

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 2, 2021 Meeting

7:00PM



A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Gerkhardt, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Rolph and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

D. NOTICE OF MEETING

This is a regular meeting of the Blairstown Township Board of Education. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk, and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education offices as well as on the front door of the Blairstown Elementary School in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

See attached report.

F. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

See attached report.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Gerhardt reported that the Security Committee met and discussed topics that include the man trap project, security grant for cameras, adding security fencing the the road, the need to update the long range facility plan to include security projects, increasing police presence at the school and teacher empowerment training.

H. PRESENTATIONS

None.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Blairstown Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

Mrs. Diego asked if there had been any resignations due to the Governor's Executive Order 253.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

August 5, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R22-21 through R22-22 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-21 Authorization for Payment of Bills (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator to approve the bills list as submitted for the dates between August 6, 2021 and September 2, 2021.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$316,416.96
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	66,093.01
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$382,509.97

R22-22 Approve ARP IDEA Grant Application

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the ARP IDEA grant application in the amount of \$18,308.00 for ARP IDEA Basic and \$1,561.00 for ARP IDEA Preschool.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Rolph

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

L. PERSONNEL

Resolutions R22-23 through R22-28 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-23 Approve Hiring of Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Barbara Warnkin, Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher at 0.70 FTE, BA Step 1 from September 1, 2021 to November 23, 2021 prorated in the amount of \$37,754.50.

R22-25 Approve Vacation Day Payout

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the vacation day payout for Kathleen Welsh for 27.50 days at \$398.87 per day in the amount of \$10,968.93.

R22-26 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation of Carlton Ashton, Part-Time Custodian effective September 3, 2021.

R22-27 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation of Kimberly Hill, Paraprofessional effective August 31, 2021.

R22-27 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation of Bernadine Pagano, Paraprofessional effective August 31, 2021.

R22-28 Approve List of Substitute Custodians

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of returning substitutes custodians for the 2021-2022 School Year at \$14.00 per hour, \$16.00 per hour for black seal certification.

Last Name	First Name	Black Seal	Hourly Rate
Sciarrino	Chris	No	\$14.00
Ashton	Carlton	No	\$14.00
Perez	Ricardo	Yes	\$16.00

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

M. EDUCATION

Resolution R22-29 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-29 Approve Curriculum for 2021-2022 - Tabled

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the Computer Science and Design Thinking, Music, Physical Education, Science, Visual Arts and World Language (Spanish) curricula.

N. FACILITIES

Resolution R22-30 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-30 Approve Tentative Facility Use Requests

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the tentative facility use requests for the following groups:

Name	Organization	Requested Date
Linda Sprague	Blairstown Women’s Volleyball League	See attached form
Liz Dwyer	Blairstown Jr. Wrestling	See attached form
Susan Elias	Centenary University	See attached forms
Nya Noziere	Sussex County YMCA	See attached form
Claire Crowder	Girls Scouts of Northern NJ	See attached form

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

O. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

P. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed the possible sale and reauction of the Vail Preschool property. The Board would also like a new appraisal of the building.
2. The Board discussed granting the Township of Blairstown an extension for the purchase of the Lambert Road Property.

R22-31 Approve Change of Closing Date for the Sale of the Lambert Road Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Addendum to the October 23, 2020 Agreement for Sale of Real Property between it and the Township of Blairstown (the “Lambert Road Property”) addressing changes to the Closing Date and Contingencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Board Secretary are authorized to execute the Addendum on the Board’s behalf.

Motion by Mrs. Gerkhard, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: Mr. Van Valkenburg Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

3. The Board discussed sending a letter to Governor Murphy opposing the universal mask requirement in Executive Order 251, stating that mask requirement should be optional and a local decision. However, the board will continue to follow mandates outlined in Executive Order 251.

WHEREAS, THE Board of Education will honor the requirements of Executive Orders 251 and 253; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes that the decision to have our children wear masks in school is best made by the local district;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board will send a letter to Governor Murphy expressing disapproval of a blanket order mandating masks as required in Executive Order 251; said letter is to be signed by those members of the Board voting in favor of this resolution.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: Ms. Klein

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

Q. OLD BUSINESS

1. Teacher Empowerment Training
2. Ad hoc Survey Committee Report – Survey to begin after the 2020-2021 School Year is completed
3. Cluster board services ad-hoc committee
4. Resource Officer/Added Security Measures

R. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Sarah Hare stated that she has not experienced student complaints regarding the requirement to wear masks. Ms. Hare read an excerpt of an article from Education Week regarding masking policies. She also stated that there are parents out there that support masking.

Monica Salvador stated that there is a lot of fear going around and that people should stand up to the governor. She also questions the number of Covid-19 deaths that are reported. Ms. Salvador also stated that the flu is just as dangerous to children and that masks are useless.

Allison thanked the board for listening to the concerns of parents and that nobody wants to be told what to do. She also stated that people are full of fear.

Elisa Diego asked about screening of students and what happens if a child is sick. She also stated that the mask mandates sends mixed messages.

Ms. Crisman stated that she would be wearing a mask even if there was no mandate. She also stated that the mandate is the reason to send children to school.

S. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

None.

T. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Blairstown Township Board of Education, that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

Personnel

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The Minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Gerhardt to go into executive session at 8:21 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

U. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein to leave executive session at 8:35 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

V. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Gerhardt to leave the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hambos and Mrs. Sikkes

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator