

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 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. Fredericks, Mrs. Gerkhardt, Mrs. Hambos, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Sikkes and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

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

Policy – The committee met to discuss the policies for the first reading in this meeting.

H. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Kathy Helewa for strategic planning.

Presentation by Colleen Silvestri to review NJSLA test score results.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. O'Connell asked how the preschool tuition is calculated and how policies are made.

Ms. Olsen asked how the preschool tuition is calculated and if it was possible to charge a lower rate.

Ms. Cain asked if staff can wear their BES shirts.

Ms. Ayers asked if the policy for staff covers just the bearwear.

Ms. Socha thanked the board for adding additional time on the bus for preschool students.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

September 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R23-64 through R23-65 and R23-77 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-64 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 September 23, 2022 and October 20, 2022.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$706,846.78
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$200,228.29
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$1,275.22
Grand Total	\$908,350.29

R23-65 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 September 2022.

R23-77 Approve Tuition Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following tuition rates:

Program	Rate
Grade K	\$14,572.00
Grades 1-5	\$15,648.00
Grades 6-8	\$15,970.00
Learning and/or Language Disability	\$19,223.00
Emotional Regulation Impairment	\$18,549.00
Multiple Disability	\$24,303.00
Preschool Disabilities – FT	\$24,069.00
Preschool Disabilities – PT	\$40,297.00

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

L. PERSONNEL

Resolution R23-66 through R23-68 and R23-76 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-66 Approve Professional Development Requests

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following professional development requests:

Name	Date(s)	PD Event	Fee	Location
Jennifer Roof	10/10/2022	School Health Law	\$0.00	Virtual
Kerry Erickson	12/4/22- 12/5/2022	NJ Association of School Librarians	\$428.77	Atlantic City, NJ
Cate Pasculli	11/16/2022	Cultivating Conditions for SEL and Arts Education	\$75.00	Virtual

R23-67 Approve List of Substitute Teachers and Aides

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of returning substitute teacher and aides for the 2022-2023 School Year at \$90.00 per diem for Aides, \$125.00 per diem for Teachers and \$200.00 per diem for Nurses.

Last Name	First Name	Position
Riley	Mary Ann	Substitute Aide
Kruegel	Walter	Substitute Teacher
Mamay	Katie	Substitute Teacher
Tynan	Patricia	Substitute Teacher
Wood	Michelle	Substitute Nurse

R23-68 Approve Stipend Positions

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the following stipend positions for the 2022-2023 School Year:

Name	Position	Amount
Lisa Besser	Head Ski Club	\$1,400.00
Katie Kline (Untamo)	Assistant Ski Club	\$1,200.00
Cate Pasculli	Music Theater Director	\$1,800.00
Maureen Konecnik	Assistant Theater Director	\$720.00
Joan Pelosi	Battle of Books, Grade 6	\$480.00
Joy Menzel	Battle of Books, Grade 5	\$480.00
Jen Pillion	Battle of Books, Grade 4	\$480.00
Aimee Voss	Battle of Books, Grade 3	\$480.00
Joan Pelosi	Head Talent Show	\$360.00
Christine Kovacs	Assistant Talent Show	\$300.00
Julianna Goncalves	Assistant Talent Show	\$300.00
Clorimar Rios-Holyoak	Head Battle of the Minds	\$240.00
Christine Kovacs	Assistant Battle of the Minds	\$240.00
Sharon Bunce	Warren County All-Star Band	\$240.00

Clorimar Rios-Holyoak	Head Warren County Debate	\$120.00
Jen Pillion	Warren County Debate	\$120.00
Kelly Zaleski	Spelling Bee	\$400.00

R23-76 Approve Medical Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the medical leave absence for Elizabeth Vigren from October 5, 2022 to March 1, 2023

Motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

M. EDUCATION

Resolutions R23-69 through R23-71 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-69 Approve Attached HIB Report

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

R23-70 Approve State Police Memorandum of Agreement (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve State Police Memorandum of Agreement for the 2022-2023 School Year.

R23-71 Approve Field Trip Transportation Contract Awards for the 2022-2023 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, to approve the field trip transportation contract awards for the following list of field trips for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Route #	Location	Date	Times	# Buses	Vendor	Cost
FT1	Land of Make Believe	6/13/2023	9:30-2:15	1	Stocker Bus	\$375.00
FT2	The Growing State	5/18/23	9:15 - 12:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$550.00
FT3	NWRHS Barnyard Day	5/5/2023	9:15 - 12:30	1, for 2 Trips	Stocker Bus	\$275.00
FT4	Crayola Experience	11/9/22	9:00 –	2	Stocker Bus	\$910.00

			2:45			
FT5	Fairview Lake YMCA	11/22/22	9:00 – 2:45	2	Stocker Bus	\$550.00
FT6	Sterling Hill Mines	5/26/23	9:00 – 2:45	2	Stocker Bus	\$910.00
FT7	DaVinci Science Center	11/8/22	8:45 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$910.00
FT8	Turtle Back Zoo	5/5/2023	8:45 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$910.00
FT9	Waterloo Village	12/1/22	9:30 – 2:40	2	Stocker Bus	\$840.00
FT10	Liberty Science Center	6/1/23	8:50 – 5:00	2	Stocker Bus	\$1,300.00
FT11	Fairview Lake YMCA	10/25/22	8:45 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$550.00
FT12	Sandy Hook	5/4/23	8:00 – 5:00	2	Stocker Bus	\$1,450.00
FT13	Camp Mason	11/7/22	9:00 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$550.00
FT14	Museum of Jewish Heritage	11/30/22	9:00 – 4:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$1,300.00
FT15	CCM Longo Planetarium	1/5/23	9:00 – 3:00	2	Stocker Bus	\$950.00
FT16	Centenary University	3/29/23	9:00 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$870.00
FT17	NWRHS	5/25/2023	9:00 - 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$550.00
FT18	Camp Mason	6/5/23	9:00 – 2:30	2	Stocker Bus	\$275.00
FT19	TBD- Hackettstown HS or Phillipsburg HS	3/1/23	10:30 - 12:00	1	Stocker Bus	\$175.00
FT20	Location to be determined WCCSE - Phabulous Physics	TBD	8:45 - 12:00	1	Snyder Bus	\$330.00
FT21	Location to be determined WCCSE - Strategic Thinking	TBD	8:45 - 2:30	1	Snyder Bus	\$330.00
FT22	Location to be determined WCCSE - Battle of Minds	TBD	3:15 - 8:00	1	Snyder Bus	\$450.00
FT23	Fonthill Castle	4/27/23	8:45 - 4:00	1	Stocker Bus	\$595.00

FT24	National Museum of Math	TBD	7:15 - 4:00	1	Stocker Bus	\$790.00
FT25	AeroFarms - Newark	5/19/23	9:15 - 2:00	1	Stocker Bus	\$380.00
FT26	Battle of Books, Grades 3 & 4 Location to be determined	TBD	3:00 - 8:00	1	Snyder Bus	\$470.00
FT27	Battle of Books, Grades 3 & 4 Location to be determined	TBD	3:00 - 8:00	1	Snyder Bus	\$470.00

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

N. FACILITIES

Resolution R23-72 and R23-74 through R23-75 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-72 Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 form for the 2022-2023 School Year.

R23-74 Approve Minor Update to the Long Range Facility Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the minor update to the Long Range Facility Plan to include the repair and replacement of the Schaare Wing elevator.

R23-75 Invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 for Emergency Contracts 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 for the repair and replacement of the Schaare Wing elevator with an estimated cost of \$200,000.00.

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Mrs. Hambos

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

O. POLICY

Resolution R23-73 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-73 Approve First Reading of Policies

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the first 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. Sikkes, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Hawkswell

P. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Q. NEW BUSINESS

November Board Meeting to be moved to November 15, 2022.

R. OLD BUSINESS

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

S. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Ayers stated that she doesn't understand how bearwear is inappropriate. She also asked if there will be a crackdown on student apparel.

Ms. Olsen asked why substitute nurses are paid more than substitute teachers.

T. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Klein provided the following update:

The Governor conditionally vetoed S-869 which would have required completion of a commissioner approved performance based assessment, including the edTPA as condition for eligibility for certification. Many recommendations for changes include shifting the responsibility to educator preparation programs versus the responsibility of the State.

The State Education Committee met after recess and approved a variety of bills.

A-1168 – Community Schools Pilot Program

These schools would be partnerships between public schools, non-profit organizations and local governments to provide integrated focus on academics, health, social services, youth and community development.

A-1516 – School Counselor Requirements

Several requirements related to school counselor certification and employment. This bill's senate version has been modified to give the counselors more flexibility in how they spend staff time.

S-2563 – Nonpublic STEM Teacher Program

Changes to this bill provide additional allowances to teach STEM in nonpublic schools.

S-6888/A-4169 – Information Literacy Standards

This bill would require the State Board of Education to create new content in the NJ Learning Standards for information literacy. It stresses differences in facts, points of view and opinions, research methods; and accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources.

A-4396 – State Review of APSSD Audits

This would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from issuing an adverse finding, adjustment or penalty on independent certified audit of an APSSD more than seven years following the submission of an audit.

A-4646 – Instruction on Recent Historical Events

The State Board of Education would be required to ensure incorporation of recent historical events including events surrounding September 11, 2001.

A-1791 – CTE Scholar Awards

This would require the NJ DOE, in consultation with the Labor and Workforce Development to establish a career and technical education scholar awards program.

A-480 – Certification for Nonresident Military Spouses

This bill extends temporary instructional certificates for nonresident military spouses.

The Senate Education Committee met and approved the following bills:

S-636 – Menstrual Toxic Shock Syndrome Education

This bill would require education on Menstrual Toxic Shock Syndrome. Education would begin in grade 4, starting in the fall of each school year.

S-2256 – Specific Learning Disability Determinations

This modifies the State’s criteria for determining a student’s disability under the Disabilities Education Act.

S-2416 – Expanding Medicaid Funded Health Services

This bill would provide reimbursement to districts for covered behavioral health services.

S-2577 – Allocation of State Funded Preschool Seats

Districts will house half of the children in schools and head start programs and half at licensed childhood care providers.

S-2771 – Community Schools Pilot Program

This bill was addressed with Assembly bill A-1168 as discussed.

S-2874 – Apprenticeship Reporting

This would require NJ DOE Schools Performance Reports to include the number of students receiving job placement after graduation.

S-3027 – Use of Seclusion on Students with Disabilities

This amends the current use of restraining and seclusion and includes instant notification of the parents.

S-3044 – Electric Bus Funding

As discussed in the spring, this bill provides additional funding for the program signed into law in June.

Bills under consideration by the Assembly :

A-4548 – Compostable Food Waste

The bill authorizes a school to deliver compostable or anaerobically digestible food to another cooperating school providing they have the means of disposal.

The Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee reviews S-2912/A-2131, Police in School Polling Places. This would authorize police to be in plain clothes at school polling places.

The NJ DOE will resume implementing ESSEA School Accountability System.

The Assembly Education Committee met October 18, 2022. They discussed interrupted learning due to the impact of Covid. Also discussed was A-4496 which would revise various provisions of law governing construction of school facility projects and operations of the NJ Development Authority. The SDA would be required to have three model school designs which would promote uniform standards for elementary, middle and high schools. The Schools Facilities Charter and Renaissance Schools in SDA districts will have State funding provided in these districts. Regular Operating District Projects allows schools to raise bonds without voter approval and permits schools to draw against capital reserve accounts for portions of projects.

The Senate will be voting on bills listed below. Also, the Senate accepts the Governor's recommendations for edTPA, S-896.

S-528 – Suicide Prevention Training

The bill requires additional school personnel who were not previously subject to the training to be trained.

S-715 – Smartphone/Social Media Impact Study

This creates a study to determine the effects on physical, emotional health and academic performance.

S-2268 – Learning Loss Reports

This creates a study of the impacts of Covid and creates tangible strategies and tools to mitigate impact.

S-2426 – School Mapping Data

This would amend existing law that requires districts to share blueprints and maps with local law enforcement.

S-2563 – Nonpublic Stem Teacher Program

This would modify the application process for teaching STEM in nonpublic schools.

S-1975 – International Student Exchange Program.

This would require international exchange visitors to NJ to register with the Commissioner of Education.

The Assembly Labor Committee approved the following:

A-2494 – Tuition Fee Waiver for Apprenticeship Courses

This would waive post-secondary vocational tuition fees.

A-3586 – Teacher Advertising Campaign

The bill creates multimedia advertising to attract candidates to the teacher and education support professions.

A-292 – Identifying Military Students

This would require the Department of Education to maintain a database with student level evaluates student progress. S-87 has cleared the Senate Education Committee.

S-588/A-4169 – Information Literacy Standards

The State Board of Education would adopt standards to evaluate knowledge and skills.

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee review the following bill:

S-2661 – Educator Scholarship

This awards scholarships to college students who complete the educator preparation program and accept employment in NJ schools for at least three years.

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism, Historic Preservation Committee and Labor reviewed SEHBP/SHBP S-3049 that requires various data points to be included in the Star Health Benefits Program and the School Employee's Benefit Program. Under this bill, data can be requested annually instead of ever two years.

U. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mrs. Sikkes to leave the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator