



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on September 8, 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 & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members present at roll call were Mrs. Jennifer Darling, Mrs. Elaine Doherty (arrived 6:47), Mrs. Loren Katsakos, Mrs. Irene LeFebvre, Mr. Matthew Mondino, Mr. Andrew Portas. Absent were Mr. Christopher Cartelli, Mr. Patrick Joyce, Ms. Brianna O'Halloran, Mr. Daniel Piccioni.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School student representative Nick Fava: Fall sports, Back to School night
2. Boonton High School student representative Ivanna Robello: Fall sports, new phone policy
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) by Gabriela: Newsletter and calendar, Class Ambassadors, Staff welcome back breakfast, Meeting on 9/9, spirit wear, Box Tops
4. Home School Association (HSA) by Courtney Mondino: Back to School breakfast, Dues, Back to School Night, Calendar raffle, prom dresses
5. Town Council by Marie: Appointed the SLEO III, provided info to Mr. Henry for Town newsletter, JHS neighbor with concern about fence, Boonton Day 9/28
6. ESC of Morris County: None
7. MCSBA: Next meeting is here on 10/7
8. NJSBA: None
9. Other: Historical Society to open the Lathrop Mansion (Firemen's Home), Java Smugglers

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration
 - Personnel: Town approved Bill Hopkins as our SLEO III, Question from Loren about cars making illegal left-hand turn out of JHS; candidates for Dir of Curriculum; Preschool Director & Anti-Bullying Coordinator; leaves of absence (Doherty, Bohn/Vnancik, Nash/Carmichael, LaVaglio, Stratton)
 - Programming: Thanks to PTA/HSA for back-to-school breakfast; Back to School Nights; AVID signing; Academy coordinators; BHS open house; fall sports, club fair
 - Professional Development: New staff orientation, full-staff PD, Matt Eicheldinger
 - Technology and Facilities: BHS roof passed inspection, network cabling, security monitors in school main offices

2. Operations
 - Finance: Payroll, audit, ESEA future years, federal shutdown
 - Facilities: IAQ bill, LGEA, JHS media center lighting, CST building sign & natural gas, SSS cafeteria tables
 - Transportation: Shepard route, driver candidate
3. Policy by Loren: Second reads up for approval tonight

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. Recognition of New Jersey School Boards Association
2025 Unsung Superhero in Education Award - Ron DiGiacopo
2. 2025 Graduation Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved all resolutions in a consent agenda by roll call. YES: Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Mondino, Mr. Portas. NO: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Portas (Admin PK8). ABSENT: Mr. Cartelli, Mr. Joyce, Ms. O'Halloran, Mr. Piccioni.

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: August 11, 2025 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: August 11, 2025 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. Paraprofessional Transfer: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a transfer for Catalina Sanchez, School Street School Paraprofessional to John Hill School effective August 27, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Custodian Transfer: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to transfer Juan Isaza, School Street School Custodian to John Hill School, effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Job Description: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the Job Description for Preschool Director. (enclosure)
4. Appointment of Preschool Director: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Alison Schessler as the Preschool Director at a stipend rate of \$20,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. 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 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Position
Jillian Catlett	Adult Support Staff Substitute
Danielle Alfano	Adult Support Staff Substitute
Melissa Mihalko	Adult Support Staff
Saima Choudhry	Adult Support Staff
Maria Digiaco	Adult Support Staff, Lead Teacher Substitute
*Emma Cocuzzo	Adult Support Staff Substitute
*Alaina Claridge	College Support Staff Substitute

*Pending clearance of background check

Adult Support Staff/Substitute - \$23 per hour

Lead Teacher Substitute - \$35 per hour

College Staff - \$17 per hour

6. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grades K-8 (CBI)	Wightmans Farm
Grades 6-8	New Jersey Youth Symphony

7. Student Internship: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Vectors Pathway student internship for Ani Myers, Morris County Vocational School Student, at John Hill School, for 120 hours during the 2025-2026 school year, under the supervision of Andrea Villegas.
8. Staff for Summer Academic Program: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Lynn Bariso, inadvertently left off the May 12 approval list, for the Summer Academic Support Program for students in Grades K-8 during the summer of 2025 at a stipend rate of \$1,600 to be paid with Title I funds.
9. Amend Unpaid Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to amend the unpaid leave of absence previously approved on May 12, 2025 for Caroline Dougherty through November 23, 2025, to extend through June 30, 2026.
10. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 9092613712-B for up to 15 hours per week, beginning September 2, 2025 with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.
11. Stipulation of Settlement Agreement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Stipulation of Settlement Agreement with H.Z. and B.H. on behalf of A.H. dated August 22, 2025. (enclosure)

12. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement of Student State ID# 4173593523-B, to attend Celebrate the Children, beginning September 9, 2025 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$466 per day (177 days) and a 1:1 aide at \$210 per day (177 days).

PK-12

1. Vacation Payout: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a vacation payout for Frank Evans, Boonton High School Custodian, in the amount of \$4,698.75 (21 days at a rate of \$223.75 per day).
2. Vacation Payout: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a vacation payout for Rebecca Kipp-Newbold, Assistant Superintendent, in the amount of \$17,734.98 (28.5 days at \$622.28 per day).
3. Additional Hours for Staff to be Paid for Advanced Placement Courses: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves an additional 13 hours for one Advanced Placement Section and an additional 26 hours for 2 Advanced Placement Sections to each of the following teachers to be used for review during the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$42.00 per hour. AP hours are 10 hours face-to-face and 3 administration hours

Staff Member	Advanced Placement Course	Number of Sections
Jillian Glaser	AP Literature	2 Sections
Michelle McBride	AP Language	2 Sections
Vincent LoGuidice	AP Psychology	2 Sections
Michael LaVaglio	AP Research	1 Section
Michael LaVaglio	AP Seminar	1 Section
Michael LaVaglio	AP US History	1 Section
Alyssa DeOrio	AP Calculus (AB)	1 Section
Alyssa DeOrio	AP Computer Science Principles	1 Section
Roger Shan	AP Statistics	1 Section
Vincent Coiro	AP Macroeconomics	2 Sections
Mia Fondacaro	AP Biology	1 Section
Wayne Barreto	AP Physics	1 Section
Wei Shi	AP Chemistry	1 Section
Emily Bohn	AP Human Geography	2 Sections
Stephen Young	AP Computer Science A	1 Section
Samantha Angelillo	AP Art and Design Portfolio	1 Section
Christina Buck	AP Spanish Language & Culture	1 Section

4. Custodians Transfer: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a transfer for the following custodians effective September 2, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Member	From	To
Olga Mendoza	Boonton High School	School Street School
Maria Hidalgo	John Hill School	Boonton High School
Gamal Abdelnaby	John Hill School	Boonton High School
Marta Robles	Boonton High School	John Hill School

5. 6th Period Stipend: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a 6th period stipend for Dean Del Guercio in the amount of \$5,775 for the 2025-2026 school year, as per the Agreement Between the BEA and the Board of Education.

6. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grades 9-12 (CBI)	Kearny Bank (Pine Brook), Parsippany High School, Sun High Orchards (Randolph)
Grades 9-12 (Business Academy)	Sports Illustrated Stadium
Grades 9-12 (Gateway Academy)	College Visit (Yale University)
Grades 9-12 (AVID)	Marist University, East Stroudsburg University

7. Additions to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following additions to the 2025-2026 substitute list:

Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	Substitute School Nurse
Stacey Garb*	Arle Berghorn
Caryn Feder*	
Christina Holster*	

*Pending background check

8. Unpaid Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves an unpaid leave of absence for Emily Bohn, Boonton High School Social Studies Teacher, effective August 27, 2025 through an anticipated return date of October 19, 2025.
9. Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence for Jamie Nash, Boonton High School Guidance Counselor, effective August 27, 2025 through an anticipated return date of October 5, 2025 utilizing accumulated sick days.
10. Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence for Meghan Stratton, Supervisor of Humanities, effective January 12, 2026 utilizing 17 accumulated sick days, 18 vacation days and 3 personal days, followed by an unpaid leave of absence through July 5, 2026.
11. Unpaid Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence for Michael LaVaglio, Boonton High School Social Studies Teacher, effective September 29, 2025 through November 23, 2025.
12. Long-Term Leave Social Studies Replacement Teacher: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Daniel Vnencak as a long-term leave Social Studies Replacement Teacher at Boonton High School, at a salary of \$67,405 (Step 1 MA) prorated from September 1, 2025 through October 17, 2025.

13. Long-Term Leave Guidance Counselor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Laura Carmichael as a long-term leave Guidance Counselor at Boonton High School, at a salary of \$67,405 (Step 1 MA) prorated from background check clearance date through an anticipated date of October 3, 2025.
14. AVID Committee Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Michelle McBride as the AVID Committee Member for Professional Development at Boonton High School, at a stipend rate of \$500, to be paid with Title IIA Funds during the 2025-2026 school year.
15. Interim District-Wide Anti Bullying Coordinator: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Jason Klebez as the Interim District-Wide Anti Bullying Coordinator, at an annual stipend rate of \$4,400 to be paid on a pro-rated basis effective from September 2, 2025 for the number of months served on an interim basis.
16. Advisors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following advisors and stipends at Boonton High School for the 2025-2026 school year:

Advisor	Position	Stipend
Deanna Wilks	Key Club Advisor	\$ 870
Marie Evans	GSA Advisor	\$3,010
17. Revise Coaching Appointment: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the coaching appointment for John Sisto, previously approved on May 12, 2025 as Boonton High School Boys Assistant Soccer Coach to Boonton High School Boys Head Soccer Coach at a stipend rate of \$8,081 (Step 2) for the 2025-2026 school year.
18. Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Robert Davidson as the Boys Assistant Soccer Coach at Boonton High School at a stipend rate of \$7,586 (Step 4) for the 2025-2026 school year.
19. Detention Monitors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Samantha Angelillo and Barbara Gilbert as Detention Monitors at Boonton High School at a rate of \$26.50 per hour for the 2025-2026 school year.
20. Amend Common Lunch Monitor Assignment: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to amend the Common Lunch Monitor Assignment for Emily Bohn, previously approved on August 11, 2025, to be paid a stipend rate of \$3,000 prorated from October 20, 2025 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
21. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement for Student State ID# 6962093758-B, to attend The High Point School of Bergen County for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$364.81 per day (185 days), and that transportation be arranged as needed.
22. Home Instructors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board of Education approves Jesica Harbeson and Vanessa DeJesus to provide home instruction during the 2025/2026 school year, based on their individual certifications, at a rate of \$42 per hour.

23. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 4885742630-B and Student State ID# 1098355112-B, beginning September 2, 2025 for up to 10 hours per week each, to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.
24. Unsung Hero: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the nomination to NJ School Boards Association of Ron DiGiacopo as an Unsung Hero.

HIB REPORT

None

POLICY

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the reading of the following:

Final Reading

Policy #0143	Board Member Election and Appointment (Revised) (attachment)
Policy #0173	Duties of Public School Accountant (Revised) (attachment)
Policy #0174	Legal Services (M) (Revised) (attachment)
Policy #0177	Professional Services (M) (Revised) (attachment)
Policy & Reg #1570	Internal Controls (M) (Revised) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy #1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised) (attachment)
Policy #1636.01	Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities (New) (attachment)
Policy #2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements (M) (Revised) (attachment)
Policy #5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (Revised) (attachment)
Policy & Reg #5117	Interdistrict Public School Choice (Revised) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy #5339.01	Student Sun Protection (M) (New) (attachment)
Policy & Reg #6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (Revised) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy #6220	Budget Preparation (M) (Revised) (attachment)
Reg #6220	Budget Preparation (Revised) (attachment)
Policy 9163	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (New) (attachment)

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$4,107.12	9/8/2025	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$118,751.22	9/8/2025	General ACH (attachment)
\$25,838.79	9/2/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$31,604.21	9/3/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$624,754.79	9/8/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$877,652.88	July 2025	Electronic checks (attachment , incl. payroll)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending July 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 July 31, 2025; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
4. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves revised Fund 10 reports of the Board Secretary (attachment) and Treasurer (attachment) for the month ending June 30, 2025; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
5. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$274,902.08 8/15/2025
\$198,237.03 8/30/2025
6. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts.

Name	Date (s)	Workshop / Conference	Total Cost
Meghan Stratton	10/20/25	NJ Social Studies Conference, Rutgers, NJ	\$90
Christina Pesci	9/4/25	Caregiver's Course-Atlantic Health Morristown, NJ	\$9.12
Maria Beaton	9/4/25	Caregiver's Course-Atlantic Health Morristown, NJ	\$9.12
Luisa Iuliano-Cabrera	Ongoing	NJPSA Anti-Bullying/Online	\$500
Elisabeth Cunningham	10/13/25	Rob Amchin & The Community Church of Mountain Lakes Mountain Lakes, NJ	\$60
Alyssa Blauvelt	9/25,10/28, 11/20, 12/19,1/20, 2/27	Conquer Mathematics Pompton Plains, NJ	\$59.78
Rachel Wolk	10/1,11/12, 1/23	Conquer Mathematics Pompton Plains, NJ	\$30.74
Diana Melione	10/1, 10/28, 1/12	Conquer Mathematics Pompton Plains, NJ	\$30.74
Alyssa Blauvelt	12/12/25	Morris Knolls High School Rockaway, NJ	\$7.33

7. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 9/8/2025 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 # 2508-0001	Requested by / Facility / Dates Town of Boonton – Fire Department Anniversary Celebration Boonton High School – Practice Football Fields to Tennis Ct, including Parking lots Thursday 8/21 - Thursday 9/4/2025 Set up- Clean up
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- 2508-0002 Boonton Football Parents: Night before game dinners
BHS Cafeteria
Thursdays 8/27 - 10/30/2025 (5:00-8:00 PM)
- 2508-0003 Boonton Hills & Valley LAX: Clinic
BHS Turf
Saturday & Sunday 11/8 & 11/9/2025 (12:00 -1:30 PM)
- 2509-0000 Junior Bombers Wrestling; Practice
BHS Aux Gym
Mondays-Thursdays 11/3/2025 - 3/21/2026 (5:00 - 9:00 PM)
- 2509-0001 Boonton PTA: SSS Book Fair
SSS Multipurpose Room
Friday 10/24/2025 (8:00 AM - 3:00 PM)
- 2509-0004 Boonton PTA Welcome Back Breakfast
BHS Cafeteria
Tuesday 8/27/2025 (6:00 - 9:00 AM)
- 2509-0005 Boonton PTA: SSS Book Fair
SSS Multipurpose Room
Friday 10/17/2025 (8:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

8. Submission of ESEA FY26 Grant: The Board approves the submission of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA aka ESSA) Grant Fiscal Year 2026, in the following amounts.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
I-A	\$221,807
II-A	35,661
III	20,702
III Immigrant	4,789
<u>IV-A</u>	<u>15,051</u>
Total	\$298,010

9. Parental 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 2025-2026 school year, to be paid based on student attendance, not to exceed \$4,500.00.
10. Professional Service: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the agreement with Best Choice Home Care to provide nursing services at \$73 per hour for the 2025-2026 school year. (enclosure)
11. 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 2025-2026 school year. (enclosure)

12. Joint Transportation Agreement: The Board approves the joint transportation agreement with Boonton Township Board of Education (Joiner) for Route J01 to and from Shepard School in Kinnelon for the 2025-2026 school year at \$67/day for up to 180 days, not to exceed \$12,060. (enclosure)

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Next meeting is September 29, 2025
2. Election in November, Robert Ezzi as write-in candidate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 7:28 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Mondino, 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

Adjourn executive session and return to open session.

On a motion at 8:07 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Mondino, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:08 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Katsakos, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: