



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on August 24, 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 Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Loren Katsakos (arrived 6:35), Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Steve Sentowski. Absent were Patrick Joyce, Matthew Mondino, Justin Nguyen, Brianna O'Halloran,

Also present were Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and no members of the public. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LIAISON REPORTS

1. MCSBA: Meeting on 9/23; Sending a rep to a board meeting for each district
2. NJSBA: Workshop preparations
3. Community: Loaves & Fishes is in need of various items; backpacks for students have been prepared

SUPERINTENDENT

1. District News and Updates: Freshman orientation; new staff orientation; back-to-school; Labor Day weekend; NJSIAA sportsmanship award
2. Discussion of Goals: Adoption of a new ELA series for elementary grades; transition from middle school to high school; completing the installation of air conditioning in all classrooms

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

- Loren thanks Ms. Lynch for her service
- Mrs. Doherty asked about impact of resignation of JHS part-time secretary
- Policy about technology that students bring to school

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: August 10, 2026 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. Bridges to Learning Hourly Rates of Pay: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the hourly rates of pay for Bridges to Learning Staff for the 2026-2027 school year, as per the following:

Support High School Staff: \$15.92
Support College School Staff: \$17.50

Support Adult Staff: \$23.50
Lead Teacher: \$35.50

2. 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 2026-2027 school year:

Adult Support Staff
Marianne Sayle
Kelly Dwyer

Lead Teacher Sub
Marianne Sayle

3. Letter of Resignation from Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Rebecca Ross, Paraprofessional, School Street School, effective August 10, 2026.
4. Letter of Resignation from Community Education Director: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Rosemarie Lynch, Community Education Director, effective January 1, 2027, for the purpose of retirement.
5. Letter of Resignation from Custodian: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Samuel Rafkind, Custodian, John Hill School, effective August 31, 2026, for the purpose of retirement.
6. Letter of Resignation from Secretary: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Rosanna Guido, Secretary John Hill School, effective August 31, 2026.
7. Compensation for Loss of 6th Period Prep: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves compensation for loss of 6th period prep for Gerry Robinson in the amount of \$1,512, as per the Sidebar Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.
8. Extend Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to extend the leave of absence previously approved on June 8, 2026, for Meghan Arahill, Preschool Social Worker, from May 21, 2026 through June 30, 2026 to extend through November 1, 2026.

PK-12

1. Additions to Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board of Education approves the following additions to the substitute list for the 2026-2027 school year:

Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional
Kelly Minitter*
Victoria Haller*
Elisabeth Smith*

Substitute Custodian
Ahmed Messeleka

Abtahee Uddin*
Motaleb Taher

*Pending clearance of background check

2. Letter or Resignation from Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Deanna Wilks, Guidance Counselor, Boonton High School, effective October 7, 2026.
3. Summer Speech Evaluation: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Mary Guenther to conduct 1 speech evaluation, to be completed between July 1, 2026 and August 29, 2026 at a rate of \$300.

HIB REPORT

None

POLICY

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

Abolished Policy:

Policy 2363 Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology ([Attachment](#))

First Reading:

Policy 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities ([Attachment](#))

Policy 8662 Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles - To and From School ([Attachment](#))

OPERATIONS

1. Payments: The Board approves these Check Journals.

\$5,494.88	08/24/2066	General ACH (attachment)
\$173,567.45	08/24/2026	General checks (attachment)
\$888,552.17	July 2026	Electronic checks, incl. payroll (attachment)
2. Transfer Reports: The Board approves Transfer Reports for the month ending July 31, 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 July 31, 2026; major funds have not been over-expended; and sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the year.
4. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 08/24/2026 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](#))
5. 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 2026-2027 school year, to be paid based on student attendance, not to exceed \$10,500.00.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Next meeting is September 14, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 7:02 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Sentowski, 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 7:47 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Sentowski, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 7:49 pm by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mr. Sentowski, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: