

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 22, 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. Fredericks, Mrs. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Sikkes and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

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

Curriculum – The committee met and reviewed the curricula to be approved.

Policy – The committee will meet to discuss upcoming policy updates.

H. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the Blairstown Elementary mini bus drivers.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Miller stated that there is not statute for the length of time a student can be on a bus. He expressed his concerns for how much time the bus drivers were on the road and could suffer fatigue.

Mrs. Anderson stated that there is traffic in town that can delay the arrival of buses.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

August 18, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2022 – Executive Session Minutes

September 1, 2022 – Special Meeting

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. McElroy

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R23-48 through R23-51 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-48 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 19, 2022 and September 22, 2022.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$934,414.82
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$64,387.21
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$998,802.03

R23-49 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 July and August 2022.

R23-50 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 months of July and August 2022, approved by the Board as recommended by the School Business Administrator.

R23-51 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 July 31, 2022 and August 31, 2022, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports for July and August 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.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

L. PERSONNEL

Resolution R23-52 through R23-58 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-52 Approve Climate and Culture Stipend Position

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the Climate and Culture Stipend Position for up to 40 hours at \$42.00 per hour for the 2022-2023 School Year.

R23-53 Approve Hiring of Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Kristi Dickison as a Paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 School Year at \$13.00 per hour, pending the results of a criminal background check.

R23-54 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
Nick Moustakas	10/21/2022	NJ Association of Learning Consultants Learning Symposium	\$145.00	Virtual
Sherri Brady and Wendy Keefer	10/4/2022	Center for Prevention and Counseling – Revisions to the Law	\$40.00	Virtual

R23-55 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 and \$125.00 per diem for Teachers.

Last Name	First Name	Position
Russo	Corey	Substitute Teacher
Lynch	Diane	Substitute Teacher
Tanis	Patricia	Substitute Teacher

R23-56 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
Tammy Messina	Climate and Culture	Up to 40 hours at \$42 per hour

R23-57 Approve Maternity and FMLA Leave

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the maternity leave of absence for Carissa Sambolec, commencing on January 3, 2023 to March 3, 2023, utilizing 42 sick days and March 6, 2023 to June 2, 2023 utilizing the NJ Family Leave act.

R23-58 Authorize Superintendent to Conduct Search for Resource Officer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to authorize the Superintendent to conduct a search for a School Resource Officer for the 2022-2023 School Year.

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

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

M. EDUCATION

Resolutions R23-59 through R23-62 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-59 Approve the District Return to Virtual Learning Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the district return to virtual learning plan for the 2022-2023 School Year.

R23-60 Approve Curricula for 2022-2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the Social Studies (Grades K-6), Health (Grades K-6), Music (Grades 4-6), STEM (Grades 4-6) and Spanish (Grades 4-6) curricula.

R23-61 Approve Itinerant Services Contract with Mountain Lakes Board of Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the itinerant services contract with Mountain Lakes Board of Education for Student State ID# 2054452008 from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$3,400.00 for the 2022-2023 School Year.

R23-62 Approve Field Trips for the 2022-2023 School Year

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

Grade Level	Location	Date	Times	# Buses
Preschool	Land of Make Believe	6/13/2023	9:30-2:15	1
Kindergarten	The Growing State	5/18/23	9:15 - 12:30	2
	NWRHS Barnyard Day	5/5/2023	9:15 - 12:30	1 (usually 2 trips)
1st Grade	Crayola Experience	11/9/22	9:00 – 2:45	2
2nd Grade	Fairview Lake YMCA	11/22/22	9:00 – 2:45	2
	Sterling Hill Mines	5/26/23	9:00 – 2:45	2
3rd Grade	DaVinci Science Center	12/9/22	8:45 – 2:30	2
	Turtle Back Zoo	5/5/2023	8:45 – 2:30	2
4th Grade	Waterloo Village	12/1/22	9:30 – 2:40	2
	Liberty Science Center	6/1/23	8:50 – 5:00	2
5th Grade	Fairview Lake YMCA	10/25/22	8:45 – 2:30	2
	Sandy Hook	5/4/23	8:00 – 5:00	2
6th Grade	Camp Mason	11/7/22	9:00 – 2:30	2
	Museum of Jewish Heritage	11/30/22	9:00 – 4:30	2
	CCM Longo Planetarium	1/5/23	9:00 – 3:00	2
	Centenary University	3/29/23	9:00 – 2:30	2
	NWRHS	5/25/2023	9:00 - 2:30	2
	Camp Mason	6/5/23	9:00 – 2:30	2
6th Grade All Star Band	TBD- Hackettstown HS or Phillipsburg HS	3/1/23	10:30 - 12:00	1
GATE- 4th Grade	Location to be determined WCCSE - Phabulous Physics	TBD	8:45 - 12:00	1

GATE- 5th Grade	Location to be determined WCCSE - Strategic Thinking	TBD	8:45 - 2:30	1
	Location to be determined WCCSE - Battle of Minds	TBD	3:15 - 8:00	1
GATE- 6th Grade	Fonthill Castle	4/27/23	8:45 - 4:00	1
	National Museum of Math	TBD	7:15 - 4:00	1
	AeroFarms - Newark	5/19/23	9:15 - 2:00	1
Battle of Books grades 3/4	Location to be determined	TBD	3:00 - 8:00	1
Battle of Books grades 5/6	Location to be determined	TBD	3:00 - 8:00	1
Ski Club	Camelback Ski Resort	1/4/2023, 1/11/2023, 1/18/2023, 1/25/2023, 2/1/2023	3:20- 9:00	1

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mr. Cook

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

N. FACILITIES

Resolution R23-63 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-63 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
Claire Crowder	Girl Scout Troop 98056	Library	10/17/2022 to 6/12/2023, Wednesdays 3:30-5:15 PM
Nya Nozier	Sussex County YMCA	Cafeteria, Gymnasium,	9/1/2022 to 6/30/2023, 7:00 AM to start of school

		Playground and Field Space	and school dismissal to 6:00 PM
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Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

O. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

P. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Van Valkenburg asked if meetings can be broadcast virtually.

Mrs. Sikkes asked if the policy committee would consider a policy not allowing students to wear smart watches.

Q. OLD BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Ayers asked if the gym would be available for wrestling once the project is complete.

Mrs. Anderson pointed out that per the student handbook, smart watches are not allowed.

Mr. Miller asked if personal student devices can be blocked out like some other districts do.

R. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Klein provided the following update:

The NJ School Boards Association Legislative Committee met with Assembly Speaker, Craig Coughlin who highlighted some recent developments.

1. The Schools Development Authority received \$1.9 Billion under the fiscal year 2023 budget for school facilities projects, emergent needs and capital maintenance, including \$1.55 Billion for SDA districts and \$350 Million for all other districts. Currently SDA schools are funded by bonding which is inadequate. Bill A44-96 would shift bonding mechanisms into regular funding.
2. The other area of discussion was on bill A-3816 and S-2463. High school students would start at 8:30 am or later. There are logistical and cost challenges. This is projected for the 2024-2025 year.

The NJ DOE is offering threat assessment and management training. Governor Murphy signed into law two measures to combat hunger and food insecurity by expanding access to school meals for working class families, seniors and disabled residents. The NJ DOE has also provided local educational agencies with their spring 2022 statewide assessment test results, triggering a series of reporting requirements.

S. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg to leave the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer
School Business Administrator