

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
280 ASBURY-WEST PORTAL ROAD
ASBURY, NEW JERSEY 08802
908-479-6336



**WORK SESSION MEETING
MINUTES
March 10, 2021**

For the Work Session Meeting of the Bethlehem Township Board of Education
being held by video conference call and
video conference on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – President Roosen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending notice to: The Courier News, Bethlehem Township Clerk and by posting on the bulletin boards in the Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Schools.

There are two options to participate in the meeting - please use the Google Meet link below or join by phone:

[NEW Meeting Link](https://meet.google.com/jmb-tnk-wvkj) meet.google.com/jmb-tnk-wvkj or

Dial-in: (US) +1 302-317-2085 PIN: 947 967 887#

IV. ROLL CALL

<i>Mr. Gregory Glazar</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Mr. Ryan Caughey</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Mr. Travis Roop</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Dr. Alyce Hunter</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Mr. Kyle Harris</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Dr. Gregory C. Farley, CSA</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Mr. John Logar</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Mrs. Beverly Vlietstra, SBA/BS</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Mrs. Debra D. Roosen</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Ms. Teresa Moore, Attorney</i>	<i>Present</i>

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION - A

MOTION by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Logar for the Board to enter into closed Executive Session.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion carried. The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:24 p.m.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board of Education discusses topics falling within certain specified exceptions to

the requirement for open public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to discuss matters that fall within one or more of the statutory exceptions to open public meetings;

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board adjourn from public session and enter into executive session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to Personnel matters, including recommendations for appointments; termination of employment; terms and conditions of employment; evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or discipline of board employees or prospective employees; changes in salary; changes in assignment; and leaves of absence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be.

MOTION by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Logar for the Board to reconvene in public session.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion carried. The Board returned to public session at 6:30 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public participation at board meetings is intended to allow individual members of the public to address the Board of Education on issues of public concern. The public comment period is an opportunity for the Board to listen to citizen concerns, but not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session or a "cross examination" between the public and individual members. While all comments made by the public will be taken under advisement, the Board will not respond to comments made by the public.

- Pursuant to Board Policy #0167:
 - all statements from the public must be directed to the President or other presiding officer; no participant may address or question board members individually.
 - members of the public who wish to make a statement during the Public Comments portion of the meeting may speak for no more than three (3) minutes.
 - members of the public must identify themselves prior to speaking. Please state your name and address, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
- Since this meeting is being held by video conference call and videoconference due to the coronavirus pandemic, if the public wishes to make a comment, they may also do so by:
 - Calling the number provided on the Board of Education's website for participants on the videoconference or by Google Meet. Press *6 to unmute during the call and *6 again to mute; and/or
 - Sending an email to Mrs. Debra D. Roosen, Board President at droosen@btschools.org prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. In the subject line, please write "public comment" if you wish for your email to be read verbatim during the public comments section of the meeting.
- Mr. Mrozek, parent, spoke regarding returning back to school for a full day as the only acceptable option.
- Mrs. Fol, parent, appreciates the Reopening info sent out and hopes school returns to a full day with outdoor lunch tables.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Mrs. Vlietstra reported that the parent survey results are on the school website.

VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Mary Monahan, A moment of silence for the passing of a very beloved community member and a former employee of the school district and the head of Jugtown Mountain Nursery School.
- Resolution regarding vaccinating the school staff collectively is making a difference for Gov. Murphy to be proactive. Shoprite is unable to help with vaccinations right now. Mr. Steve Sweeney acknowledged our efforts.
- Update on the hiring of our new interim CSA/Principal by April 1, 2021.
- Proud of the Ethel Hoppock Student Council for collecting donations for Common Sense for Animals through March 26, 2021. Drop off boxes at both schools. School website lists items needed.
- Accolades from U.S. News on March 9, 2021 declaring N.J. Education system is the best in the nation.
- Reminder to the Board about the state law mandated evaluations.

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Dr. Farley thanked the Health Preparedness Committee and all the staff members for their guidance and hard work. Our surveys and forums have added 5 or 6 clubs or activities to our student activities for approval.

X. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- Budget - **Proposed 20-21 Expenses** at 0% - Budget - **Proposed 20-21 Revenue** at 0%
- All Board Members should have received an email with their pin number for the financial disclosure form due by March 28, 2021 for new board members and April 30 for current board members.
- Due to the state aid reduction, Mrs. Vlietstra does not recommend the 0% increase which is due to the County Office by March 22, 2021.
- President Roosen and Mr. Caughey recommend we proceed with the 2% increase on behalf of the children. Mr. Logar, Mr. Roop, Mr. Glazar, Mr. Harris and Dr. Hunter recommend the 0% budget to be fiscally responsible and bump up the maintenance and reserve accounts. After a Board Member vote, President Roosen goes with the consensus of the Board.
- Mrs. Vlietstra recommends a special meeting on March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for the Board to approve the budget resolution. The Board voted in favor of March 18, 2021.

XI. EDUCATION

- **Discussion of options for School Schedules for 4th Marking Period** – Dr. Farley updated the Board about using block schedules for Special areas and to look at different ways to educate our students. Principal Smith explained tweaking the schedule for all Special areas (except P.E. which has to be in person) to be taught virtually in the a.m. and p.m. for the remote students which would allow the longest amount of teaching time. This week we will set up livestreaming with the Mac Mini's which comes with instructional tech coaching. Mrs. Klemm explained that livestreaming the technology uses up a lot of power and that we're waiting to hear about state testing, but that's another hurdle which is scheduled for the week after Spring Break. After discussing with the Reopening Committee, President Roosen has a lot of technological, financial and personnel concerns going forward, and requested Dr. Farley give the Board a report regarding the surrounding schools reopening experience before our meeting in 2 weeks. Mr. Roop inquired about the ventilation in the classrooms. Principal Smith believes the ironizers are working. Dr. Farley's next step is to put cost numbers on the items needed to go forward. Mr. Logar and Mr. Roop thanked the committee for coming up with solutions. President Roosen requested Dr. Farley give his recommendation on whether or not to go back full-time for the fourth marking period.

XII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES - President of Student Council, Ryan Kapp spoke about

- Cross Country - Intramural or interscholastic - recommend Coach Mr. Wyant held at Heritage Park
- Basketball Club – Advisor Mr. Brotzman – drills and practices held at Heritage Park.
- Recreational Sports
- Chess Club – Run by Mr. Grannis in person.
- Farm and Aquarium Club

All clubs are co-ed and will begin after academics.

XIII. POLICY

A. Approval of First Reading of Policies - Att #1 - Policy Summary

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy #0145 - Board Member Resignation (M) – Revised - All meetings count towards three missed meetings leading to board member resignation

Policy #1643 - Family Leave (M) – New - Condensed from a state and federal to a one size fits all policy.

Policy #2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act (M) – Revised – This is a rewrite.

B. Approval to Abolish the following policies

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve to abolish the following policies (as per recommendation of Strauss Esmay):

Policy 2415.01 - Academic Standards, Academic Assessments & Accountability (M) Abolished

Policy 3431.1 - Family Leave (M)

Policy 4421.1 - Family Leave (M)

Policy 3431.3 - NJ Family Leave Insurance Program

Policy 4431.3 - NJ Family Leave Insurance Program

Policy 7430 - School Safety – Abolished because of being compressed under separate issues.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - B

MOTION by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Roop for the Board to enter closed Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion carried.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board of Education discusses topics falling within certain specified exceptions to the requirement for open public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to discuss matters that fall within one or more of the statutory exceptions to open public meetings;

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board adjourn from public session and enter into executive session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to Personnel matters, including recommendations for appointments; termination of employment; terms and conditions of employment; evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or discipline of board employees or prospective employees; changes in salary; changes in assignment; and leaves of absence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be.

MOTION by Mr. Logar, seconded by Mr. Roop for the Board to reconvene public session.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Katherine – Parent & teacher. Consider all alternatives. Half days cause financial hardship on families.
- Melissa – Working parents are not able to supervise their children in the afternoons appropriately.
- Mrs. Reff – Parent & teacher. Thank you to all the teachers. A traditional half day is less disruptive.
- Mrs. Robb – Parent & teacher inquiring about where this year's 6th graders will be next year. Hoppock School. She also requested clarity about where next year's 7th graders will be located. The Board will know more details in order to decide.
- Mrs. Lampariello – Parent & teacher concerned about children feeling unsafe during lunch without masks.
- Mrs. O'Connor – agrees and feels uncomfortable with an extended day and children unmasked.
- Mrs. O'Keefe – Parent & teacher. Thank you to all the teachers. Concerned about sudden changes and keeping kindergarten age students limited to their desk. Requested Hoppock School dismiss at 1:00 p.m. for extra instructional time.

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion about having in person board meetings** – Technology issues having in-board meetings not resolved. Zoom meetings are not encouraged. In-person public meetings with the public calling in would be the best fit. Capacity limit 150. Staying with zoom meetings for now.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Committee to be formed to honor Mary Monahan** – President Roosen suggests an 8th grade graduation award and a sun dial or memorial garden outside the door of the preschool classroom. Dr. Farley will organize a committee and broadcast it through the Friday Newsletter.
- Mr. Logar requested building discussion topics into the agenda from administration regarding sub group committee chair member's updates. Moving forward will be on the agenda. Will also be discussed at the board retreat.
- Mr. Roop requested clarity and discussion on the consolidation of 7th and 8th grade. President Roosen recommends moving the discussion forward with the new CSA in April.

XVIII. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

A. March 24, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting - Held Virtually - 6:30 p.m.

B. March 18, 2021 - Budget Meeting

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Mr. Logar, seconded by Mr. Roop.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,



Beverly Vlietstra
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary