



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on February 9, 2026, 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 Jenna Aiello, Jennifer Darling, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Matthew Mondino, Justin Nguyen. Absent were Elaine Doherty, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Brianna O'Halloran.

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 20 members of the public. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LIAISON REPORTS

1. Boonton High School student representative by Ivanna Rubellow: Spirit week, FBLA, senior nights, drama club
2. Home School Association (HSA) by Matt: Calendar raffle, Say Yes to the Dress,
3. MCSBA: Meeting last week about HIBs, next meeting on 3/5 for Unsung Heroes
4. NJSBA: Opening for VP Legislation; Legislative Advocacy Committee

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Recognition of the 2025-2026 Governor's Educators of the Year:

School Street School

Natasha Laderach - Teacher of the Year

Jill Hoffman - Educational Services Professional of the Year

John Hill School

Marybeth Comer - Teacher of the Year

Melyssa Stella - Educational Services Professional of the Year

Boonton High School

Olivia DiTrollo - Teacher of the Year

Kristen Cacciabeve - Educational Services Professional of the Year

2. Administration

- Personnel: Sabrina Vargas started as the STEM Supervisor, JHS drama club director
- Programming: 26-27 calendar, Saturday credit-recovery sessions, author visits, academy acceptance letters, Gateway alumni panel, Academy experiences (aviation, teaching & learning), AVID

- Professional Development: Data-driven instruction, NJGPA and NJSLA, AVID strategies
- Technology & Facilities: Board Office burst pipe, portable radios, wall-to-wall carpet

3. Operations

- Application for DCA's Local Recreation Improvement Grant
- Transportation: Sub driver continues to help with athletics and field trips, and we have a second potential sub
- Food Service: Pomptonian has been doing some exciting special lunches, including omelet day last month at John Hill, and upcoming taco, waffle and Chinese food days at BHS, plus pizzeria pizza days at School Street
- Finance: FY27 is approximately balanced while fine-tuning; earlier projection of surplus was off base; it appears Gov. Sherrill will exercise her option, as Gov. Murphy did, to delay the budget address; this could be as late as March 10, which is the day after our scheduled vote; this would delay our vote until March 16 or 23, assuming Mondays for meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Steve Bossen: Policy/Regulation 9130; portable radios (Rapid Radios)

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: January 5, 2026 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: January 5, 2026 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. 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
PreK	Brookhollow Barnyard
Grades K-2 (CBI)	Holmes Library
Grade 1	Turtle Back Zoo
Grade 2	Growing Stage Theater
Grades 3-8 (CBI)	Holmes Library
Grades 6-8 (Music)	1 Patriots Park

2. Resignation of Advisor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Julie Rogers, John Hill School Drama Director.

3. Resignation of Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Noreen Rocco Mahoney, John Hill School Softball Coach.
4. Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Michael Smulewicz as the John Hill School Softball Coach at a stipend of \$4,641 for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Volunteer Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Noreen Rocco Mahoney as a Volunteer Softball Coach at John Hill School for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Drama Director: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Beth Vecchio as Drama Director, John Hill School, at a stipend rate of \$1,800 for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. Resignation of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Shalyn Fry, Special Education Teacher, School Street School, effective January 27, 2026.
8. Extend Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to extend the leave of absence for Julie Rogers previously approved on January 5, 2025 from November 14, 2025 through January 1, 2026, until January 26, 2026, using accumulated sick days.
9. Leave of Absence Request: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leaves of absence request from Jesica Harbeson, beginning February 23, 2026 through April 2, 2026, using accumulated sick days.
10. Bridges to Learning 2026 Summer Programs: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following Bridges to Learning 2026 Summer Programs:

Early Learner's Academy for incoming and current Pre-K students from June 29, 2026 through July 31, 2026 (excluding July 3rd)

Summer After Camp Bridges Program for students entering Kindergarten through Grade 6 at from June 29, 2026 through July 31, 2026 (excluding July 3rd)

Summer Theater Program for students from 9 am - 1 pm:
Session 1: Grades 1 - 2 July 6, 2026 through July 10, 2026
Session 2: Grades 3 - 5: July 20, 2026 through July 24, 2026
Session 3: Grades 6 - 9: July 27, 2026 through July 31, 2026

Summer Enrichment for students entering Kindergarten - Grade 8 from August 3, 2026 through August 14, 2026, including before and aftercare.
11. Outside Evaluation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Lake Drive Program – Specialized Evaluations Services to conduct the following evaluations for Student State ID# 5759515210-B:

Psychological Evaluation - \$1,000
 Speech Language Evaluation - \$1,000
 Educational Evaluation - \$1,000
 Physical Therapy Evaluation - \$640

12. Additional Itinerant Services: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Lake Drive School to provide the following additional services during the 2025-2026 school year for Student State ID#6590698493 (dates to be determined):

Itinerant Services (TOD) – 4 sessions at \$190 per session
 Audiological Services – up to 1 hour at \$255 per hour

13. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement of Student State ID# 3408034805, attending the Parsippany-Troy Hills School District, beginning October 1, 2025 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, at a total cost of \$44,653.80, inclusive of tuition, related services and transportation.
14. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 8948140690-B, for up to 10 hours per week, beginning February 6, 2026, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.

PK-12

1. District Calendar for 2026-2027: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the district calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. ([attachment](#))

2. 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)	West Orange HS, Hanover Park HS
Grades 12+ (Transition)	AMC Theater-Rockaway, Pompton Lakes HS
Grades 9-12 (Criminal Justice Academy)	Morris County Police Academy, NJIT, US District Court
Grades 9-12 (Wrestling Tournaments)	Mount Olive HS, Vernon HS, Boardwalk Atlantic City, Other various high schools TBD
Grade 11 (College Fair)	NJ Convention Center
Grades 11 & 12 (FBLA)	Harrah's Convention Center

3. 6th Period Stipend: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a 6th period stipend for Matthew Brandt, in the amount of \$5,775, prorated from November 10, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

4. Senior Portfolio Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff for Senior Portfolio for up to 10 hours each at a rate of \$42 per hour:

ELA Staff: Michelle McBride and Jillian Glaser

Math Staff: Beth Forward and Sameera Hanafi

5. District On-Roll Reports: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the District's On-Roll Reports for the months of December 2025 and January 2026. (enclosure)
6. Substitutes: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

Substitute Teachers / Paraprofessionals

Caitlin Melgaard*

Abderrahmane Messeleka*

Anthony Freda**

Sidney Figueroa*

*Pending receipt of Substitute Certificate

**Pending background check

7. Advisor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves Marie Evans as Grade 12 Class Advisor at Boonton High School at the prorated stipend of \$1,163, from January 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026.
8. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 8011425262-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning December 17, 2025, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.
9. Work Based Learning Site: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Chick-fil-A as a Work-Based Learning (WBL) site for the 2025-2026 school year.
10. Special Education Teen Advocacy Group: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kelsey Corsaro to conduct the Boonton School District Special Education Teen Advocacy Group (TAG) beginning January 2026 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year for up to 6 afterschool events for up to 3 hours per event at a rate of \$42 per hour.
11. Home Instructor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Monica Nieves to provide home instruction during the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$42 per hour.
12. 2026 Special Education Extended Year Programs: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following 2026 Special Education Extended Year Programs:

Program Dates: July 6 – July 31, 2026
Program Times: (Monday-Friday)
Preschool from 8:30 am - 11:30 am
K-12 8:00 am -12:00 pm

POLICY

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

First Reading

Policy 0142.1	Nepotism (Revised) (attachment)
Policy 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (Revised) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 1552	Sexual Harassment (New) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 2530	Resource Materials (Revised) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 2535	Library Material (New) (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 9130	Public Complaints (attachment) (attachment)
Abolished	
Policy 3362	Sexual Harassment (attachment)
Regulation 3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (attachment)
Policy 4352	Sexual Harassment (attachment)
Regulation 4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (attachment)

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$1,362.63	1/13/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$33,493.25	1/26/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$49,147.14	2/9/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$450.00	1/26/2026	Cafeteria checks (attachment)
\$675.00	2/9/2026	Cafeteria checks (attachment)
\$24,477.19	1/13/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$56,200.46	1/26/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$47,530.08	2/9/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$666,933.00	1/13/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$427,502.55	1/26/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$884,275.09	2/9/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$139.51	1/26/2026	Student Activity BHS ACH (attachment)
\$193.86	2/9/2026	Student Activity BHS ACH (attachment)
\$1,535.00	1/26/2026	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$555.00	1/26/2026	Student Activity JHS checks (attachment)
\$940.00	2/9/2026	Student Activity JHS checks (attachment)
\$3,530,074.40	November 2025	Electronic checks, incl. payroll (attachment)
\$3,395,763.93	December 2025	Electronic checks, incl. payroll (attachment)

2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending November 30, 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 November 30, 2025; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
4. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending December 31, 2025. ([attachment](#))
5. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary ([attachment](#)) and Treasurer ([attachment](#)) for the month ending December 31, 2025; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
6. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$1,111,475.60	12/15/2025
\$1,096,043.34	12/30/2025
\$1,245,862.50	1/15/2026
\$1,110,618.93	1/30/2026
7. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts. ([attachment](#))
8. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use Lists of 1/26/2026 ([attachment](#)) and 2/9/2026 ([attachment](#)) 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.
9. Grant Application: The Board approves submission of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for \$82,858 to carry out a project to improve the safety and design of the Boonton High School gymnasium. Further, the Board recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the DCA, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Board and DCA.
10. Disposal of Surplus Property: The Board authorizes disposal of the following surplus property that is no longer needed for public use, by sale conducted directly with the Board and/or through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 and Local Finance Notice 2008-9, while reserving the right to accept or reject any offer submitted; surplus property shall be sold in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property; property not sold within 60 days may be discarded.

Location	Item
School Street School	Savin IMC4500 Color/B&W Copier/Scanner

11. Tuition Contracts: The Board approves the following tuition contracts for students identified as McKinney-Vento eligible, for whom the Districts of Residence are financially responsible pursuant to NJSA 18A:7B-12, inclusive of a 1:1 aide where noted (*), plus reimbursement for actual costs of busing.

<u>District</u>	<u>SID #</u>	<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Hanover Township	3947258008	02/13/25 – 06/30/25	\$8,492.44
Hanover Township	3947258008	09/01/25 – 06/30/26	\$18,133.00
Parsippany-Troy Hills	3429749446	01/10/25 – 06/30/25	\$10,721.71
Parsippany-Troy Hills	3429749446	09/01/25 – 10/27/25	\$3,727.34
Parsippany-Troy Hills	8971964106	01/10/25 – 06/30/25	\$10,721.71
Parsippany-Troy Hills	8971964106	09/01/25 – 10/27/25	\$3,902.47
Parsippany-Troy Hills	8145517305	09/01/25 – 06/30/26	\$17,713.00
Parsippany-Troy Hills	2482876275	10/17/25 – 06/30/26	\$15,110.83
Parsippany-Troy Hills	6336251224*	10/17/25 – 10/29/25	\$5,947.04
Paterson	7968623567	01/05/26 – 06/30/26	\$10,726.21

12. Donation: The Board accepts the donation of \$150 from Peter Wendt to the Boonton High School Drama Club for their show in March 2026.

13. Contract: The Board approves awarding a 2025-2026 contract for \$46,766.35 to replace flooring at John Hill School to Hannon Floors per NJ State Contract Co-op #65MCECCPS, ESCNJ# 23/24-14.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Steve Bossen: Teacher attendance, college readiness

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Next meeting is February 23, 2026; board attorney will provide ethics training
2. Public relations committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 8:14 pm by Mr. Mondino and seconded by Mrs. McMahon, 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 8:40 pm by Mr. Mondino and seconded by Mrs. McMahon, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:41 pm by Jenna Aiello and seconded by Mr. Mondino, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: