

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 21, 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. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy (Arrived 7:13 pm), Mrs. Sikkes and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Frederick 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

H. RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 ELECTION

Name	Blairstown	Hardwick	Total
Karen Klein	1,706	463	2,169
Kevin Doell	110	5	115
Erin Allison	99	14	103

I. PRESENTATIONS

Library Book Dedications to Board Members

J. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Casey asked if the resignation of the CST supervisor was due to a change in the position.

K. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

November 15, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hambos

L. FINANCE

Resolutions R23-89 through R23-92 and will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-89 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 November 16, 2022 and December 15, 2022.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$987,056.61
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$52,615.71
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$17,639.84
Grand Total	\$1,055,307.64

R23-90 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 November 2022.

R23-91 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 October and November 2022, approved by the Board as recommended by the School Business Administrator.

R23-92 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 October 31, 2022 and November 30, 2022, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports for October and November 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. Sikkes, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hambos

M. PERSONNEL

Resolutions R23-93 through R23-105 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-93 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation for Mary Barton, Assistant to the Business Administrator effective December 30, 2022.

R23-94 Accept Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation for Samantha Kudlacik, Supervisor of Special Services effective March 16, 2023.

R23-95 Approve Adjustment to FTE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the FTE adjustment of .72 to .75 for Isabelle Becker.

R23-96 Approve Adjustment to FTE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the FTE adjustment of .72 to .75 for Ashley Larena.

R23-97 Approve Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve Barbara Warnkin as a maternity leave replacement teacher for the month of January 2023 at MA, Step 1.

R23-98 Approve Full-Time Custodian

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve Edmund Domanowski as a full-time custodian effective March 1, 2023 with a prorated salary of \$40,000.00.

R23-99 Approve Maternity Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve maternity leave of absences for Kira Macedo commencing May 11, 2023 to November 27, 2023 utilizing available sick days and FMLA.

R23-100 Approve Extension of Unpaid Leave

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the extension of unpaid leave for Elizabeth Vigren to May 2023.

R23-101 Approve Substitute Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve Bella Messina as a substitute paraprofessional, pending the results of a criminal background check.

R23-102 Approve Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve Taylor Quimby as a substitute teacher, pending the results of a criminal background check and obtaining a substitute certificate.

R23-103 Approve Home Instruction

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve Ashley Larena as a home instruction teacher, for 10 hours per week until the end of January 2023.

R23-104 Approve Substitute Custodian Hourly Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following substitute custodial staff hourly rates effective January 1, 2023:

Substitute Custodian	\$14.50
Substitute Custodian with Black Seal	\$18.00

R23-105 Approve Paraprofessional Hourly Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following paraprofessional staff rates effective January 1, 2023:

Name	Rate
Loren Arvary	\$14.13
Stephanie Ayres	\$14.13
Sarah Blanchard	\$14.13
Robin Bronstein	\$18.23
Kelly Burham-Crisman	\$14.13
Annamarie Cain	\$19.00
Chikako Drawbaugh	\$14.13
Ann Gnall	\$16.63
Ann Greenemeier	\$14.13
Richard Greenemeier	\$14.13
Debra Kittle	\$20.69
Gerald LaBar	\$14.13

Rola Lahoud	\$14.13
Madeline LoMonaco	\$16.79
Marilyn Maring	\$14.13
Brooke Moore	\$14.13
Kelly Moore-Finley	\$16.06
Bernadine Pagano	\$14.13
Mary Beth Pollard	\$20.69
Tammy Quick	\$18.88
Daneen Rivero-Christmas	\$17.83
Jeanne Socha	\$22.83
Theresa Tausendfreund	\$16.79
Karnawee Timsawatdikul	\$14.13
Anna Van Wattering	\$15.54
Elizabeth Vigren	\$14.13

Motion by Mr. Van Valkenburg, second by Ms. Klein

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hambos

N. EDUCATION

Resolutions R23-106 through R23-107 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-106 Approve Attached HIB Report

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

R23-107 Approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the school calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. Gerhardt, second by Mrs. McElory

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hambos

O. FACILITIES

Resolutions R23-108 through R23-110 will be moved in one roll call vote

R23-108 Approve ROD Grant Application for Elevator Replacement Project

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Board approve the submission of the project application for a ROD Grant to the New Jersey Department of Education for the Elevator Replacement Project at the Blairstown Elementary School.

R23-109 Approve Amendment to Long Range Facility Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Board authorize the amendment of the current Long Range Facility Plan to include the Elevator Replacement Project at the Blairstown Elementary School.

R23-110 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
Paul Adamsky	Blairstown Youth Softball	Gymnasium	1/30/2023 to 3/31/2023, Tuesdays 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Motion by Mrs. McElory, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

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

P. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Q. NEW BUSINESS

None.

R. OLD BUSINESS

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

S. PUBLIC HEARING & PETTION

Mrs. Casey asked if the district would consider using outside services for certain positions. She also commended the staff for covering classes when needed and is very appreciative of their efforts.

Mr. Grossman commented on Mrs. Warnkin being a sub for Mrs. Sambolec.

T. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Klein presented the following update:

On November 21, the Senate gave final approval to S588/A4169. The requires the State Board of Education to adopt academic standards in information literacy among other actions. This allows students to locate, evaluate and use information effectively. The Assembly approved this bill in October. This helps students learn the differences in fact, opinion and points of view.

The Senate also approved the following measures:

S896 – Performance Bases Assessment Certification Requirement, “edTPA Bill”

The bill was amended to reflect the conditional veto of the Governor. The bill will be forwarded to the Assembly for further action. The veto came as the bill prohibited the state from requiring performance based assessment as a requirement for certification.

S2256 - “Specific Learning Disability” Determinations

This bill would modify the State’s criteria for determining whether a student has a specific disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The bill moves to the Assembly next.

S2692 – Remote Counseling Sessions

This would require school districts, charter schools and renaissance school projects that employ a school psychologist to allow remote sessions. The bill moves to the Assembly next.

S3044 – Electric School Bus Funding

This allows for the appropriation of \$15 million of fiscal year 2023 funds to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to support one year of the program. The bill moves to the Assembly next.

S3089 – Military Impact Aid Reserve Account

This would allow a school district that received unanticipated state military impact aid revenue to establish a reserve account for these funds.

The Senate Education Committee met December 1:

S2057 – Security Drills and Students with Disabilities

Various steps will be designed to ensure that schools provide students with disabilities supports and accommodations necessary to address their unique needs during fire drills, security drills and actual emergency situations. This heads to the full Senate for further consideration. The Assembly counterpart A1174 has not yet received a vote in committee.

S2076 – Post-Secondary Transition Year Pilot Program

This establishes a three year 12th grade post-secondary transition year pilot program in the NJ Department of Education. This would give grants for high school seniors to participate in a guided start to post-secondary course work. This heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. The Assembly counterpart, A3319 has not moved.

S2927 – APSSD Audits

This would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from issuing an adverse finding, adjustment or penalty on the annual certified audit of an APSSD more than seven years following submission of the audit. This heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and awaits further action by Assembly Appropriations Committee.

S308 – Student Dropout Prevention

This establishes a task force to address student dropouts. A statewide strategic plan would be developed to analyze causes and promote re-enrollment. This heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. The Assembly counterpart, A398 has not moved yet.

S3146 – Survey on Holocaust Instruction

This would require the Department of Education to develop and distribute to school districts and a survey on the Holocausts and genocides. It is basically checking up to see if school districts are implementing existing educational requirements. This heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for further consideration. Assembly counterpart A4720 has not moved.

This urges US Congress to provide a permanent universal school meals program.

S1221 – Access to Feminine Hygiene Products

As discussed previously, free feminine hygiene products would be provided for students grades 6-12. It was approved by the Senate Health Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on May 9 and by the Senate Education Committee on June 2. This will head to the Senate floor for further consideration. The Assembly counterpart, A1349, has not moved. The NJDOE in conjunction with the NJ Department of Health would periodically review and assess whether meeting the needs of students are being met and if necessary, make recommendations for grades below 6.

The Assembly Education Committee met and approved the following:

A398 – Student Dropout Prevention

As previously discusses, the bill was approved in both houses.

A4458 – DOE Registry of Tutors

This would provide background checks and a searchable website to locate a tutor.

A4890 – High Efficiency Accelerated Learning Grant Program

This would provide high impact tutoring to mitigate interrupted learning during a pandemic, with limited number of students in groups. Ration of one to five in tutoring groups, three times a week for math and language arts and keeping the same tutors to create consistency. This can be during school or in before and after care programs. A grant would provide funding for this. This program can partner with teacher prep programs. This heads now to the Senate where the counterpart S3220 was revised in October. The bill has not yet been voted on.

A4496 – Revisions to School Facilities Law and SDA Operations

The committee held testimony and amended the bill. This would revise various provisions of law governing constructions of school projects and operations of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority. The bill removed original requirement that the legislature to authorize school facility projects in SDA districts. This codifies current SDA school design processes in lieu of original “Model School Design” requires the charter or renaissance schools to adhere to public school facility regulations

The Assembly Human Services Committee Approved:

A3334 – Expanding Medicaid Funded Health Services

This expands services that will require reimbursement for behaviorist health services, in person or vial telephone health. This bill would require the NJ Department of Human Services to apply for Medicaid amendments or waivers are necessary. This heads to the Assembly Education Committee for further consideration. The Senate counterpart S2416 was approved by the Senate Education Committee and referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

U. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Gerckhard, second by Mrs. Sikkes to leave the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Hambos

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator