

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 10, 2022 Meeting

7:00PM



A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Gerhardt, Mrs. Hambos, Mrs. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Sikkes and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

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

None.

H. PRESENTATIONS

1. BES Climate and Culture Team Presentation
2. Presentation of Naming the BES Library by Bruce Leal
3. Financial Literacy Presentation by Lauren Glory

R22-120 Approval of Naming of the Blairstown Elementary Library

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, approve the naming of the Blairstown Elementary School Library as the Michael Feeney Library after former superintendent Michael Feeney. A dedication ceremony will be held on June 11, 2022.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Leal thanked the Board for the resolution to rename the library.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

January 6, 2022 – Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

K. ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Negotiations</u>	<u>Policy</u>
Jeremy Cook, Chair	Jennifer McElroy, Chair
Michelle Gerhardt	Shanna Sikkes
Jennifer McElroy	Kate Hawkswell
Shanna Sikkes	Sotie Hambos
<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Buildings & Grounds</u>
Michelle Gerhardt, Chair	Shanna Sikkes, Chair
Shanna Sikkes	Brad Van Valkenburg
Jeremy Cook	Sotie Hambos
Sotie Hambos	Stefanie Fredericks
<u>Finance</u>	<u>Planning</u>
Jeremy Cook, Chair	Karen Kline, Chair
Michelle Gerhardt	Stefanie Fredericks
Jennifer McElroy	Brad Van Valkenburg
Karen Klein	Sotie Hambos
<u>Community Relations</u>	<u>Security</u>
Jennifer McElroy, Chair	Michelle Gerhardt, Chair
Karen Klein	Jeremy Cook
Stefanie Fredericks	Brad Van Valkenburg
Kate Hawkswell	Kate Hawkswell
<u>NJSBA Legislative Rep</u>	
Karen Klein	

L. FINANCE

Resolutions R22-103 through R22-108 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-103 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 January 7, 2022 and February 10, 2022.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$975,5201.01
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$41,962.59
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$14,644.21
Grand Total	\$1,031,807.81

R22-104 Approve Line Item Transfers (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the budget line item transfers for January 2022.

R22-105 Reports of the Treasurer and Board Secretary for (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and Board Secretary’s Financial Reports are in agreement for the month of December 2021, approved by the Board as recommended by the School Business Administrator.

R22-106 Certification of Fund Balances

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.11(c) 3, the Board of Education certify that as of December 31, 2021, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report for December 2021 (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, Blairstown Township Board of Education is in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 4 and shall certify in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A23A-16:10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and we request the Board Secretary to addend a copy of the Secretary’s Report to the minutes.

R22-107 Approve SEMI Waiver Request

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the SEMI waiver request for the 2022-2023 school year.

R22-108 Accept the CAFR and AMR for the Year Ending June 30, 2021

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Township Board of Education in accordance with NJSA18A:23-1 must have a certified External Audit of the district’s account and finance transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Township Board of Education received the audit performed by Ardito and Company, LLC and discussed said audit at its public meeting held on February 10, 2022; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blairstown Township Board of Education accepts the audit for the 2020-2021 School Year, Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021. It is noted there are no CAFR and AMR Findings.

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

M. PERSONNEL

Resolution R22-109; R22-114 through R22-115 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-109 Approve Substitute Custodian

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Agnes Hatziorfanos as a substitute custodian at \$16.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 School Year, pending the results of a criminal background check and renewal of black seal boiler license.

R22-114 Approve Hiring of Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Diane Lynch as a substitute teacher, pending the results of a criminal background check for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-115 Approve Additional Hours for After School Wilson Reading Program Tutor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Kaitlin Baker as the After School Wilson Reading Program Tutor for an additional two hours per week at \$42.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

N. EDUCATION

Resolutions R22-110 through R22-112; R22-116 through R22-119 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-110 Approve Revised School Calendar for the 2022-2023 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached revised school calendar for the 2022-2023 School Year (due to changes in the dates of the NJEA convention).

R22-111 Approve School Physician for the 2021-2022 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Dr. Eric Molnar of the Skylands Medical Group as the School Physician in the amount of \$1,500.00 for 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-112 Approve Speech Therapy Services Contract for the 2021-2022 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the contract with Sussex County Educational Services Commission for speech services, two days a week at \$97.00 per hour and a 3% administrative fee for 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-116 Approve Out of District Special Education Placement Tuition Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the out of district tuition contract with the Newton Board of Education for student ID # 9029168 in the amount of \$7,214.11, ESY tuition in the amount of \$5,033.10 and one to one aide in the amount of \$4,304.52 from July 1, 2021 to November 2, 2021.

R22-117 Approve Itinerant Services Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the itinerant services contract for student ID # 9029290 in the amount of \$1,980.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-118 Approve Bus Evacuation Drills for 2020-2021 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following bus evacuation drills for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Blue Cohort: September 29, 2020 at 9:00 am
Gold Cohort: October 1, 2020 at 9:00 am
BES Mini Bus P139-S1: October 9, 2020 at 9:00 am
BES Mini Bus C50851: October 9, 2020 at 9:00 am

All Routes: June 7, 2021 at 9:00 am
BES Mini Bus P139-S1: June 7, 2021 at 9:00 am
BES Mini Bus C50851: June 7, 2021 at 9:00 am

R22-119 Approve Bus Evacuation Drills for 2021-2022 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following bus evacuation drills for the 2021-2022 School Year:

All Grade Levels with safety assembly conducted by Mrs. Reynolds: September 13, 14 & 15, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2 pm

BES Mini Bus P139-S1: September 29, 2021 at 9:30 am

BES Mini Bus C50851: September 29, 2021 at 9:30 am

Second round of bus evacuation drills to be scheduled for the spring of 2022

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks.

O. FACILITIES

Resolution R22-113 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-113 Approve Facility Use Requests

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

Name	Organization	Room	Requested Date
Marissa Hardy	Sam's Hope	Gym	Every Sunday 2/13/22 to 4/3/22 from 3-4pm
Michelle Gerhardt	Blairstown 6 th Grade Party Planning Committee	Small Cafeteria	2/11/22 from 3:30 to 4:30pm

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Mrs. Hambos

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks

P. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Q. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mrs. Sikkes petitioned the district to explore the possibility of getting a certified therapy dog. The therapy dog would be brought in for students social and emotional learning.

R. 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
5. Ownership of the lot where school buses are parked

S. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Andrews, the part-time guidance counselor at Blairstown Elementary, spoke in regards to the current mental health of the students. She has spent 20 years in the district and is a certified mental health screener. She is concerned about the mental well-being of the students. The need for counseling services was high prior to the pandemic, but the need has significantly increased since the pandemic. She has seen an increase in anxiety and depression in students. Mrs. Andrews believes that violence is more likely to happen within the school rather than outside the school. She feels the district should prioritize more counseling services.

Ms. Glory stated that college campuses are now utilizing therapy dogs to help students cope.

Ms. Diego liked the idea of a therapy dog in the school. She was very disappointed to hear that there is not a full-time guidance counselor on staff. Ms. Diego also discussed the large pot hole located in the front parking lot.

Ms. Casey inquired about the company that plows the parking lots. She feels like the pot holes have gotten worse and wanted clarification on the type of patch work being done.

Mr. Diego suggested reaching out to North Warren to see if doing a joint repaving project is possible.

T. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There is a legislative committee task force to look into the school funding formula.

U. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mrs. Sikkes to leave the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator