



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on March 23, 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, Elaine Doherty, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Justin Nguyen, Brianna O'Halloran. Absent was Matthew Mondino.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

1. John Hill School student representative: Spring sports, talent show, spirit week, spring break, 4th marking period
2. Boonton High School student representative Ivanna Robello: State testing, pep rally, powderpuff football, spirit week, spring sports
3. Home School Association (HSA): Calendar raffle
4. MCSBA: Next meeting May 6 at West Morris HS; Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting with Sen. Bucco
5. NJSBA: Women's Leadership meeting, interviews for VP Legislation, board of directors meeting
6. Other: Historical Society: Pathways of History on May 2-3; Boonton Rec Easter Egg Hunt

SUPERINTENDENT

1. District News and Updates: OLMC security concern; National Honor Society; NJGPA testing; The Day the Crayons Quit at SSS; 3rd marking period; security upgrades; ethics training on 4/13; highlights from PD day on 3/20
2. 2026-2027 Budget Discussion included the amount of the healthcare adjustment to use for multiyear stability, not just next year; projected healthcare premium increase of 15.5% (down from 16.4%) is among the lowest in the county and state; cost of family benefits for paraprofessionals exceeds their salary; reducing headcount through attrition and non-renewal of the contracted BCBA service

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

On a motion by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. Darling, the Board approved Budget resolutions #1-2 by roll call. YES: Mrs. Aiello, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Katsakos, Mrs. LeFebvre, Mr. Nguyen, Ms. O'Halloran. NO: Mr. Joyce, Mrs. McMahon. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

1. 2026-2027 Tentative Budget: The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027. BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline. And to post said tentative budget on the district's website in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Board of Education meeting at Boonton High School on April 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Total
Total Expenditures	\$38,397,798	\$3,923,632	\$1,425,500	\$43,746,930
Less: Anticipated Revenues	14,024,926	3,923,632	413,876	18,362,434
Taxes to be Raised	\$24,372,872	\$0	\$1,011,624	\$25,384,496

2. Adjustment for Health Care Costs: BE IT RESOLVED that the Boonton Town Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$752,607. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

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

Grades 7 & 8 (AVID)

Destination

County College of Morris

2. Teacher for Parent and Child Title I Nights: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Meagan Daly as a Teacher for Parent and Child Title I Nights for PreK-5 families during the 2025-2026 school year, at the rate of \$42 per hour, for up to 4 hours per night, for planning and presentation of program.
3. Physical Therapy Shadow Experience: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Layla Foley, William Paterson University student pursuing hours to apply to a Physical Therapy School, a Physical Therapy Shadow Experience for up to 60 hours at John Hill School during the 2025-2026 school year, under the supervision of Teresa Rodrigues, pending background clearance.
4. Physical Therapy Internship: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Pheobe Myers, Boonton High School student, a Physical Therapy Internship at School Street School and John Hill School for two days per week through June 2026, under the supervision of Teresa Rodrigues.
5. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 6430818898-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning March 6, 2026, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.

PK-12

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

Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals:

Cornelia Lotito*

Grace Cunningham**

Samantha Schessler**

*Pending background clearance

**Pending receipt of certificate

2. Nursing Observation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Noor Tahir, Felician University, a 4-hour nursing observation at Boonton High School, during the 2025-2026 school year, under the supervision of Janet Chauhan.

3. Classroom Observation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a 10-hour classroom observation for Matthew Ribardo, St. Bonaventure University at Boonton High School during the Spring of 2026 under the supervision of Marissa LaPlaca.
4. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 8320374669-B for up to 10 hours per week beginning March 10, 2026, with instruction to be provided by district approved instructors at a rate of \$42 per hour.
5. Home Instructor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kathleen Foley to provide home instruction during the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$42 per hour.

HIB REPORT

Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board affirms the findings and recommendations on the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying complaint: BHS #2, JHS #5, JHS #6, SSS #1.

POLICY

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

First Reading
Regulation 9130 Public Complaints ([attachment](#))

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$53,461.85	3/23/2026	Cafeteria ACH (attachment)
\$26,548.69	3/23/2026	General ACH (attachment)
\$300,526.96	3/23/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$1,880.00	3/23/2026	Student Activity BHS checks (attachment)
\$75.00	3/23/2026	Student Activity SSS checks (attachment)
\$4,096,556.27	February 2026	Electronic checks, incl. payroll (attachment)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending February 28, 2026. ([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 February 28, 2026; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
4. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts. ([attachment](#))

5. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 03/23/2026 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](#))
6. Joint Transportation Agreement: The Board approves the agreement with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the 2026-2027 school year to transport public, nonpublic and special education pupils.
7. Capital Reserve Withdrawal: BE IT RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$8,792 for other capital project costs of Boonton HS Gym Upgrades. The total cost of this project is \$91,650, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This amount is for the district's share of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant project at Boonton High School.
8. Professional Services: The Board approves the following maximum dollar limits for professional services and public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14, for the 2026-2027 school year; the School Business Administrator to track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and, if the need arises, to adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal board actions.

Legal:	\$110,000
Architecture/Engineering:	5,000
Audit:	37,275
<u>Physician:</u>	<u>19,656</u>
For a total amount of:	\$171,931

9. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement: WHEREAS, the Boonton Town Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and WHEREAS, the Boonton Town Board of Education established \$44,455 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$12,389 as of this date; now THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$44,172 for the 2026-2027 school year.
10. Preschool Operational Plan: The Board approves submission of the Preschool Education Aid 2026-2027 District Enrollment and Planning Workbook to the NJ Department of Education, and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,821,955.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

- Steve Bossen: Highest transparency of the budget, Coordination with other districts, How long do students need to be in the building to qualify for a school day?

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

- Next meeting is April 13, 2026
- Recommendation to nominate Jen Darling for MCSBA Irene LeFebvre Award
- Board retreat
- Policy Committee: Updates in response to Mr. Bossen's questions, eg. how to file a complaint

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 9:24 pm by Ms. O'Halloran 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 9:35 pm by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Mrs. Darling , all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 9:36 pm by Mrs. Doherty, and seconded by Ms. O'Halloran , all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: