

## **BOONTON TOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ 07005

March 18, 2024

The Boonton Town Board of Education, of Morris County, New Jersey, held a meeting at Boonton High School, 306 Lathrop Ave, Boonton, NJ, at 6:00 pm on March 18, 2024.

The meeting was called to order, and the following statement was read: This is the March 18, 2024, 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 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 Mr. Christopher Cartelli, Mrs. Jennifer Darling, Mrs. Elaine Doherty, Mr. Patrick Joyce, Mrs. Loren Katsakos, Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Mr. Matthew Mondino, Ms. Brianna O'Halloran, Mr. Daniel Piccioni. Absent was Mrs. Dawn Caicedo.

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. One member of the public was in attendance.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Steve Bossen requested the Board not add to tax levy.

### **ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Mr. Gardberg commented on ordering a BHS baseball scoreboard and a passenger van. Board members and administrators discussed the following.

1. Solar panels on school roofs
2. Crosswalk system at Lathrop & Vreeland
3. Future grant money for electric buses
4. Air conditioning at JHS and SSS
5. 2% increase in tax levy
6. The overall budget process
7. The importance of keeping our student talent here
8. The State catching up with full funding

Approval of Operations resolutions #1-5 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Mondino. 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: Mrs. Caicedo.

1. 2024-2025 Tentative Budget: The Board approves the 2024-2025 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 29, 2024.

	<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Special Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Debt Service</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$35,554,279	\$3,559,856	\$1,478,200	\$40,592,335
<b>Tax Levy</b>	22,266,465	0	1,100,123	23,366,588

2. 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 2023-2024 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:	\$140,000
Architecture/Engineering:	80,800
Audit:	38,060
<u>Physician:</u>	<u>18,900</u>
For a total amount of:	\$277,760

3. Maximum Travel Budget: The Board approves establishing the maximum travel expenditure amount of \$63,455, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., for the 2024-2025 school year, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2023-2024 school year is \$20,477, of which \$9,026 has been spent and \$5,843 is encumbered to date.
4. 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 \$63,455 for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

5. Preschool Operational Plan: The Board approves submission of the Preschool Education Aid 2024-2025 District Enrollment and Planning Workbook to the NJ Department of Education, and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,437,632.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Steve Bossen: Tax increase would be more palatable if curriculum matters were in better shape

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

Next meeting on March 25

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 6:21 pm by Mr. Piccioni and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: