not tax levy)*

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
Budget	\$36,857,868	\$3,533,769	\$1,425,300	\$41,816,937
Tax Levy	22,934,459		1,073,353	24,007,812

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Bossen: Thanked Mr. Cartelli for the lawsuit idea; use by staff of mobile devices in classrooms; state purchasing regulations; policy for drug testing of staff

Marie DeVenezia: Roof projects over multiple years; prior roof replacements; timing of healthcare premiums; tax levy impact on homeowners; State's \$20 million tax levy incentive

## **OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

Next meeting is April 7, 2025

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion at 7:42 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, 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**

On a motion at 8:06 pm by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 8:07 pm by Mr. Joyce and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: