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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.
Ethel Hoppock Middle School Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - President MacDonnell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Courier News, 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, Ms. Erin Roop, Ms. Jennifer Seibert, Ms. Stephanie Yager and Mr. Daniel MacDonnell

Board Members Absent: Ms. Yasmina Ben Bouchta

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

Bethlehem Township School District
2025 - 2026 District Goals

District Goal #1: Evaluation & Adoption of New Programs

Objective:

By June 2026, the district will evaluate and adopt new science and social studies programs that align with state standards, promote inquiry-based learning, and support the needs of all students K-8.

District Goal #2: Facilities Planning and Safety Improvements

Objective:

During the 2025–2026 school year, the district will prepare a prioritized list of facility projects for both Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Elementary School to guide long-term budgeting and planning, while completing critical safety upgrades this year.

District Goal #3: Implement and Enhance the RTI Framework (Phase III) to Support Student

Achievement

Objective: To continue with the integration & enhancements of the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework within the Bethlehem Township School District during the 2025-2026 school year. This will include the adoption and implementation of new intervention programs aligned to our core programs used in each grade level, formalized tier 2 & tier 3 interventions, modifications to action plans based on new programs, continued use of diagnostic and screening assessments.

District Goal #4: Comprehensive Curriculum Rewriting for K-8 art, music and physical education

Objective: To develop and implement a rigorous, standards-aligned K-8 curriculum in art, music, and physical education that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary connections, ensuring our students are prepared for a rapidly evolving global society.

V. FINANCE

Committee Members: Yasmina Ben Boucta, Thomas Gregor, Jennifer Seibert

A. Approval of the Rejection of Bids and Re-Bid of Security Vestibule for Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Elementary School

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Township School District Board of Education (the "Board") advertised for bids for the Security Vestibule Construction project (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. (the "Contracts Law"), provides that the Board must award bids to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for goods or services in excess of the bid threshold, as is defined in the Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board received and publicly opened seven (7) bids in connection with the Project; and

WHEREAS, the bids were reviewed by the School Business Administrator and appropriate staff and professionals to determine whether they were both responsive and responsible; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the bids, it was determined that the bids substantially exceeded the Board's cost estimates and appropriation for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Contracts Law provides that a board of education may reject all bids in certain situations, including where the lowest responsive bid received substantially exceeded the Board's cost estimates and appropriation for the Project.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

Section 1. The bids received for the Project are hereby rejected because they substantially exceeded the cost estimates and appropriations for the Project.

Section 2. The Board approves the administration to enter into negotiations to receive contractors' best and final bids.

Motion by Ms. Roop seconded by Ms. Yager to approve Finance item A. On a roll call vote, item A was approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

VI. PERSONNEL

Committee Members: Yasmina Ben Bouchta, Thomas Gregor, Jennifer Seibert

A. Approval of Ethel Hoppock Middle School Principal for the 2025-2026 School Year
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Meaghan Dagostino for the position of Ethel Hoppock Middle School Principal subject to further investigation pursuant to law.

Last Name	First Name	Status	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Dagostino	Meaghan	12 month	Principal	$95,000	March 30, 2026

Motion by Ms. Roop seconded by Mr. Gregor to approve Personnel item A. On a roll call vote, item A was approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

VII. 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.

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

- **No public comment**

Motion by Ms. Yager, seconded by Ms. Roop to close public comment. On a voice vote all were in favor.

VIII. NOTEWORTHY DATES

1. March 25, 2026 - Regular Board of Education Meeting - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Executive Session meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Gregor, Seconded by Mr. Glazar. On a voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hendershot
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Approved on 4/29/26