

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



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

For the Special Meeting of the Bethlehem Township Board of Education on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ethel Hoppock Middle School Gym

I. CALL TO ORDER - President Harris called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending notice to: The Hunterdon County Democrat, Bethlehem Township Clerk, email sent to school community and township residents, by posting on the bulletin boards in the Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Schools and by posting notice on the Board of Education website at <http://btschools.org/>

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Mr. Michael Hale	x	Ms. Jessica Romero	x	Ms. Rainie Roncoroni, Interim CSA	x
Mr. Kyle Harris	x	Mr. Travis Roop	x	Mr. Brian Latzke, SBA/BS	x
Ms. Jenny Holmes	x	Ms. Jennifer Seibert	Arrived at 6:12 p.m.	Ms. Teresa Moore, Board Attorney	x

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1 - 6:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Roop, seconded by Mr. Hale to adjourn to closed session.

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board enter into Closed Session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to Personnel, 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 closed 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.

The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote and the Board entered closed session at 6:33 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Roop, seconded by Mr. Hale to reconvene in open session. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote and the Board reconvened in open session at 7:00 p.m.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

- Did not receive LEAP grant.
- Will discuss completing a School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) grant application with Union, Franklin, and Hampton at the 5/25 meeting.

VII. INTERIM CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - None

VIII. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- Conley Addition Project Presentation

Board members discussed the process for a referendum. Possible timeline for January or March of 2023 for election.

IX. 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.

Suzanne Wilder - Pleased that the Board is looking at a referendum. Give options to questions, if possible. Be clear about what closing Hoppock means.

Laurie Fol - What happens if the referendum doesn't pass? Keep kids the main focus. Need to improve the curriculum as well.

Barbara Cochrane - Question about demolishing of building. Would the price of demolition be included? Hoppock is included in FEMA flood area.

Jamie Kohler - Questions about oil tank at Hoppock and asbestos.

Brian Yager - Has the Board considered joining other school districts such as Clinton Township, which currently has a vacant building.

Bonnie Mulhern - What happens if the BOE changes over?

Tom McCowen - NJ has great schools because we spend money on schools. In favor of lease if it can work.

Liz Malavasi - District needs consistency. Need a superintendent. This is a great town and the schools are great. Kids and teachers have been through a lot. Need to build everyone back up.

Meg McGeehan - Product of Bethlehem Township schools. Kids need to have better opportunities than we had.

Suzanne Wilder - Not fair to say those that are concerned about finances don't want what is best for kids. Teacher pay, strong curriculum, and unity build a school.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. Roop, seconded by Mr. Hale. On a voice vote, all present were in favor.

Board discussed moving forward with a referendum and possible timeline.

X. FINANCE

Motion by Mr. Roop seconded by Mr. Hale to approve items A-B.

A. Approval of Board, staff workshop attendance and travel expenditures

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator, make the findings and approve attendance and travel for the following workshops/meetings.

- that travel is directly related to and within the scope of the employee or Board member's duties or responsibilities; and for employees, the school district's professional development plan;
- that travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district or furthers the efficient operation of the district;
- that the travel is in compliance with state and federal travel payment guidelines; and
- that the travel is in compliance with the District policy on travel.

Date(s)	Admin./Staff Member	Where	Cost	Substitute Needed
May 25, 2022- 1 day	Rebecca Billera, School Counselor	School Climate - Anti-Bullying Virtual Conference	\$199.00	No

B. Approval of Student Transportation for Conley Band Concert

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator, approve the following student transportation:

Spring 2022 - Seventh & Eighth Grade Band Students - Seventh & Eighth Grade band students to go to Conley School to participate in the Conley Band Concert. One bus provided by Delaware Valley Regional Transportation Services.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion carried.

XI. EDUCATION

MOTION by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Roop to approve item A.

A. Acceptance of HIB Grade Report For Fiscal Year 2022 - Data based on the 2020-2021 School Year - Att #1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator, accept the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Grade Report for Fiscal Year 2022 from the NJ Department of Education - Data based on the 2020-2021 School Year: Thomas B. Conley School - 73, Ethel Hoppock Middle School - 69, District Grade - 71

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion carried.

XII. PERSONNEL

MOTION by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Roop to approve item A.

A. Approval of Substitute Duty Aide

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator, approve Rebecca Canright as a substitute for duty aide positions for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. (Pending Criminal History Clearance and Health Screening).

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion carried.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Harris will have update on technology for meetings at the next BOE meeting.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Roop asked for volunteers to work with the Board on future projects. Future discussion to be had on the role and projects volunteer members would participate in.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - #2

MOTION by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Roop to adjourn to closed session.

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board enter into Closed Session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to Personnel.

The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote and the Board entered closed session at 9:25 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, 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 Ms. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Hale to reconvene in open session. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote and the Board reconvened in open session at 10:05 p.m.

Voice vote

XVI. NOTEWORTHY DATES

1. **May 25, 2022** - Regular Board of Education Meeting - Hoppock School Gym - Executive Session Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Public Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.
2. **June 22, 2022** - Regular Board of Education Meeting - Hoppock School Gym - Executive Session Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Public Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Mr. Roop, seconded by Mr. Hale. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Latzke
Business Administrator/Board Secretary