

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



MINUTES

March 18, 2021

For the Special Budget Meeting of the Bethlehem Township Board of Education
being held by video conference call and
video conference on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – President Roosen called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 ways to participate in the meeting. Login information will be available soon.

IV. ROLL CALL

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

V. 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:
 - 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.

- Mrs. Fol, parent, complimented Mr. Grannis and the Hoppock teachers for making her son feel so great by thinking outside the box and holding classes outside so the students could remove their masks and social distance.
- Ms. Drew, parent, commented about the website not having the updated protocol for public comments. Dr. Farley commented the safest way is to raise your hand to be able to make public comment.
- Mrs. Wrigley, parent, inquired about the Board's decision regarding 6th grade & where the 7th & 8th grade will be next year. Dr. Farley commented, upon budget approval, the Board will look at finances and make a decision.
- Mrs. Mrozek, parent, complimented the Student Council for the idea of Decade Week which made her daughter very happy.
- Mrs. Oest, parent, commented about feeling uncomfortable about her children wearing a mask all day. Also, the shortened 25 minute classes at Hoppock are setting the students up for failure by not having enough time to test or to get organized.

VI. FINANCE

MOTION by Mr. Logar, seconded by Mr. Glazar to approve letters A & B.

A. Adoption of Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year at 0% Increase

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2021-22 Total Expenditures	\$9,655,702	\$79,159	\$363,275	\$10,098,136
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$2,191,758</u>	<u>\$79,159</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$2,270,917</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$7,463,944</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$363,275</u>	<u>\$7,827,219</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the The Courier News and/or The Hunterdon County Democrat in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at 940 Iron Bridge Road, Asbury, NJ and/or virtually by ZOOM the link will be on the Bethlehem Township Board of Education website on April 28th at 6:30 p.m for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal

RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Township Board of Education requests the approval of a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$35,000. The district intends to utilize these funds for the purpose of boiler and heating repairs at the Conley School.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2021-2022

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Township 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:23B-1.1 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, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$20,000.00 for all staff and board members.

President Roosen opened the discussion to the Board about splitting the budget increase difference from the 0% to 2% down to 1% and advised, not taking the 2% allowed by law, impacts the following budget and leads to cutting staff. Mr. Logar recommends the 0% increase considering the surplus. Mr. Roop requested clarity from Dr. Farley about the Board’s decision following the budget approval. Dr. Farley replied changes can be made after we know what the budget will be. Mr. Harris and Mr. Glazar agree with the 0% increase. Dr. Hunter believes the Board needs the final budget numbers to be able to make a decision about the Hoppock School. President Roosen commented this is the first time in 30 years to ever vote ‘no’ on a budget.

President Roosen read a statement about the 8.4 million loss of state aid in Hunterdon County over the last four years. Commissioner Lanza is appealing the loss by starting “Stop the school aid madness campaign” with the 13 other counties and a resolution at the next Hunterdon County Board Meeting, inviting other counties and recommends contacting the commissioners and legislators to support Mr. Lanza.

On a roll call vote, Mr. Logar, Mr. Glazar, Mr. Harris and Dr. Hunter vote yes. Mr. Roop abstained and President Roosen and Mr. Caughey vote no. The budget passes.

B. Adoption of Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year at 1% Increase

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2021-22 Total Expenditures	\$9,730,342	\$79,159	\$363,275	\$10,098,136
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$2,191,758</u>	<u>\$79,159</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$2,270,917</u>

Taxes to be Raised \$7,538,584 0 \$363,275 \$7,901,859

And to advertise said tentative budget in the The Courier News and/or The Hunterdon County Democrat in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at 940 Iron Bridge Road, Asbury, NJ and/or virtually by ZOOM the link will be on the Bethlehem Township Board of Education website on April 28th at 6:30 p.m for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal

RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Township Board of Education requests the approval of a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$35,000. The district intends to utilize these funds for the purpose of boiler and heating repairs at the Conley School.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2021-2022**

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Township 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:23B-1.1 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, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$20,000.00 for all staff and board members.

VII. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Beverly Vlietstra

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary