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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.
Ethel Hoppock Middle School Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - President MacDonnell called the meeting to order at 7:06 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

Board Members Present: Mr. Greg Glazar, Mr. Thomas Gregor, Mr. Michael Hale, Ms. Jenny Holmes, Ms. Jen Seibert Mr. Daniel MacDonnell, and Ms. Stephanie Yager

District Administrators Present: Edward Abato -Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Kirby Hendershot - SBA/BS

V. REFERENDUM

Discussed various options in proceeding forward with the referendum:

- **What does it cost to keep Hoppock and Conley both open?**
- **What are the necessary costs and projects to keep both buildings operational?**
- **Demographic study and capacity limits should be kept in mind as planning.**
- **A basic cost was requested from the architects- what is the minimum we would have to spend to get Ethel Hoppock students moved to the Thomas B Conley school and from there what are the costs of additional projects, i.e. air conditioning, a stage, etc.**
- **The architect's presence, as well as facility manager, Ray Mulvey, will be requested to join the next special meeting on November 12.**
- **A plan has to be nailed down by the board so the administration knows how to proceed.**

VI. REGIONALIZATION

Discussed feasibility study and possibility of exploring what tax rate could be if we regionalized and requested an adjustment. Also discussed the pros and cons of being a larger district.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mr. Hale to open public comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

- **Questions about feasibility study**
- **POssibility of looking further into regionalization**
- **Can an LRFP be posted on the website?**
- **Appreciate this working meeting.**
- **What are the savings if we consolidate into one building?**
- **Can Ethel Hoppock be sold due to zoning? Can we lease the building?**
- **LED lights in classrooms are not good for special needs students.**

Motion by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Ms. Holmes to close public comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

VIII. NOTEWORTHY DATES

1. October 30, 2024 - Regular Board of Education Meeting - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.
2. November 12, 2024- Special Meeting EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Gregor. On a voice vote, all were in favoR. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hendershot
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Approved on 10/30/24