

## **BOONTON TOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ 07005

January 24, 2022

The Boonton Town Board of Education, of Morris County, New Jersey, held a meeting at John Hill School, 435 Lathrop Ave, Boonton, NJ, at 7:00 pm on January 24, 2022.

Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Board President, called the meeting to order, and Mr. Steven Gardberg, Board Secretary, read the following statement: This is the January 24, 2022, 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, the Citizen and the Boonton Town Clerk; and posted at the Board of Education Building at 434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, New Jersey.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members present at roll call were Mrs. Jennifer Darling, Dr. Crystal Davis, Mr. Bob Ezzi, Mr. Patrick Joyce, Mrs. Loren Katsakos, Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Mrs. Sandra Vucenovic. Mrs. Elaine Doherty arrived at 7:13 pm, and Ms. Natavia Hayes arrived at 7:29 pm. Absent was Mr. Chris Cartelli.

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion at 7:06 pm by Mr. Ezzi and seconded by Mrs. Vucenovic, all present voted 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 WILL BE TAKEN

On a motion at 8:01 pm by Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. Darling, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:02 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 5 members of the public were in attendance, as well as the administrators Danica Davidman and Judy Sorochynskyj .

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

1. John Hill School by Josie Myers, student representative: basketball teams; MP2 ends this week; assembly.
2. Boonton High School by Batisse Manhardt, SRA President: SRA meeting this week; Valentine's Day; Mrs. LeFebvre asks Mr. Manhardt for participation in board strategic planning.
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) K-8 by Steve Bossen: assemblies; Penny War fundraiser postponed; election and nominating committee.
4. Home School Association 9-12: None
5. Town Council by John Meehan: Budget

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Presuto reported on strategic planning; downward trend Covid cases; start strong assessment.

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

### **A. Minutes**

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

1. Regular and Executive session: December 13, 2021
2. Regular and Executive session: January 3, 2022

### **B. ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Davis: Resignation of Mr. Bautista

### **PK8 Resolutions**

Approval of Admin PK8 resolutions #1-7 was moved by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Darling. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mrs. Darling, Dr. Davis, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Ms. Hayes, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli .

1. Amend Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to amend the leave of absence request for Laura Roeser, effective 1/18 – 4/25/2022, to utilize 9 accumulated sick days and 1 personal day, followed by an unpaid leave of absence beginning 2/1/2022 (previously approved on 8/23/2021 to utilize 6 accumulated sick days).

2. Increase Hourly Rates for Bridges to Learning Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to increase the hourly rates for Bridges to Learning Staff due to the increase in the minimum wage on 1/1/2022, all High School Bridges to Learning staff members will receive a \$1.00/hr increase and all other Bridges to Learning staff will also receive \$1.00/hr increase as follows:
 

High School Staff: \$13/hr	Adult Support Staff: \$21/hr
College Staff: \$15/hr	Lead Staff: \$33/hr
  
3. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following for the Bridges to Learning Before/After School Program at School Street School, John Hill School and Boonton High School for the 2021-2022 school year.
 

Name	Position
Katy Leva	Adult Support Staff
Susan Chara	Adult Lead Teacher Sub
  
4. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Student State ID# 5230919871-B, to attend Windsor Learning Center at \$333.00/day, effective 1/18/2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, and that transportation be arranged as needed.
  
5. Curricular Assistance: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves up to 5 hr/wk for Andreas Villegas to complete lesson plans and grading for resource center classes in English Language Arts & Math for John Hill School 3rd and 4th graders, effective 1/18 – 4/14/2022, at \$35/hr, pending outcome of negotiations.
  
6. Letter of Resignation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Roberto Bautista, Custodian, School Street School, effective 3/30/2022, for the purpose of retirement.
  
7. Terminate Non-Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to terminate Staff Member #1176, effective January 25, 2022.

**PK12 Resolutions**

Dr. Davis recognized approval of Mr. Clowers’ retirement.

Approval of Admin PK12 resolutions #1-15 was moved by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Vucenovic. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mrs. Darling, Dr. Davis, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Ms. Hayes, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli.

1. District Fire Drill and On-Roll Reports: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the District’s Fire Drill and On-Roll Reports for the month of December 2021.

2. Unpaid Family Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Jason Kaulfers, Special Education Teacher, Boonton High School, an unpaid family leave of absence, effective 4/25 – 6/5/2022.
3. Request to Amend Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to amend the leave of absence request for Lee Clowers, Special Education Teacher, Boonton High School, to be effective 12/21/2021 – 3/13/2022, using accumulated sick days (previously approved on 10/11/2021 to end 2/1/2022).
4. Letter of Resignation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Lee Clowers, Special Education Teacher, Boonton High School, effective 5/31/2022, for the purpose of retirement.
5. Additions to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following substitute additions for the 2021-2022 school year.

<u>Substitute Custodian</u>	<u>Substitute Maintenance</u>	<u>Substitute Teacher/Aide</u>
Carmen Cavassa*	Peter Smith*	Elizabeth McCollum Lili Laderach**

\* Pending clearance of background check

\*\* Pending receipt of substitute certificate

6. Services Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves 1:1 sign-language interpreting services for Student State ID# 3240517996-B, attending Passaic County Technical-Vocational School, for \$53,142, effective 9/1/2021, for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Home Instructors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board of Education approves Tyler Miller and Tiffanie Henry to provide home instruction during the 2021-2022 school year, based on individual certifications, at \$40/hr pending the outcome of negotiations.
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 approved home instructors at \$40/hr pending, the outcome of negotiations.
  - Student State ID# 5749692843-B, for up to 12 hr/wk, based on subjects needed, beginning 1/3/2022, and
  - Student State ID# 3791516244-LP, for up to 16 hr/wk, based on subjects needed, beginning 1/10/2022.
9. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 8024412573-B, for up to 10 hr/wk, beginning 1/13/2022, provided by Aspire Counseling Center, at \$600/wk.
10. Extracurricular Aide Services: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves up to 140 total hours for Clare Zarzecki and Kathy Post to assist and supervise Student State ID# 5028089364-B, for the 2021-2022 Girl's Lacrosse season, at

\$27.28/hr, pending outcome of negotiations, and further that Tiffanie Henry serve as an alternate, as needed, at \$27.28/hr, pending outcome of negotiations.

11. Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Student State ID# 2389400736-B to attend Butler High School as per N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1d, beginning 12/1/2021 through the remainder of 2021-2022 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$11,928.
12. Work Based Learning Site: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Shoprite in Parsippany as a Work-Based Learning (WBL) site for the 2021-2022 school year.
13. District Program: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following program for the MD Classes at Boonton High School, at no cost to the district, for the 2021-2022 school year.  
Dawn Council of Independent Living, STEP-UP Program: Students explore jobs in the community, receive work-based training and self-advocacy skills. The program will run 16 weeks total (job coaches are provided for the program for these services).
14. Sidebar Agreement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the Sidebar to the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Boonton Education Association, regarding school nurses required to work on COVID contact tracing beyond the length of the normal workday, shall be paid \$30/hr, effective 1/7/2022, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
15. Volunteer Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Matthew Hesse as a volunteer wrestling coach for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **C. OPERATIONS**

Mr. Gardberg reported on food service reviews; SDA emergent needs and capital maintenance \$34K. Mrs. Darling reported on traffic pole; shared service with town for bus service.

Approval of Operations resolutions #1-5 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Ms. Hayes. On roll call the resolutions were approved. YES: Mrs. Darling, Dr. Davis, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Ms. Hayes, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli.

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.  
\$8,695.88 1/6/2022 (machine checks)  
\$402,836.88 1/24/2022 (machine checks)  
\$68,247.74 1/24/2022 (ACH cafeteria)  
\$68,165.54 1/24/2022 (ACH general fund)  
\$2,959,697.54 12/01 -- 12/31/2021 (electronic checks, including payroll)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending 12/31/2021.
3. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month ending 12/31/2021.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date (s)</b>	<b>Workshop / Conference</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Debroah Gleeson	TBD	Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Asynchronous Phonological Awareness Course	\$350.00
Laura Baseil	TBD	Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Asynchronous Phonological Awareness Course	\$350.00
Monica Nieves	6/1/2022	NJTESOL/NJBE 2022 Spring Conference	\$291.84
Dalia Ibrahim	1/18/2022	The 2022 Symposium on Emergent Multilingual Learners in Early Childhood	n/a

5. Disposal of Records: The Board approves the disposal of public records per New Jersey Division of Archives and Records Management Guidelines. Authorization for disposal was approved by the Department of Treasury on 01/10/2022, Authorization #578286.

#### **D. POLICY**

There were no Policy motions to move.

#### **E. DISTRICT WIDE HIB REPORT**

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board approved by roll call to affirm the findings and recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaints: JHS #10

YES: Mrs. Darling, Dr. Davis, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Ezzi, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mrs. Vucenovic. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Hayes. ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli .

#### **F. OTHER BUSINESS**

Approval of Other Business resolution #1 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Vucenovic. On roll call the resolutions were approved. All in favor: YES.

1. School Board Recognition: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves commending the efforts of colleagues and urges the public to support efforts to improve education, per the attached resolution.

#### **REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

1. HS Committee by Mrs. Doherty: January meeting moved to February 10
2. Curriculum by Mrs. Katsakos: February 8 meeting moved to February 15; NAEP on January 27 at JHS
3. PR/Communications by Ms. Hayes: meeting in Mid-February
4. Communications/Legislation by Mrs. LeFebvre: None
5. ESC by Mrs. LeFebvre: contract negotiations and property

6. MCSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: meeting February 23: nominations for award named after Mrs. LeFebvre
7. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Board of Directors meeting; Dr. Feinsod submitted retirement

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Bossen, Boonton: school board recognition; start strong, helping the high-achieving kids

**OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

Committees; strategic planning-7pm; Boonton Historical Society: small businesses of Boonton's past

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 9:18pm by Mr. Ezzi and seconded by Mrs. Darling, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: