

BOONTON TOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ 07005

November 23, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Boonton Town Board of Education, of Morris County, New Jersey, held a meeting via Google Meet at 7:30 pm on November 23, 2020.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Christopher Cartelli, Board President, called the meeting to order, and Mr. Steven Gardberg, Board Secretary, read the following statement: This is the November 23, 2020, meeting of the Boonton Town Board of Education. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Daily Record and the Citizen; distributed to The Neighbor News and the Boonton Town Clerk; and posted at the Board of Education Building at 434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, New Jersey.

III. ROLL CALL

Members present at roll call were Mr. Chris Cartelli, Mrs. Jennifer Darling, Mrs. Elaine Doherty, Mr. Bob Ezzi, Mr. Joe Geslao, Mr. Patrick Joyce, Mrs. Loren Katsakos, Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Mrs. Sandra Vucenovic. Absent was Mrs. Jennifer Shollenberger.

Also present were Mr. Robert Presuto, Superintendent and Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 7:32 pm by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre, all present voted to enter Executive Session. Mrs. Shollenberger was absent.

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 WILL BE TAKEN

On a motion at 8:00 pm by Mrs. LeFebvre and seconded by Mr. Joyce, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session. Mrs. Shollenberger was absent.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:01 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 7 members of the public were in attendance.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School by Josie Myers, student representative: Student council election, fall sports, toy drive (by recorded video).
2. Boonton High School: None
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) K-8 by Steve Bossen: Assemblies in December, Dinners-to-Go fundraiser
4. Home School Association 9-12: None
5. Board of Aldermen by Joe Bock: Meetings remain virtual; in response to the BOE inquiry about the Town's Nixle system, the Police Department responded that it will remain focused on emergency-related information.

VIII. CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE DAY

A motion was made by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Katsakos to approve the order of the day. All present voted in favor. Mrs. Shollenberger was absent.

IX. MINUTES

Approval of minutes from previous meetings was moved by Mrs. Doherty, seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre, and approved on roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Mr. Geslao, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Cartelli. ABSENT: Mrs. Shollenberger.

1. Regular and Executive session: November 9, 2020

X. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. Steve Bossen, Boonton: Asked for any details about Operations item #4, and Mr. Gardberg responded that this state report does not call for quantitative details.

XI. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

A. SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Presuto reported on Acme's Educator of the Month program; meal distribution moved from Monday to Wednesday because of the short week; and results of the Social Emotional Needs Assessments.

B. ADMINISTRATION

PK8 Resolutions

Approval of Admin PK8 resolutions #1-2 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Geslao, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre. NO: None. ABSENT: Mr. Ezzi, Mrs. Shollenberger.

1. Extend Unpaid Leave of Absence for Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to extend the unpaid leave of absence for Nicole Salazar through June 30, 2021, previously approved on September 28, 2020, to end January 3, 2021.
2. Amend Employment Agreement for Long-Term Leave Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to amend the employment agreement for Kaitlyn Brown to extend through June 30, 2021, previously approved on September 28, 2020, to end December 23, 2020.

PK12 Resolutions

Approval of Admin PK12 resolutions #1-4 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Mr. Geslao, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mrs. Shollenberger.

1. Volunteers: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following to serve as district wide volunteers during the 2020-2021 school year:

Nicole Melito	Courtney Valdeon	Colleen Hunter
Cynthia Tserkis-Schlitt	Jennifer Shollenberger	Donna Anderson
Veronica Adamo	Mari Tuohy	
2. Addition to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following addition to the 2020-2021 substitute list:
Substitute Teacher/Aide: Motaleb Taher
3. Appointment of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Raul Aguilar to the position of Spanish Teacher, Boonton High School, at a salary of \$57,204 (Step 1 BA) prorated from November 9, 2020, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
4. Partial 6th-Period Stipend for Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a partial (50%) 6th-period stipend in the amount of \$2,750 to Diana Callahan for student AVID counseling services for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the Agreement Between the BEA and the Board of Education.

C. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Gardberg elaborated that Item #6 reimburses the district for prior-year, security-related expenditures; reported that special open enrollment for medical benefits has closed with apparent negative financial impact on the current budget; and commented on the benefits of the recently implemented function to email POs to vendors.

D. OPERATIONS

Mr. Geslao reported on progress with the School Street roof; ongoing maintenance of HVAC equipment at Boonton HS; and getting started with the FY22 budget.

Approval of Operations resolutions #1-7 was moved by Mr. Geslao and seconded by Mrs. Darling. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Mr. Geslao, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mrs. Shollenberger.

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.
\$477,782.65 11/23/2020 (machine checks)
\$2,706,672.29 10/01 -- 10/31/2020 (electronic checks, including payroll)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending 10/31/2020.
3. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month ending 10/31/2020.
4. M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan: The Board approves the M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.
5. Statement of Assurance: The Board approves submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance School Year 2020-2021 to the NJ Department of Education.
6. Grant Application: The Board approves submission of the School Security Grant for \$79,512 to the NJ Department of Education for reimbursement of prior expenditures, which utilized local funds that exceeded the award amount.
7. Preschool Operational Plan: The Board approves submission of the Annual Preschool Operational Plan Update, Data Summary Tool for 2021-2022 School Year, to the NJ Department of Education.

E. POLICY

Mr. Gardberg commented that, due to passing Bylaw 0164.6, members of the public may join future Board meetings by video, in addition to audio.

Approval of Policy resolutions #1-2 was moved by Mr. Ezzi and seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Mr. Geslao, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mrs. Shollenberger.

1. First Reading of Revisions to Policy #2422 – Health and Physical Education: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the first reading of revisions to Policy #2422 – Health and Physical Education, as per the attached.

2. First and Final Reading of Bylaw 0164.6 – Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to suspend Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw or Policy and only adopt Bylaw 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency with one reading to be in compliance with the new emergency regulations regarding remote meetings held during a Governor-declared emergency, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7, promulgated by Department of Community Affairs.

F. REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

1. HS Committee by Mrs. Doherty: The next meeting is scheduled for December 17.
2. Communications/Legislation by Mrs. LeFebvre: The state senate pulled from the floor a bill about coaches' contracts, and a bill about delaying QSAC is pending.
3. ESC by Mrs. LeFebvre: In light of the pandemic, there is difficulty in how to price the building that's for sale.
4. MCSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Topics at the recent meeting included partnership involving the Marines and state testing.
5. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Attendees at the Delegate Assembly discussed the situation at a district of a board member running for a "second" seat that would expire later than his/her current seat. Topics at the Board of Directors meeting included the 2020 and 2021 Workshop. See Mr. Gardberg to register for the 3Rs training program.
6. Curriculum by Mrs. Katsakos: Topics for the December 10 meeting will include an assessment report to be presented at the December 14 board meeting.
7. PR/Communications by Mrs. Doherty: None

XII. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Steve Bossen, Boonton: Complimented the return to Google Meet for board meetings and thanked the teachers for their hard work during the pandemic.

XIII. DISTRICT WIDE HIB REPORT

No HIB motions to move.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Mrs. Doherty: Referring to an article about food insecurity, mentioned that Boonton has food pantries open to all.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:51 by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. LeFebvre, all present voted to adjourn. Mrs. Shollenberger was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: