

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 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. Hambos, Mrs. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerkhardt 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

None.

H. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the Climate and Culture Team.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. O’Connell asked what the funds for the elevator project were for.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

October 20, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Hambos

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R23-76 through R23-81 and R23-88 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-76 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 October 21, 2022 and November 15, 2022.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$938,037.57
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$35,249.17
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$9,581.25
Grand Total	\$982,867.99

R23-77 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 October 2022.

R23-78 Reports of the Treasurer and Board Secretary (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and Board Secretary's Financial Reports are in agreement for the month of September 2022, approved by the Board as recommended by the School Business Administrator.

R23-79 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 September 30, 2022, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports for September 2022 (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.

R23-80 Approval to Withdraw Funds from Capital Reserve

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to authorize the Superintendent to withdraw \$38,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Account to fund the architectural services for the repair and replacement of the Schaare Wing elevator.

R23-81 Approval to Withdraw Funds from Maintenance Reserve

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to authorize the Superintendent to withdraw \$18,240.00 from the Maintenance Reserve Account for the repainting of the gym.

R23-88 Approval to Withdraw Funds from Capital Reserve

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to authorize the Superintendent to withdraw \$28,105.00 from the Capital Reserve Account for the gym floor replacement.

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

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

L. PERSONNEL

Resolution R23-82 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-82 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation for Richard Walters, Custodian effective March 1, 2023 for purposes of retirement.

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

M. EDUCATION

Resolutions R23-83 through R23-84 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-83 Approve Attached HIB Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached HIB report.

R23-84 Approve Attached Nursing Services Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached nursing services plan.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

N. FACILITIES

Resolutions R23-85 through R23-86, and R23-89 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-85 Invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 for Emergency Contracts for Architectural Services for Repair and Replacement of the Schaare Wing Elevator

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 to appoint FKA Architects for architectural services for the repair and replacement of the Schaare Wing elevator for a cost of \$38,000.00.

R23-86 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
Elisa Diego	BES 6 th Grade Parent Committee	Library	1/9/2023, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

R23-89 Invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 for Emergency Contracts for the Gym Floor Replacement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 to appoint Classic Floor Finishing, Inc. for the gym floor replacement at a cost of \$160,345.00.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mr. Cook

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerkhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

O. POLICY

Resolution R23-87 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-87 Approve Second Reading of Policies

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- P 8600 – Student Transportation
- P 3216 – Dress and Grooming
- P 4216 – Dress and Grooming
- P 5512 – Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
- P 5516 – Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECRD)

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Sikkes

P. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Q. NEW BUSINESS

None.

R. OLD BUSINESS

1. Cluster board services ad-hoc committee
2. Additional Security Measures

S. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mr. Shacklford has a daughter that is in Kindergarten that is currently in another district and would like to have her attend BES even though she is below the minimum age for Kindergarten. He asked the board to consider allowing his daughter to attend as a kindergarten student rather than bring her in as a preschool student.

Ms. Diego asked what kind of gym floor will be installed.

Mr. Miller asked is there going to be a waiver for preschool students to ride the bus longer than policy.

T. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Klein presented the following update:

The Warren County NJSBA met the previous week. The Governor created a task force to address the teacher shortage. The study will make recommendations of how to meet the challenge and come up with solutions.

There has been a lull in legislative activity. Two bills have been presented that deal with children of military families that permit them to choose their schools and jump to the front of the line. The NJSBA has raised concerns that there are not enough seats for all of the children. The bill has been taken off the agenda. There is one bill that deals with the control of certain firearms.

On October 27, the General Assembly had a voting session and gave final approval to a bill designed to assist law officials in dealing with emergencies. The Senate Education Committee considered a bill that would establish a high efficiency accelerated learning grant program to deal with the effects of the interrupted learning due to the pandemic. The Senate Transportation Committee advanced legislation to alleviate the school bus driver shortage.

Ms. Klein provided the following rundown of educational measures considered by the legislature:

Assembly voting session:

A-3835/S2426 – School Mapping Data

This amend and existing bill and uses aerial view of a school and floor plans to map building access points, locations of hazardous materials and utility shut offs and other relevant information. The American Rescue Plan has been designated for financing of this venture. The bill has passed both houses and awaits the Governor's signature.

S2912/A2131 – Police in School Polling Places

This would require plain clothes police officers at polling stations at schools. The plan will limit access by the public to the students.

S588/A4169 – Information Literacy Standards

The State Board of Education would be required to adopt information literacy standards. This address digital media and technological literacy. It also addresses themes such as facts, points of views and opinions and knowing the difference. This is heading to the Senate for a final vote.

Senate Education Committee is considering the following bills:

S3220 – High Efficiency Learning Grant Program

The bill provides high impact tutoring to mitigate effects of interrupted learning due to the pandemic. Strict guidelines will be in place to ensure good results. A grand fund would be created to finance the program.

S3172 – Path for Certification for Montessori Teachers

Teachers must hold a Montessori teaching credential, attended a four year college and meet applicable test requirements for certificate of eligibility. This will head to the Senate Floor, but the Assembly counterpart has not yet been moved.

S3203 – Non-CDL Drivers for Small School Busses

This creates a new Type S, School Bus Certificate. Ten hour training courses will be offered for these drivers. This is the latest attempt at providing flexibility in licensing bus drivers and this will head to the Senate Floor.

In November, Governor Murphy signed legislation amending the grant program to STEM teachers, established in 2019. Senate bill S2563 incentivizes public school STEM teachers to participate in the program and to ensure that nonpublic schools have access to STEM education. This expand the number of educators, increases hours of instruction and provides more opportunities for learning STEM

U. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg to leave the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer
School Business Administrator