

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



WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA
October 13, 2021

For the Work Session Meeting of the Bethlehem Township Board of Education
on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - President Roosen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - President Roosen
III. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE - President Roosen

Ms. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law 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/>

IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mr. Michael Hale, Mr. Travis Roop, Mr. Kyle Harris, Mrs. Debra D. Roosen, Mr. John Logar, Mr. Ryan Caughey, Mr. Ryan Caughey, Mrs. Jenny Holmes

*Also Present: Ms. Rainie Roncoroni, Interim CSA, Ms. Abigail Postma, SBA/BS
Ms. Teresa Moore, Attorney*

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

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.

VI. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Discussion of building consolidation letters to be sent to County Executive Superintendent and NJ DOE highlighting the district is in the planning process and explore potential uses of the Hoppock School.
- Update from Mr. Steve Douglas, Facilities Manager - postponed

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

VIII. EDUCATION

- Substitute Salaries
 - Discussion about incentives for retaining substitute teachers and the possibility of a tiered structure to payment based on number of days in the district.
- Mirimus - Staff Contracted vendor for Staff COVID Testing
 - Contact tracing continues to be a challenge. Discussion of rapid versus PCR testing.
- Articulation
 - Meeting for M.S. teachers with NH/Voorhees to discuss expectations.

IX. POLICY

MOTION by Roop, seconded by Harris.

A. Approval of Second Reading of Policy

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

Policy # 1648.13 - School Employee Vaccination Requirements - M - New

Discussion: Mr. Logar recommended modifying the language from one or two times per week to once per week. Motion to amend the policy by Logar, seconded by Roop. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

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

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Logar, seconded by Roop for the Board to enter closed Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

On a voice vote, all present in favor. Motion carries.

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 Roop seconded by Logar for the Board to reconvene public session at 8:44 p.m.

On a voice vote, all present in favor. Motion carries.

XI. PERSONNEL

MOTION by Logar, seconded by Harris.

A. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation from School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Interim Chief School Administrator, accept the letter of resignation from Abigail Postma, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective November 29, 2021.

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

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of moving away from the Board as a whole and towards a committee structure. Logar commented that committees were originally a pilot. Roosen commented that the structure will be left up to the new Board to decide on committee versus whole board.

Discussion of teachers possibly coming to BOE meetings to highlight what is happening in their classrooms. Gwen Thorton to come on 11/17 to present on Board Goals planned.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Thank you to Mrs. Roncoroni for the creation of the Longhorn Cafe which has led to an increase in school spirit. Ms. Holmes asked questions regarding school choice. Mrs. Roncoroni replied that the state sets our number which is currently at six.

Update for required training for BOE members available on NJSBA website.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Seibert introduced herself as a write-in candidate for the Board along with Judy Hnat who was not in attendance.

Bonnie Mulhern thanked the district for bringing sports back and reported on upcoming games.

XV. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

- A. October 27, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting - Conley School Music Room - 6:30 p.m.
- B. November 1, 2 and 3, 2021 - Early Dismissal days for Parent-Teacher Connections
- C. November 4 and 5, 2021 - Schools Closed for NJEA Convention

- D. November 10, 2021 - Board Work Session Meeting - Conley School Music Room - 6:30 p.m.
- E. November 17, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting - Conley School Music Room - 6:30 p.m
- F. November 25 and 26, 2021 - Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Recess

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Logar, seconded by Roop.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rainie Roncoroni
Interim CSA