

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023 Meeting

7:00PM



A. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Sikkes called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Hambos, Mrs. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein, Mrs. Sikkes, and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell and Mrs. McElroy

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. 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 Jeanene Dutt, Superintendent of North Warren Regional High School.

RtI Presentation

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

February 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2023 – First Session Executive Session Minutes

February 9, 2023 – Second Session Executive Session Minutes

Voice Vote:

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

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R23-128 through R23-133 will be moved in one roll call vote.

R23-128 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 February 10, 2023 and March 16, 2023.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$1,329,563.08
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$10,276.82
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$22,653.35
Grand Total	\$1,362,493.25

R23-129 Approve Tentative Proposed 2023-2024 School District Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the Tentative Proposed 2023-2024 School District Budget in the amount of \$9,816,024 to be submitted to the Warren County Office of the Department of Education for approval as follows:

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in the District’s Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:7A-11 and to provide curriculum and instructions which will enable all students to achieve the NJ Student Learning Standards;

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 budget is in compliance with the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Blirstown Township Board of Education approves the Tentative Proposed 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$9,816,024 as follows:

Fund	Tax Levy	Total
General Fund (10)	\$7,759,915.00	\$9,647,024.00
Special Revenue Fund (20)		\$169,000.00
Total	\$7,759,915.00	\$9,816,024.00

ALSO RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Position Control Roster, Budget Submission Checklist, with accompanying limits outlined below for professional services and mileage reimbursement to submit to the County Office for review and approval:

School Attorney	\$35,000
School Auditor	\$18,000
School Physician	\$3,000

Independent Student Evaluations	\$2,500
Maximum Mileage Reimbursement per Employee	\$1,000
Maximum District Mileage Reimbursement	\$6,000

R23-130 Set Maximum Travel Expense Limits for the 2023-2024 School Year

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses, by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members, to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education, to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$6,000 for all staff and board members.

R23-131 Approve Withdrawal from the Capital Reserve Account

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the withdrawal of \$266,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Account for the 2023-2024 budget for the purpose of the abatement of asbestos in the boiler room in the amount of \$40,000.00 and for the restoration of the gymnasium roof in the amount of \$226,000.00.

R23-132 Approve Withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the withdrawal of \$250,000.00 from the Maintenance Reserve Account for the 2023-2024 budget for the purpose of increased maintenance costs of the building.

R23-133 Accept the ACFR and AMR for the Year Ending June 30, 2022

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 Blirstown Township Board of Education received the audit performed by Ardito and Company, LLC and discussed said audit at its public meeting held on March 16, 2023; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blirstown Township Board of Education accepts the audit for the 2021-2022 School Year, Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022. It is noted there are no ACFR and AMR Findings.

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

L. PERSONNEL

Resolutions R23-134 through R23-140 will be moved in one roll call vote.

R23-134 Approve Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve Timothy Ferguson as a substitute teacher pending the results of a criminal background check.

R23-135 Approve Substitute Paraprofessional

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

R23-136 Removed, Candidate no Longer Wishes to Take Position

R23-137 Approve Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the resignation of Karnawee (Ying) Timsawatidkul, paraprofessional, effective March 15, 2023.

R23-138 Approve Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the resignation of Debra Kittle, paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2023 for the purpose of retirement.

R23-139 Approve Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, to approve an indefinite leave absence for Debra Kittle, starting February 21, 2023, utilizing available sick days.

R23-140 Approve Hiring of Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, to approve Daria Hill as a paraprofessional at \$14.13 per hour pending the results of a criminal background check.

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

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

M. FACILITIES

Resolution R23-141 will be moved in one roll call vote.

R23-141 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 pending the availability of facilities and custodial staff:

Name	Organization	Room	Requested Date
Paul Adamsky	Blairstown Youth Softball	Gymnasium	Fridays 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Sundays 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm from 2/24/2023 to 3/26/2023
Elisa Diego	PTG	Gymnasium	4/27/2023 at 6:30 pm and 4/28/2023 from 6:45 am to 9:00 am
Elisa Diego	PTG	Library	3/22/2023 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Allison Swift	Blairstown Youth Basketball	Cafeteria	3/16/2023 to 3/23/2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Rich McGuiness	North Warren Bomberz	Gymnasium	3/12/2023 to 6/23/2023, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
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Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Allison

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

N. POLICY

Resolution R23-142 will be moved in one roll call vote.

R23-142 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 5112 – Entrance Age

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

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

O. NEW BUSINESS

None.

P. OLD BUSINESS

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

Q. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Ms. Lance asked what the entrance age for kindergarten is.

Mrs. Messina expressed recognition for Debra Kittle, paraprofessional for 24.5 years of service with the Blairstown Elementary School.

R. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Klein presented the following update:

Governor Murphy delivered his fiscal report on February 28, 2023. The State will spend an additional \$832 million in K-12 formula aid.

The Senate Education Committee discussed, but did not vote yet on S-3554, which removed a student from a school pending clearance from a mental health clinician. There is no Assembly counterpart yet.

The Senate Education Committee also discussed but did not vote on:

S2151 – This would entitle public school students to five state-excused absences, per school year, for mental and behavioral health needs.

S2414 – This permits schools to accept three absences. The NJ DOE needs to develop guidelines.

S3330 – This would require the State Board of Education to adopt, and districts to implement, the NJ State Learning Standards in regard to dealing with all aspects of the grieving process with students in grades 8-12. This will head to the Senate for further consideration.

S1662 – This requires the NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory to prepare a report regarding all aspects of this issue. It heads next to the Women and Children Committee.

S2441 – The bill would require The Board of Education with 1,000 students that offer 403(b) plans to employers, to select three financial institutions or pension management organizations to provide services to this plan.

S2764, Rowan VETeach Program – This would address the educator shortage by helping veterans secure certification. The bill passed the Senate and now heads to the Assembly.

A4458, DOE Registry of Tutors – This will post a searchable registry on a website for available tutors.

The following bills were introduced and referred to the Assembly Education Committee:

A4998 – Requires the Commissioner of Education to attend the State Board of Education meetings.

A5008 – Requires the State Board of Education to permit candidates awaiting teacher certification to submit an affidavit to the hiring school district affirming that requirements have been met.

A5013 – Directs the Department of Education to conduct a study concerning school caregivers and the impact on their academic achievements.

A5014 – Requires school districts to provide instruction on labor movement as part of the New Jersey Learning Standards in social studies.

A5015 – Requires school districts to provide instruction on grief as part of the New Jersey Learning Standards in comprehensive health and physical education.

A5017- Revises the requirements for proceedings concerning non-renewal of non-tenured staff members of District Boards of Education.

A5029 – Establishes Stabilization Aid for certain school districts experiencing reductions in state aid or other budgetary imbalances; establishes education rescue grants for certain school districts experiencing reductions in teaching staff.

A5033 – Permits transfer of school district capital reserve funds to general funds for current fund expenses in certain circumstances.

The following bill was introduced and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee:

A5039 – Allows ranked-choice voting options for municipal and school board elections under certain circumstances.

The following bill was received in the Assembly, referred to the Assembly Women and Children Committee:

S3440 – Expands the scope of school district employee sick leave.

The NJDOE has a March 31st deadline for schools to complete a survey on lactation related policies. Schools are asked to provide on-site lactation rooms for nursing mothers.

Updates: School board ethics regulations will now have new board members complete their first year training in 90 days.

S. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg to leave the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mr. Cook, Mr. Doell, Mrs. McElroy

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator