



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on December 8, 2025, in the Boonton High School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER

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 Christopher Cartelli, Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Matthew Mondino, Brianna O'Halloran, Andrew Portas. Absent was Patrick Joyce.

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 3 members of the public. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LIAISON REPORTS

1. Boonton High School student representative Kira Shiels: Spirit week, senior-faculty basketball game, winter sports, pep rally
2. Town Council by Marie DeVenezia: Holiday activities, resident spoke at meeting about traffic safety at John Hill pick-up, leaf pick-up
3. MCSBA by Mrs. Darling: Meeting last week
4. NJSBA by Mrs. LeFebvre: Planning for next Workshop, new officers
5. Other: Historical Society holiday programs, new website; Native seeds library

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration by Mr. Valle
 - Personnel: Computer Technician, temp help for IT, job description
 - Programming: Biomedical science club, concerts
 - Technology & Facilities: Phone system, interactive displays in classrooms, WiFi upgrades, cellphone repeaters, JHS elevator, heating
2. Operations by Mr. Gardberg: ASSA report, Ch 44 report, DOE budget report, FY27 state aid, health insurance, roof change order, inspection reports, water heater, DCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant, LGEA grant
3. Policy by Mrs. Katsakos: NJSBA policies/regulations

Mr. Mondino left the meeting at 7:08 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Marie DeVenezia: Hot water heater

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: November 24, 2025 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: November 24, 2025 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. Field Trip: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destination for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grade 4	Liberty Science Center

2. Detention Monitor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Jennifer Bridi as a Detention Monitor at John Hill School at a rate of \$26.50 per hour for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kelli Briggs as Adult Support Staff 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 at a rate of \$23 per hour.
4. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 7968816201-B for up to 10 hours per week from November 24, 2025 through December 1, 2025, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.
5. Extracurricular/Instructional Aide Services: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff members for up to 3 hours per event to assist and supervise Student State ID# 5315840638-B, Student State ID# 6465764251-B, Student State ID# 5871915728-B, Student State ID# 4738918218-B, and Student State ID# 8876906617-B during John Hill School Junior Choir evening concerts for winter and spring seasons, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Tina Cosentino at a rate of \$31.53 (Step 3)
Laura Affinito at a rate of \$31.65 (Step 4)
Brianna Affinito at a rate of \$31.65 (Step 4)
Melinda Miksad at a rate of \$31.53 (Step 3)
Jennifer Coleman at a rate of \$31.65 (Step 4)
Matthew Robinson at a rate of \$31.02 (Step 1)

6. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement for Student State ID# 7968816201-B, to attend Windsor Learning Center, beginning December 1, 2025 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$367 per day (123 days), and that transportation be arranged as needed.

PK-12

1. Substitutes: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

Teachers/Paraprofessionals
Abby Crane
Kennedy Kwinta*

*Pending background clearance

2. Field Trip: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destination for the 2025-2026 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
Grades 12+ Transition	Jefferson High School

3. Revise Job Description: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the revisions to the Computer Technician Job Description. (enclosure)
4. Revise Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the leave of absence request for Meghan Stratton, previously approved on September 8, 2025 to begin on January 12, 2026, to now begin on January 5, 2026, utilizing 5 additional accumulated sick days, through July 5, 2026.
5. District On-Roll Report: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the District's On-Roll Report for the month of November 2025. (enclosure)
6. Computer/Technology Support: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kaylee Hughen to provide computer/technology support, for up to 120 hours from December 15, 2025 through January 25, 2026, at a rate of \$16 per hour.
7. Computer Technician: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Tessa Heidt to the position of Computer Technician, at a salary of \$54,000 prorated from January 1, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
8. Outside Evaluation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Dr. Sostre-Oquendo, MD, to conduct a follow up clearance from initial Psychiatric Evaluation for Student State ID# 4885742630-B at a cost of \$500.

HIB REPORT

None

POLICY

None

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$45,666.97	12/8/2025	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$1,720.00	12/8/2025	Cafeteria checks (attachment)
\$51,523.33	12/8/2025	General ACH (attachment)
\$1,248.00	12/1/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$758,236.24	12/8/2025	General checks (attachment)
\$468.00	12/1/2025	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$1,586.19	12/8/2025	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$288.47	12/8/2025	Student Activity JHS ACH (attachment)
\$2,952.01	12/8/2025	Student Activity JHS checks (attachment)
2. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$1,112,488.95	11/15/2025
\$1,187,529.14	11/30/2025
3. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts. ([attachment](#))
4. Change Order: The Board approves change order #1 in the amount of -\$88,025.11 to the roofing replacement project awarded on April 28, 2025, to Weatherproofing Technologies Inc., reducing the total contract to \$884,751.64.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Steve Bossen: Cooperation with Lincoln Park board, thank you to new board member for joining

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Next meeting is January 5, 2026
2. Mr. Cartelli: 15 years on the board, academic hall of fame, top 100 high school, phones, fiscal responsibility

Mr. Mondino returned to the meeting at 7:35 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 7:41 pm by Mrs. Katsakos and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, 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, 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 Mr. Mondino and seconded by Mr. Portas, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:07 pm by Mr. Portas and seconded by Ms. O'Halloran, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: