

## **BOONTON TOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ 07005

November 25, 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 7:00 pm on November 25, 2024.

The meeting was called to order, and the following statement was read: This is the November 25, 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, 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 Mr. Christopher Cartelli, Mrs. Jennifer Darling, Mr. Patrick Joyce, Mrs. Loren Katsakos, Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Mr. Matthew Mondino, Ms. Brianna O'Halloran, Mr. Daniel Piccioni. Absent were Mrs. Dawn Caicedo, Mrs. Elaine Doherty.

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 6 members of the public were in attendance.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

1. John Hill School by Talia Adamo, student representative: Students for Change, volleyball tournament, Sixth-grade hallway huddles, Thanksgiving, winter sports, band & chorus concert
2. Boonton High School by Ashley Suplicki, SRA President: Music Man auditions, Door Decorating contest, Gingerbread decorating contest
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) K-8: None
4. Home School Association 9-12: None
5. Town Council by Robert Murray: FD Santa Parade, tree lighting, Town memorial lighting.

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

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT**

John Gaertner appoint as Technology Coordinator, Staffing: leave replacement appoint tonight, resignation of PreK Para, winter concerts, therapy dogs, District Attendance Improvement Plan

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

### **A. Minutes**

Approval of minutes from previous meetings was moved by Mrs. Darling, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and approved on roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None ABSTAIN: Mr. Cartelli ABSENT: Mrs. Caicedo, Mrs. Doherty.

1. Regular and Executive session: November 11, 2024

### **B. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **PK8 Resolutions**

Approval of Admin PK8 resolutions #1-9 was moved by Mrs. LeFebvre and seconded by Mrs. Katsakos. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mrs. Caicedo, Mrs. Doherty.

1. Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence request from Carolyn Bohman, Speech Pathologist, School Street School, effective January 17, 2025 through June 30, 2025, utilizing 30 days of accumulated sick leave, followed by an unpaid leave of absence.
2. Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence request from Caroline Dougherty, Preschool Teacher, Boonton High School, effective February 26, 2025 through June 30, 2025, utilizing 24 days of accumulated sick days followed by an unpaid leave of absence.
3. Elementary Before and/or After School Academic Support Certified Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Deborah Robinson for Elementary Before and/or After School Academic Support during the 2024-2025 school year at School Street School at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, pending the outcome of negotiations, for up to 2 days per week and up to 1 hour per day, dependent on student enrollment.
4. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Support Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff member for the Bridges to Learning Before/After School Program at John Hill School for the 2024-2025 school year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Cynthia Tserkis-Schlitt	Adult Support Substitute	\$23.00 per hour
Cynthia Tserkis-Schlitt	Lead Teacher Substitute	\$35.00 per hour

5. Long-Term Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Deblina Mukherjee as the long-term leave replacement elementary teacher at John Hill School, at a salary of \$64,825.00 (Step 1 MA),

pending outcome of negotiations, prorated from January 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025, pending receipt of certification.

6. Letter of Resignation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Martha Toledo, Boonton High School Preschool Paraprofessional, effective December 31, 2024, for the purpose of retirement.
7. Field Trip: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destination for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grade 7	New Amsterdam Theater, NYC

8. Advisors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following advisors and stipends, pending outcome of negotiations, at John Hill School for the 2024-2025 school year:

Advisor	Position	Stipend
Gregory LaPointe	Chess Club	\$1,136.00
Jenna Crithary	Students for Change	\$1,136.00
Marybeth Comer	Students for Change	\$1,136.00
Zachary Sabatino	Enrichment Facilitator	\$2,500.00

9. Instructional Aide: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a 1:1 Instructional Aide for out-of-district Student State ID# 5258723966-B, from November 6, 2024 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$255.00 per day.

**PK12 Resolutions**

Approval of Admin PK12 resolutions #1-10 was moved by Mrs. LeFebvre and seconded by Mr. Cartelli. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O’Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None ABSTAIN: None: ABSENT: Mrs. Caicedo, Mrs. Doherty

1. Detention Monitors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Olivia DiTrollo and Beth Forward as Detention Monitors at Boonton High School at a rate of \$26 per hour, pending the outcome of negotiations, during the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Volunteer Coaches: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following volunteer coaches at Boonton High School during the 2024-2025 school year:

Batisse Manhardt\* - Volunteer Wrestling Coach  
 Christopher D'Avanzo\* - Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach  
 Mazzy Cirinelli - Volunteer Track & Field Coach

\*Pending receipt of substitute certificate

3. Volunteer Advisors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following volunteer advisors at Boonton High School during the 2024-2025 school year:

Steven Delaporte - Volunteer Weight Room Advisor  
 Salvatore Montevago - Volunteer Weight Room Advisor  
 Jeffrey Tavolacci - Volunteer Weight Room Advisor  
 Holly Settineri – Volunteer Drama Advisor

4. Advisor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Melinda Miksad as Varsity Basketball Cheerleading Advisor at Boonton High School at a stipend rate of \$3,476.00, pending outcome of negotiations, for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Emily Bohn as a Track and Field Assistant Coach at Boonton High School at a stipend rate of \$7,511.00 (Step 4), pending outcome of negotiations, for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Staff for Crowd Control/Clock Operator: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following for crowd control/clock operator at events as required for the 2024-2025 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event(s)</u>
Sara Simmons	Crowd Control
Al Bellini	Clock Operator

7. Additions to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following additions to the 2024-2025 substitute list:

<u>Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional</u>	<u>Substitute Teacher</u>
Batisse Manhardt*	Deblina Mukherjee**

\* pending receipt of substitute certificate  
 \*\*pending receipt of background clearance

8. 6<sup>th</sup> Period Stipends for Certified Staff Members: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves 6<sup>th</sup> period stipends, in full or in part, for the following Boonton High School staff for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the Agreement Between the BEA and the Board of Education:

The following will receive the full 6th period stipend in the amount of \$5,500 pending outcome of negotiations, prorated from November 18, 2024 through December 20, 2024:

Dean Del Guercio and Mia Fondacaro

The following will receive a partial 6th period stipend (58.4%) in the amount of \$3,212 pending outcome of negotiations, prorated from November 18, 2024 through December 20, 2024:

Ken Ren and Wayne Barreto

9. Approval of Appointment of District Technology Coordinator: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of John Gaertner to the position of District Technology Coordinator, at a salary of \$125,000.00, prorated from January 27, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year.

- 10. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2024-2025 school year:

<u>Grade/Group</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Grades 9-12 (Soccer)	Mount Olive High School NJAC Sportsmanship & Randolph Diner for All-County Soccer Banquet
Grades 9-12 (Wrestling)	University of Delaware for Tournament, Jim Thorpe High School for Girls' Tournament, Mount Olive High School for NJSIAA Championship, Boardwalk Mall/Bally's (Atlantic City) for NJSIAA Individual Championships, Various High Schools for Region & State Practices

**C. OPERATIONS**

Mr. Gardberg: Negative meal balances, roofing, SSS bathroom reno & café updates, SSS field.

Approval of Operations resolutions #1-7 was moved by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Cartelli. YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None ABSTAIN: None: ABSENT: Mrs. Caicedo, Mrs. Doherty.

- 1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.
  - \$756,704.51 11/25/2024 (Check Journal)
  - \$23,410.48 11/25/2024 (ACH General)
  - \$31,890.87 11/25/2024 (ACH Cafeteria)
  - \$8,525.84 11/25/2024 (StAct JHS check Journal)
  - \$1,385.00 11/25/2024 (StAct BHS check Journal)
  - \$3,173,463.40 09/01-9/30/2024 (electronic checks, including payroll)
- 2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending 9/30/2024.
- 3. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month ending 9/30/2024; major funds have not been over-expended.
- 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>
Jennifer Coleman	1/28/25	NJBF-Law Center Understanding HIB Characteristics, New Brunswick, NJ	\$39.67
Peter Nosal	1/28/25	NJBF-Law Center Understanding HIB Characteristics, New Brunswick, NJ	\$39.67
Sara Brogan	1/28/25	NJBF-Law Center Understanding HIB Characteristics, New Brunswick, NJ	\$39.67
Christine Maier	1/28/25	NJBF-Law Center Understanding HIB Characteristics, New Brunswick, NJ	\$39.67
Leah Bircher	1/28/25	NJBF-Law Center Understanding HIB Characteristics, New Brunswick, NJ	\$40.33

Marianne Sayle	1/24/25	Strengthening ELLs -Online	\$295.00
Jesica Harbeson	11/20/24 and 1/14/25	CPIS Meeting Trenton, NJ	\$61.57

5. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 11/25/2024 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 Mr. Hughen, Athletic Director. All permits are pending building administration final approval and receipt of documentation.

Permit #	Requested by / Facility / Dates
2411-0001	Family Literacy Night SSS Multipurpose room, Rm 101, 102, 103, 104, 105 Wednesday 12/4/2024 (6:00 – 8:00 PM)
2411-0002	Boonton PTA: Holiday Crafts Market SSS Multipurpose Room, Parking Lot Friday 12/6/2024 (6:30 – 8:00 PM)
2411-0003	Boonton PTA: Fundraiser pick up JHS Lobby & Parking Lot Tuesdays 11/26/2024 (3:00 – 6:00 PM)
2411-0004	Boonton Parks & Recreation: Soccer Clinic JHS Gym Thursdays 1/2 - 2/20/2025 (6:00 – 8:30 PM) NO ACCESS WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED

6. Increase General Fund Appropriation: The Board approves to increase the 2024-2025 appropriation of account 11-000-310-930 by \$4,800 to reflect unanticipated income from the clothing bins at Boonton High School.
7. Cooperative Sports Agreement: The Board approves renewal of the Cooperative Sports Agreement and Addendum for Ice Hockey with Mountain Lakes Board of Education for \$6,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **D. POLICY**

None

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

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Katsakos, the Board approved by roll call to affirm the findings and recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaints: JHS #2, BHS #3.

YES: Mr. Cartelli, Mrs. Darling, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni. NO: None ABSTAIN: None: ABSENT: Mrs. Caicedo, Mrs. Doherty

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

None

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

1. HS Committee by Mrs. Doherty: met last week
2. Communications/Legislation by Mrs. LeFebvre: More bills being proposed
3. ESC by Mrs. LeFebvre: ESC offered to help with financing ideas
4. MCSBA by Mrs. Darling: Meeting on 12/9
5. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Nominating committee for officers; all mandated training is completed for 2024

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Steve Bosson: Does Realtime offer automated messages from the parent portal?
- Loren: Parade committee
- Jen: Congrats to football team
- Patrick: Pee wee football & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## **OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

1. Next meeting is December 9, 2024

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion at 7:52 pm by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. Katsakos, all present voted to approve the following resolution 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 TO BE TAKEN**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion at 8:07 by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Piccioni, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg  
Board Secretary

**BOARD APPROVAL:**