

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 Board Retreat

7:00PM



A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cook, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Cook, Board Present, led the flag salute.

C. ROLL CALL by Donna Williams, Business Administrator

Mrs. Erinn Allison

Ms. Karen Klein

Mr. Jeremy Cook

Mrs. Jennifer McElroy

Mr. Kevin Doell

Mrs. Shanna Sikkes

Mrs. Sotie Hambos

Mr. Bradford Van Valkenburg

Mrs. Kathryn Hawkswell

Present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Sikkes, Mr. Doell, Mrs. Hawkswell, Ms. Klein

Absent: Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Hambos, Mrs. McElroy, Mr. Van Valkenburg

Also Present: Dr. Ketch-Superintendent, Mrs. Williams- Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, Mrs. Silvestri-Principal, Mrs. Kathy Helewa.

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. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Blairstown Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. As a public meeting, the public will be able to observe and participate in the meeting.

None.

F. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by School Boards Representative, Kathy Helewa

Created District Goals for the 2023-2024 School Year

1. Incorporate active learning strategies that foster critical thinking. In order to promote independence and student ownership of their own educational experiences. (Goal Area #1)
2. Foster teacher practices to create safe classroom environments which allow students to confidently engage in their learning, take risks, and grow. (Goal Area #2)
3. Prioritize Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) to foster greater self-awareness in the BES community. (Goal Area #3)
4. Create in-school opportunities to increase students' awareness of being a part of the larger community of Blairstown Township. (Goal Area #4)
5. Improve facilities' conditions, and the safety and security of the school.

G. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board has set aside two portions of this meeting for public comment. Specifically, during both the "Public Comment on Agenda Items" and the "Other Public Comments" sections noted on the agenda, this meeting will be open to members of the public who wish to speak or make comment on agenda items or a school district issue that may be of concern to the residents of the Township of Blairstown. In that respect, please limit your comments or questions during the "Public Comment on Agenda Items" to agenda items only, and save any other questions or comments that you may have for the "Other Public Comments" portion of the meeting. During both portions of the meeting, the Board requests that the following procedures be observed:

1. Any person who wishes to speak must wait until they have been recognized by the presiding Board Officer;
2. Before beginning, each speaker must state their name and address and, if speaking on behalf of an organization, the name of that organization;

3. Each speaker is limited to one (1) opportunity to speak during each of the two (2) portions that have been set aside;
4. Each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes in length so that other members of the public who wish to speak may have an opportunity to do so.
5. The presiding Board Officer will advise each speaker when the five (5) minute period has expired;
6. Out of respect for other members of the public that may wish to speak, the Board requests that each speaker cede the floor to the next member of the public as soon as they finished making their respective comment(s) and/or when their allotted time has expired; and
7. If your questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel matters, the Board asks that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since the Board does not, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, discuss or respond to these items in public.

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Ms. Klein to leave the meeting at 9:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Williams

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary