



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on March 9, 2026, 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 Steve Sentowski, Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon (arrived 6:35), Matthew Mondino (arrived 6:58), Brianna O'Halloran. Absent were Jenna Aiello, Justin Nguyen.

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 5 members of the public. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE

LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School student representative: Winter dance, snow days, PTA Valentine's dance, spring sports
2. Boonton High School student representative Ivanna Robello: Spring play, wrestling, spring sports, FBLA trip, powder puff pep rally
3. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA): none
4. Home School Association (HSA): Calendar raffle
5. ESC of Morris County: Seeking partner for school building
6. MCSBA: Unsung Heroes presentation, May meeting at West Morris HS, Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting in April with Sen. Bucco
7. NJSBA: VP Legislative chair
8. Other: Historical Society: Sun 3/15 new exhibit focusing on businesses after end of 1800s; Pathways to History on May 2 and 3; walking tour in May

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration
 - Highlights: Unsung Heroes, Spring play, Mr. Wacha at Lincoln Park, snow days, ethics training at the 4/13 board meeting
 - Personnel: Leave replacements,
 - Technology & Facilities: Strobe light installation, text message alerts, AV for auditorium
 - Programming: Read Across America, TREPS evening, AVID national showcase on 3/26, new platforms for standardized testing

- Professional Development: AVID rep trained more teacher leaders for turnkey training; 3/20 full-day PD

2. Budget

- Healthcare creates a structural deficit
- Multiyear scenarios with surpluses/deficits
- How to maintain programs and facilities: Staffing attrition and contractor reductions in 25-26 (intervention, guidance, custodial, ESS); attrition in 26-27 could save about \$500,000 in salaries and benefits from intervention in middle school, paraprofessionals, contracted behaviorist, secretary as part-time; future paraprofessionals as part-time; two considerations for class size: Current Kgtn enrollment suggests contracting from four to three homerooms; bubble in elementary school with five sections may contract later from five to four sections

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Steve Bossen: Regulation 9130, suggestion to add context, eg. section 4.b.1

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: February 9, 2026 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: February 9, 2026 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Catalina Sanchez as Adult Support Staff Substitute 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 \$23.50 per hour.
2. Revise Leave of Absence Request: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to revise the leave of absence request for Halli Trinker previously approved on October 27, 2025 from February 2, 2026 through June 30, 2026, utilizing 32 days of accumulated sick days and two personal days to be revised to use 21 days of accumulated sick days and 1 personal day, followed by an unpaid leave of absence.
3. Appointment of Long-Term Leave Preschool Replacement Teacher: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Nicole Mendell as the Long-Term Leave Replacement Preschool Teacher, Boonton High School, at a salary of \$72,470 (Step 10 BA+15) prorated from April 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

4. Appointment of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Rachael Zeug to the position of Special Education Elementary Teacher, School Street School, at a salary of \$69,805 (Step 5 MA), prorated from February 24, 2026 through June 30, 2026.
5. Preschool Family Handbook: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the Preschool Family Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.
(enclosure)
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 6-8 (Music)	Hershey Park and Hummelstown, PA
Grade 8	Round Valley Recreation Area

7. Movement on Salary Guide: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the following staff member's movement on guide, in accordance with the Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Boonton Education Association, retroactive to February 1, 2026:

Employee	Placement on Guide
Kelli Shiels	Step 12 BA+15 to Step 12 MA

8. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 7532117916-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning February 10, 2026, with instruction to be provided by Silvergate Prep, at a rate of \$40 per hour.
9. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the out-of-district placement of Student State ID# 3185615279-B, to attend PG Chambers beginning March 5, 2026 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$509.90 per day (68 days), and that transportation be arranged as needed.
10. Professional Service: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves The Medical Access Group (dba A Caring Connection) to provide 1:1 nursing services for Student State ID# 3185615279-B, beginning March 9, 2026 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year (per doctor's order) for up to 6 hours per day, to be billed at a maximum hourly rate of \$67.00 per hour.
11. Extracurricular/Instructional Aide Services: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves up to 25 hours for Cynthia Tserkis to assist and supervise Student State ID# 8359684319-B during the John Hill School Drama Production at a rate of \$31.65 (Step 4) per hour.

PK-12

1. Substitute: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Lorraine Clark as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional during the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Substitute Bus Driver: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Debbie Trabucco as a substitute bus driver during the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate of \$36.92 (Step 5).
3. Coaches: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following coaches and stipends at Boonton High School for the 2025-2026 school year:

Dean Del Guercio as the Assistant Baseball Coach, at a stipend rate of \$7,586 (Step 4), and Kathleen Crooker as the Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach, at a stipend rate of \$4,846 (Step 1)
4. Volunteer Coach: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Paul Pomykala as a Volunteer Baseball Coach at Boonton High School, for the 2025-2026 school year..
5. 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
Grade 9	Pax Amicus Theater
Grades 9-12 (Criminal Justice Academy)	County College of Morris
Grades 9-12 (Technology Student Association)	The College of New Jersey
Grades 11-12 (PLC)	SSS - Read Across America
Grade 12	Six Flags Great Adventure
Grade 12 (Gateway Academy)	Metropolitan Museum of Art
Grade 12+ Transition	Hackettstown High School, Applebees
6. Staff to Supervise a Saturday Credit Recovery Program: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff members to supervise a Saturday Credit Recovery Program at Boonton High School during the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$42 per hour:

Barbara Gilbert	Gabrielle Filippini	Rachel Olivo
Dan Montgomery	Ed Haddad	Laurene Carey
Samantha Angelillo	Olivia DiTrollo	Jason Klebez
Alan Masters	Luisa Iuliano-Cabrera	Louis Castano
7. Movement on Salary Guide: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator the Board approves the following staff members' movement on guide, in accordance with the Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Boonton Education Association, retroactive to February 1, 2026:

Employee	Placement on Guide
Dean Del Guercio	Step 17 BA to Step 17 BA+15
Alyssa DeOrio	Step 9 MA to Step 9 MA+15
Mia Fondacaro	Step 10 MA to Step 10 MA+15
8. 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 February 2026. (enclosure)
9. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for the following students:

Student State ID# 6093593356-B, for up to 10 hours per week, beginning February 12, 2026, with instruction to be provided by LearnWell Education at a rate of \$62.55 per hour, and

Student State ID# 6743726160-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning February 28, 2026, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour

10. Sign Language Interpreter: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a Sign Language Interpreter for Extracurricular Activities for out-of-district Student State ID# 4789637065-B, during the 2025-2026 spring sports season, as needed, not to exceed \$12,000 per activity.

HIB REPORT

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board affirms the findings and recommendations on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaints: BHS #1, JHS #3, JHS #4.

POLICY

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

Final Reading	
Policy 0142.1	Nepotism (attachment)
Policy 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 1552	Sexual Harassment (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 2530	Resource Materials (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 2535	Library Material (attachment) (attachment)
Policy & Regulation 9130	Public Complaints (attachment) (attachment)

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$31,474.60	2/23/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$37,107.81	3/9/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$37,421.13	2/23/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$13,701.53	3/9/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$878,839.49	2/23/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$266,120.49	3/9/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$1,118.33	3/9/2026	Student Activity BHS ACH (attachment)
\$5,584.23	2/23/2026	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$20.00	3/9/2026	Student Activity JHS check (attachment)
\$4,868,990.30	January 2026	Electronic checks, incl. payroll (attachment)
2. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.

\$1,138,107.38	2/15/2026
\$1,124,869.83	2/28/2026
3. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending January 31, 2026. ([attachment](#))

4. Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer: The Board approves reports of the Board Secretary ([attachment](#)) and Treasurer ([attachment](#)) for the month ending January 31, 2026; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
5. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses for 2/23/2026 ([attachment](#)) and 3/9/2026 ([attachment](#)), in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts.
6. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use Lists of 2/23/2026 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. ([attachment](#))
7. Joint Transportation Agreement: The Board approves the joint transportation agreement with Summit Public School (Joiner) for as-needed trips for the 2025-2026 school year for \$72.00/hr per bus.
8. Submission of IDEA FY26 Grant: The Board approves the submission of the amended Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant Fiscal Year 2026, to include carryover, in the following amounts.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Original Award</u>	<u>Carryover</u>	<u>Amended Award</u>
Part B	\$446,540	\$27,928	\$474,468
Preschool	14,154	0	14,154

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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Original Award</u>	<u>Carryover</u>	<u>Amended Award</u>
I-A	\$221,807	\$7,796	\$229,603
II-A	35,661	18,804	54,465
III	20,702	2,647	23,349
III Immigrant	4,789	4,752	9,541
IV-A	15,051	3,743	18,794

10. Transportation Agreement: The Board approves the transportation reimbursement for Student State ID# 3185615279-B for transportation to and from PG Chambers School in Cedar Knolls, NJ, for the 2025-2026 school year, to be paid based on student attendance, not to exceed \$3,829.36.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Maintenance needed in SSS boys bathroom in cafeteria and BHS girls bathroom
2. Intermission at BHS play for bathroom access
3. Turf lights replacement, perhaps under a grant

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Next meeting is March 23, 2026; ethics training on April 13, 2026
2. Thank you to Mr. Sentowski for attending in place of Mrs. Aiello
3. Meeting in April with Lincoln Park board

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 8:35 pm by Mr. Mondino 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 8:56 pm by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:57 pm by Mr. Joyce and seconded by Ms. O'Halloran, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: