

BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2024
7:02 p.m

A. Call to Order

Mr. Reaves called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Open Public Meeting Notice

In compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey" adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Bedminster was provided in the following manner: On January 5, 2024, adequate written notice of this meeting was posted at the bulletin board in the Township Clerk's Office at the Bedminster Township Municipal Building and the Main Office of the Bedminster Township School, mailed to The Courier News, The Bernardsville News, and all subscribers, and filed with the Township Clerk.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Boehmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Roll Call

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Absent	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		

E. Executive Session – 6:33 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) b and h below which falls within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule:

- a. Individual privacy
- b. Collective bargaining agreements
- c. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- d. Investment of public funds of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- f. Pending or anticipated litigation
- g. Attorney-client privilege
- h. Personnel - employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Open Public Meeting @ 7:02 p.m.

F. Superintendent's Report - SSDS HIB Reporting Period 1 summary

- Enrollment, P&P items - L items
- Built-in snow days for school year were used, additional days come from spring break, see calendar on site
- Welcome, Ms. Anderson to the BoE
- School closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 - President's Day

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- Congratulations Mrs. Natalie Stanek, Gr4- Educator of the Year, Thank you - Mr. Swan for this assembly
- ESSER funds for remediation/support, students need to be in attendance
- Thank you - homeroom parents - organizing holiday parties for Middle School Grades 5-8
- Thank you - DPW and Building & Grounds Department - cleaning parking lot/sidewalks during storms
- SHSD agreement, we will be approving school calendars two years out, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
- Wellbeing goal: Grade 5 reps Winter Wellness tips presentation to elementary students
- Digital Star School application in process- Sustainable Jersey & recertifying for Silver certification
- Wellness/Green Team: Sustainable Jersey update, students continue to collect for Market St. Mission
- Beacon visited December 15, 2023 and December 19, 2023, Ugly Sweater Contest and Basketball game, celebrate Heart Health - wear red on Friday, February 2, 2024 \$5 donation
- Two times per year we report publicly on SSDS - School Safety Data System results of violence, vandalism, and bullying. 2023-2024 school year has 0 confirmed violence, vandalism, or bullying reports
- Thank you - Teachers and Counselors for their work in the classrooms that support anti HIB
- Safety Committee, led by Antibullying Specialist (ABS), schedules meetings throughout the school year. The parent representative is Mrs. Fredella, both ABS's, the ABC, 1-2 Administrators attend meetings

Business Administrator's Report

- Mrs. Boehmer informed the board that the 2024-2025 budgeting development was well under way and would be presented to the finance committee shortly.
- The preschool program will continue with no increase in price for the 2024-2025 school year.
- The district received the Final Eligibility Cost (FEC) statement for the ROD grant which will help finance upgrades to HVAC rooftop units and chillers.
- She also noted that the legal retainer for the district's Special Education Attorney was being rescinded and reapproved due to a change to a more favorable hourly rate.
- **Reading of Vice President Vote Paper Ballots**
 - Mrs. Boehmer also reiterated the January 4, 2024 board vote for Vice President that appointed Ms. Gomez to the position. Voting by paper ballot were: Ms. Anderson - abstain, Ms. Biedron - Ms. Biedron, Ms. Nathans - Ms. Gomez, Mr. Reaves - Ms. Biedron, Ms. Segal - Ms. Gomez, Mr. Wickizer - Ms. Gomez. Dr. Giordano congratulated Mrs. Gomez on the appointment. The board acknowledged that both nominations provided for a difficult choice and that the election of either candidate was a positive choice for the role.

G. Public Questions/Comments

Please note that this segment will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. At this point in the meeting, comments from the public will be open to agenda items only. Each person is kindly requested to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes. As per Board Policy, all participants must preface comments by first stating his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate. Any written statements are to be provided to the Board Secretary, in advance of the Board Meeting, prior to the statement being read at a Board Meeting.

- None

H. Approval of Minutes

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- December 14, 2023 Executive Session Minutes
- December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 4, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes

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- Mrs. Boehmer asked the board to amend the January 4, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes, 9.d to eliminate that Mrs. Gomez accepted the nomination for Vice President.

Motion to approve **Items H.** moved by Ms. Biedron, seconded by Ms. Nathans

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Absent	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		

I. Task Groups

- Negotiations Committee - Jeff Reaves
 - Mr. Reaves reported the new board negotiations committee - Ms. Biedron, Ms. Segal and Mr. Reaves. Negotiations are currently at an impasse and the next round will be with a representative from PERC, the Public Employees Relations Commission.
- Somerset Hills School District - Sarah Nathans
 - Ms. Nathans reported that the Somerset Hills School Board elected their President and Vice President at their 2024 reorganization meeting.
- Technology Representative - Gabriel Wickizer
 - Mr. Reaves reported for Mr. Wickizer, residual issues with the brownout were addressed including replacement of 200 feet of cable. All issues were expected to be resolved shortly.
- Security/Safety Ad Hoc Representative - Ms. Stevinson
 - None, Ms. Stevinson was absent.
- Child Care - Sarah Nathans
 - Ms. Nathans reviewed the timing of the meeting and noted that the next meeting was scheduled for May 2024.

Delegate/Representative Appointments

- New Jersey School Boards Association - Christy Biedron
 - Ms. Biedron reminded the board that while the district is a member of the Somerset County Board, the virtual sessions are open to all. She recommended sessions that are geared toward the information regarding the board's role in governance. She reminded the board of required mandated training including Governance I for new board members and of upcoming virtual sessions of Governance II and IV for returning members.
- PTO - Gabriel Wickizer and Gaby Gomez
 - None, Mr. Wickizer and Ms. Gomez were both absent.

J. BUSINESS

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

CSA Contract

J.1 Whereas the Bedminster Township Board of Education desires to employ Jennifer Giordano, as its Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Giordano has agreed to serve as Superintendent of Schools;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Township Board of Education does hereby appoint Jennifer Giordano as its Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029, and subject to the remaining terms and conditions of the Contract of Employment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jennifer Giordano's employment is subject to the terms and conditions of a Contract of Employment that has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent and which is hereby approved by the Bedminster Township Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Board Secretary are authorized and directed to execute the aforesaid Contract of Employment on behalf of the Bedminster Township Board of Education.

District Wellness

J.2 designate one Wednesday monthly as Wellness Wednesday, May 2024 Asthma & Allergy Awareness.

Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement

J.3 rescind the November 16, 2023 board approved resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Township Board of Education hereby approves the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Regarding Police Access to School District Security Cameras.

J.4 approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Township Board of Education hereby approves the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials 2023 Revisions*.

Home Instruction

J.5 Pediatric Workshop to provide two 30 minute homebound sessions per week for student #289584 effective on or about December 5, 2023, at the rate of \$130.00 per 30 minute session throughout the remainder of 2023-2024 school year.

J.6 Speech Advancement, LLC to provide two 1 hour sessions per week of speech and language services for student #289584 at the rate of \$165.00 per hour session for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning in January 2024.

Submission of the 2023-2024 ESEA Title I Performance Report

J.7 the submission of the 2023-2024 ESEA Title I Performance Report.

Facilities Use Requests

J.8 the following facility requests:

Organization	Event	Room(s) Requested	Usage date(s) and time(s)
PTO	Brainwash Assembly	Cafetorium	1/19/2024; 1:15pm Middle School, 2:10pm Elementary School, & 6:30pm Family Game Night
	Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game	Gymnasium	3/22/2024; 6:00pm - 9:00pm

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School Events

J.9 the following school events:

Name of Event	Grade(s)	Date(s) and time(s)
Narrative Writing Publishing Party for students & parents	4 - C	1/19/2024; 9:30am - 10:45am
Beth Styler Barry, Guest Speaker - Nature Conservancy Sustainability	6	1/25/2024; 9:40am
Kick off Assembly for Read Across America Week	Pre K - 4	2/26/2024; 9:30am - 10:00am

2024 Contract – Special Education Attorney of Record

J.10 rescind the December 14, 2023 board approved:

Nathanya G. Simon of the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey as the special education attorney of record from January 1, 2024 through the January 2025 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175.00 for special education legal matters. Work performed by Associates shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$165.00. Work performed by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100.00, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated December 8, 2023.

J.11 approves the following:

Nathanya G. Simon of the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey as the special education attorney of record from January 1, 2024 through the January 2025 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$170.00 for special education legal matters. Work performed by Associates shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$165.00. Work performed by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100.00, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated January 11, 2024.

J. agenda items J.1 through J.11

Motion to approve **Items J.** moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Biedron

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Absent	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		

- Dr. Giordano asked the board to approve J.8 PTO Brainwash Assembly and J.9 Narrative Writing Publishing Party as “to be determined” due to cancellation for weather issues.

K. FINANCE

Finance & Facilities Committee Report - Gabriel Wickizer

- Mr. Reaves reported for Mr. Wickizer, Mr. Reaves reported on the recent finance committee meeting discussions including the repair of the ramp and railing outside the cafetorium and the ROD grant approval that will provide 40% state reimbursement for major HVAC upgrades. He also noted that the 2024-2025 budget was being developed and that the committee had asked that a SLEO officer (Special Law Enforcement Officer) be included as a new position.

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

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2023-2024 Financial Reports

- K.1 the Report of the Secretary for December 2023 submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-16.10(c)(3), I, Robbin Boehmer, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no line item account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations this fiscal year.

the recommendation that the Secretary's Report for December 2023 be accepted and filed, and the Board of Education hereby certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for December 2023 be accepted and filed.

2023-2024 Transfers

- K.2 transfers for the 2023-2024 school year totaling \$85,718.96 from December 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

2023-2024 Invoices-General Agency Account

- K.3 invoices presented for payment totaling \$2,251,640.36 from the General Agency Account from December 15, 2023 through January 18, 2024.

Fund	Amount
(10) General Fund	\$2,219,426.56
(12) Capital Outlay	\$0.00
(20) Special Revenue	\$32,213.80
(30) Capital Projects	\$0.00
(40) Debt Services	\$0.00
Total	\$2,251,640.36

2023-2024 Invoices-Student Activities Account

- K.4 invoices presented for payment totaling \$4,075.16 from the Student Activities Account from December 15, 2023 through January 18, 2024.

2023-2024 Invoices-Food Service Account

- K.5 invoices presented for payment totaling \$19,909.61 from the Food Service Account from December 15, 2023 through January 18, 2024.

2024-2025 Preschool Tuition

- K.6 the Preschool Program at a tuition rate of \$4,250.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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K. agenda items K.1 through K.6

Motion to approve **Items K.** moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Biedron

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Absent	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		

L. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS

Programs & Personnel Committee Report - Suzie Stevinson

- Ms. Biedron reported for Ms. Stevinson, Ms. Biedron reported on L items discussed at the Personnel & Programs committee meeting including discussion of a shared service agreement, memorandum of agreement, new hire, and K-4 homework update.

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

SSDS/HIB Mandating Reporting, School Self-Assessment (ABR) and Safety and Climate Meetings

L.1 the SSDS/HIB Grade ITP submission for the reporting period 1 data collection dates of incidents, trainings, and programs for July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Safety & Climate committee met on January 3, 2024.

Teacher Training (Title II Funding)

L.2 R.E.A.D. Intervention to provide Evidence-Based Reading Instruction for K-3 Educators on March 4, 2024, with a session rate of \$750.00 per hour for 4 hours in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Resignation

L.3 the following staff member:

Name	Position	Date
Alexandra Testa	Leave Replacement Teacher	February 2, 2024

New Hire

L.4 the following newly hired staff per the provisions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 and pursuant to a successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5:

Name	Position	Salary	Anticipated start date on or about
Jacqueline M. Martoccia	Paraprofessional PC # (BS-AID-SPEC-FL)	\$27,473.59 (Step 9) prorated	January 22, 2024

L.5 the following newly hired staff per the provisions of their contract pursuant to a successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5:

Name	Position	Salary	Anticipated start date on or about
Sonia Andonie	Custodian PC # (BS-BGR-CUST-NA)	\$39,000.00	January 22, 2024

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Leave Replacement Hire

- L.6 the following newly hired staff per the provisions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 and pursuant to a successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5:

Name	Position	Salary	Anticipated start date on or about
Maribeth Cassels	Leave Replacement Middle School ELA Teacher	\$96,325.00 (MA +30 Step 20) prorated PC # (BS-TCH-RLA-FL)	March 11, 2024 through on or about May 31, 2024

Payment of Unused Sick Days

- L.7 the following to receive payment for unused sick days/vacation days upon their retirement per the terms and conditions of the applicable employment contract:

Chuck Hogan	\$44,907.50 Sick Day Payout	retired as of December 31, 2023
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Course Approval

- L.8 tuition reimbursement for the following staff per the terms and conditions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023:

Name	Course	Credits	School	Term	Amount
Jolanta Kolodziejski	School Finance	3	Montclair State University	1/8/2024 - 3/3/2024	\$2,427.00
Jolanta Kolodziejski	Internship in School Leadership	3	Montclair State University	1/8/2024 - 5/7/2024	\$2,427.00
Jolanta Kolodziejski	Differentiated Supervision	3	Montclair State University	3/4/2024 - 5/7/2024	\$2,427.00

Workshops/Site Visits

- L.9 for the following staff for the workshops/site visits listed:

Name	Date	Title	Cost
Corby Swan	1/11/2024	Educator Series Training for Somerset County - RAPID	\$0.00 Registration
Patricia Leonti	1/16/2024	Site Visit to Warren Township Integrated Preschool Program (Title II funding)	\$11.37 Mileage
Klaudia Zdybel	1/16/2024	Site Visit to Warren Township Integrated Preschool Program (Title II funding)	\$11.37 Mileage

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Robbin Boehmer	1/30/2024 and 1/31/2024	Federal Grant Overview (Title II funding)	\$480.00 Registration (4 sessions at \$120.00 each)
Robbin Boehmer	2/15/2024	NJASBO Food Service Update - North - Whippany, NJ (Title II funding)	\$125.00 Registration
Peggy Doorly	3/6/2024 and 3/13/2024	NJSHA & The International Dyslexia Association Virtual Conference - Speech to Print or Print to Speech? We're Asking the Wrong Question! (Title II funding)	\$99.00 Registration
Alison Gagliolo	3/6/2024 and 3/13/2024	NJSHA & The International Dyslexia Association Virtual Conference - Speech to Print or Print to Speech? We're Asking the Wrong Question! (Title II funding)	\$99.00 Registration
Lauren Zugale	3/15/2024	NJAPSA 3rd Annual Innovations in Special Education Technology - NJPSA/ FEA Conference Center Monroe, NJ (Title II funding)	\$149.00 Registration; \$31.92 Mileage; \$10.00 Tolls
Lauren Zugale	4/24/2024	NJ Preschool Inclusion Leadership Conference - Holiday Inn in East Windsor, NJ (Title II funding)	\$58.00 Registration; \$36.85 Mileage; \$10.00 Tolls

Paraprofessional SOA

- L.10 the Statement of Assurance (SOA) regarding the use of the Paraprofessional Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.
- L.11 the Bedminster Township Board of Education to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm at the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2024.

Leave Replacement Hire

- L.12 **(ADDED VERBALLY BY DR. GIORDANO)** the following newly hired staff per the provisions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 and pursuant to a successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5:

Name	Position	Salary	Anticipated start date on or about
Allyson Thoms	Leave Replacement Teacher	\$60,202.00 (BA Step 1) prorated PC # (BS-TCH-ELEM-04)	March 21, 2024 through on or about December 31, 2024

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L. agenda item L.1 through L.12

Motion to approve **Items L.** moved by Mr. Reaves, seconded by Ms. Segal

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Absent	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		

- Mrs. Boehmer asked the board to amend L.9 approval to rescind Ms. Zugale's workshop NJAPSA Winter Academy - Monroe, NJ originally scheduled for January 18, 2024 that was approved at the November 16, 2023 board meeting, and to approve it with a new date of February 2, 2024. The workshop was rescheduled due to the weather.

M. Public Questions/Comments

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- A member of the public read a letter submitted to the board concerning math curriculum and whether it is aligned to high school programs. Problems in procuring easily obtainable college level coursework that would be accepted for credit was noted as was the desire to have geometry reinstated in the Bedminster Township School curriculum.
- Ms. Stevinson entered at 7:39 pm.

N. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Public Session at 7:47 p.m. moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Biedron
Yes: (6); No: (0); Abstain: (0); Absent (2)

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

February 15, 2024
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robbin Boehmer
Board Secretary