



**BOONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

434 LATHROP AVENUE · BOONTON · NEW JERSEY · 07005

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm on September 14, 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 Jenna Aiello, Jennifer Darling, Elaine Doherty, Patrick Joyce, Loren Katsakos, Irene LeFebvre, Mary McMahon, Justin Nguyen (arrived 6:39), Brianna O'Halloran. Absent was Matthew Mondino.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LIAISON REPORTS

1. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA): Gabriela, Newsletter, check online, Back to School Night, Class Ambassadors, Staff Welcome breakfast, merchandise, Box Tops
2. MCSBA: Meeting on 9/23 at Montville HS
3. NJSBA: Workshop in October
4. Other: Town Christmas Parade

WORK OF THE BOARD

1. Administration
 - Opening Day: Recognition of employees' length of service, incl. 30yr for Mrs. Foley
 - Cell phone policy
 - Personnel: Resignations, appointments, payroll/benefits leave of absence
 - Programming: Back to School nights, BHS club fair, AVID ceremony at JHS
 - Professional Development: New staff training, AVID summer training, ESL
 - Facilities: AC & multipurpose room at SSS, flooring at JHS; AC at BHS next year
2. Operations
 - Finance: Audit
 - Transportation: Overview of operations - district route, OOD, Votech
 - Food Service: New POS
3. Use of facilities:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Darling and seconded by Mrs. Doherty, 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 (PK-8). ABSENT: Mr. Mondino.

Approval of the following Board of Education meeting minutes.

1. Regular session: August 24, 2026 (enclosure)
2. Executive session: August 24, 2026 (enclosure)

ADMINISTRATION

PK-8

1. Resignation Letter from Paraprofessional: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Jamila Naematullah, Paraprofessional, John Hill School, effective August 23, 2026.
2. Resignation Letter from Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Caroline Dougherty, Preschool Teacher, effective October 30, 2026.
3. Appointment of Custodian: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Diana Melo to the position of Custodian, John Hill School, at a salary of \$43,185 (Step 1), pro-rated from September 15, 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Appointment of Non-Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the appointment of Yudelka Germoso, Part-Time Secretary, John Hill School, at a salary of \$47,168 (75% Step 12), prorated from September 22, 2026, pending clearance of background check, for the 2026-2027 school year.
5. Extend Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves to extend the leave of absence previously extended through November 1, 2026 on August 24, 2026 for Meghan Arahill, Preschool Social Worker, to extend through January 3, 2027 utilizing 12 sick days and 3 personal days.
6. Long Term Leave Preschool Social Worker: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Anna Przygodzki as the Long-Term Leave Preschool Social Worker, at a salary of \$69,000 (Step 1 MA), prorated from date certification is issued through December 23, 2026.
7. Bridges to Learning Before/After School Volunteer and Staff: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Olivia Tanis as a high school volunteer for the Bridges to Learning Before/After School Program and further as a high school support staff sub at an hourly rate of \$15.92, pending receipt of paperwork, for the

2026-2027 school year.

8. Out-of-District Placement: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following out-of-district placement, for the 2026-2027 school year, and that transportation be arranged as needed:

Chapel Hill Academy:

Student State ID# 1540594320-B - Tuition \$437.00 per day (180 days)

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# 7159821034-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning September 8, 2026, with instruction to be provided by Silvergate Prep at a rate of \$50 per hour, and

Student State ID# 8775878068-B for up to 10 hours per week, beginning September 3, 2026 with instruction to be provided by LearnWell Education at a rate of \$68.80 per hour.

PK-12

1. Resignation of Advisor: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Marissa LaPlaca, Boonton High School FBLA Advisor.
2. Advisors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following advisors at Boonton High School for the 2026-2027 school year:

Sameera Hanafi as Key Club Advisor at a stipend rate of \$870, and
Vincent Coiro as FBLA Advisor at a stipend rate of \$1,175

3. Resignation of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board accepts a letter of resignation from Kathleen Foley, Special Education Math Teacher, Boonton High School, effective June 30, 2027, for the purpose of retirement.
4. Transfer Custodian: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the transfer of Marta Robles-Polo, John Hill School Custodian, to Boonton High School effective July 1, 2026.
5. Appointment of Certified Staff Member: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Roxanne London to the position of Guidance Counselor, Boonton High School, at a salary of \$70,000 (Step 3 MA), prorated from October 8, 2026, pending receipt of certification, for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.
6. Leave of Absence: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves a leave of absence for Jessica Green, Payroll/Benefits Coordinator, effective January 14, 2027, utilizing 3 personal days, 6 accumulated sick days and 17 vacation days, followed by an unpaid leave of absence through August 20, 2027.
7. Additions to the Substitute List: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following additions to the substitute list for the

2026-2027 school year:

Substitute Teachers:

Maria Luciano*

Siyona Rana**

Peter Smith**

Fouzia Begum**

Ian Havran

Santina DiBenedetto**

Zahra Sadaat*

Anna Przygodzki*

Christian Walsh*

Substitute Secretary

Santina DiBenedetto*

*Pending background clearance

**Pending receipt of substitute certificate

8. Field Trips: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following field trip destinations for the 2026-2027 school year:

Grade/Group	Destination
CBI Transition	Boonton Coffee, Petco, Chick-fil-A, DeLizia, ShopRite, Pizzanada, Parsippany High School
Grades 9-12 (AVID)	Kean University, Stockton University
Grades 9-12 (STEM)	Students to Science (Whippany)
Grades 11-12 (ELA Honors/AP Art)	Met Cloisters

9. Common Lunch Monitors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Ryan Harman and Sara Thomas as Common Lunch Monitors at Boonton High School at a stipend rate of \$1,500 each (50% each of the full stipend) for the 2026-2027 school year.
10. Supervisors for Open Gym / Open Field Activities: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Sara Thomas and Greg LaPointe as a supervisors for Open Gym / Open Field Activities at Boonton High School during the 2026-2027 school year, at a rate of \$42 per hour.
11. Staff for Ticket Sales: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Karen Bonanni for ticket sales at events as required for the 2026-2027 school year.
12. Job Description: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the Job Description for Special Education Transition Facilitator (enclosure)
13. Special Education Transition Facilitator: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves Kelsey Corsaro as the Special Education Transition Facilitator at a stipend rate of \$5,775 for the 2026-2027 school year.
14. District Goals: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the 2026-2027 District Goals. (enclosure)
15. Independent Study Course: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves up to 30 hours of instruction and 13 AP hours for Laurene Carey to provide AP French during the 2026-2027 school year to Student State ID #7608602457-B at a rate of \$42 per hour.

16. Contract for Superintendent of Schools: Be it resolved that the Boonton Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute on behalf of the Board of Education the employment contract for Thomas Valle, submitted and approved by the Executive County Superintendent, to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for the time period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth therein with an initial annual salary of \$230,000.(enclosure)
17. Memorandum of Understanding: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the College Readiness Now (CRN) Memorandum of Understanding Between the County College of Morris and Boonton High School for the 2026-2027 school year. (enclosure)
18. Home Instructors: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the following staff members to provide home instruction during the 2026/2027 school year, based on their individual certifications, at a rate of \$42 per hour:
- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Robin Schwalb | Karen Engelberger | Devon Engelberger |
| Tracy Paulozzo | Colleen Faessinger | Laura Sudak |
| Ellen Christian | Vanessa DeJesus | |
19. Home Instruction: Upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Board approves the provision of home instruction for Student State ID# 5628211440-LP for up to 10 hours per week beginning September 2, 2026, with instruction to be provided by Center for Children's Behavioral Health at a rate of \$104 per hour.

HIB REPORT

None

POLICY

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

Final 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.
- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| \$3,765.00 | 9/14/2026 | Cafeteria checks (attachment) |
| \$80,882.74 | 9/14/2026 | General ACH (attachment) |
| \$14,068.76 | 9/8/2026 | General checks (attachment) |
| \$212,257.82 | 9/14/2026 | General checks (attachment) |
| \$195.97 | 9/14/2026 | Student Activity BHS ACH (attachment) |
| \$311.29 | 9/14/2026 | Student Activity SSS checks (attachment) |

2. Payroll Expenses: The Board approves the following payroll expenses.
\$234,211.41 8/15/2026
\$197,977.87 8/30/2026
3. Professional Development: The Board approves these professional development expenses, in accordance with OMB Guidelines, State travel regulations and/or employee contracts.
([attachment](#))
4. Use of Facilities: The Board approves the District Facilities Use List of 9/14/2026 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. Cooperative Purchasing Authorization: The Board approves the award of contracts for physical education and athletic supplies for the 2026–2027 school year to Passon’s Sports / BSN Sports in the aggregate amount of \$74,001.95, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 and through the Educational Data Services, Inc. Cooperative Pricing System (Bid #13321), with individual purchase orders charged to designated general fund budgetary accounts.
6. Cooperative Sports Agreement: The Board approves renewal of the Cooperative Sports Agreement and Addendum for Ice Hockey with Mountain Lakes Board of Education for \$6,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.
7. Contract: The Board approves a one-year renewal for the 2026-2027 school year of the contract with Realtime Information Technology for \$53,739.60, per NJSA 18A:18A-5(a)(19).

Mrs. Katsakos left the meeting at 7:07 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Steve Bossen: Comments about Genesis parent portal and district website
2. Adding video of board members attending board meetings remotely

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Next meeting is September 28, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion at 7:16 pm by Mrs. Darling 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 Mrs. Doherty and seconded by Mrs. Darling, all present voted to adjourn executive session and return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion at 8:07 pm by Mr. Joyce and seconded by Mr. Nguyen, all present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gardberg
Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL: