

**NORTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Regular Meeting

August 26, 2024

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Board President will call the meeting to order.

2. FLAG SALUTE and PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies, at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Secretary has transmitted notice of this meeting by having the date, time and place published in The Record and The Ridgewood News on January 12, 2024, sent to the Boroughs of Allendale and Upper Saddle River and posted in the Board of Education Office at Northern Highlands Regional High School. Our agenda allows two opportunities for public comments; at the beginning of the meeting for agenda items only and at the conclusion of our meeting for general comments. We ask members of the public to state their name and address and limit their comments to a five-minute time period.

3. ROLL CALL

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mrs. Christine Ferrarie		
Mrs. Lisa Halperin		
Mrs. Jennifer Lenkowsky		
Mrs. Maggie Liljegren		
Ms. Jennifer Mario		
Mrs. Lynn McCarthy		
Mrs. Rachel Milston		
Mr. James Mulvey		
Dr. Andrew Prince		
Mrs. Suzanne Warzala		
Mrs. Evelyn Nissirios (Saddle River Liaison)		
Dr. Scot Beckerman, Superintendent		
Ms. Sue Anne Mather, Business Admin/Board Secretary		

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mr. Joseph Occhino: Introduction of 2024-2025 Student Representatives to the Board of Education

- Autumn Chiu (Class of 2025)
- Jack O'Connor (Class of 2025)

5. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS FOR Business Agenda for August 26, 2024, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:

_____ moved, and _____ seconded:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves/accepts the following business item(s) **B-1** through **B-22** in accordance with NJSA 18A and NJAC Title 6, et. sec., including NJAC 6A:23-2.11 reporting no over-expenditure of funds and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and Business Administrator:

- B-1.** Approval of current bills list (check register) from July 23, 2024 through August 22, 2024, per attachment.
- B-2.** Approval of Minutes, Executive and Regular Session, for the July 24, 2024, Board of Education meeting, per attachment.
- B-3.** Approval of the Board Secretary, Treasurer and Transfer Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024.
- B-4.** Approval of the Board Secretary, Treasurer and Transfer Reports for the period ending July 31, 2024.
- B-5.** Approval of the following staff travel (accommodations note room rate only; occupancy taxes & fees associated therein and other costs on trips presently unknown, meals for overnight trips and mileage, tolls, parking will be reimbursed in accordance with policy and law).

Name	Workshop/Conference	Date(s)	Detail	Cost
Michael Novak	“Affirmative Action Officer Online Certificate Program,” sponsored by Legal One, <i>virtual</i>	Self-paced	Registration	\$500
Sue Anne Mather	“OPRA/Negotiations/Arbitration/Fact Finding & Records Retention,” sponsored by NJASBO, Whippany, NJ	9/12/24	Registration Mileage	\$145 \$16.36
Erkan Gumustekin	“OPRA/Negotiations/Arbitration/Fact Finding & Records Retention,” sponsored by NJASBO, Whippany, NJ	9/12/24	Registration	\$145
Amy Pierret	“Building Students’ Intercultural Communication Skills,” sponsored by FLENJ, Monroe, NJ	10/24/24	Registration Mileage Tolls	\$149 \$51.42 \$11.58
Kristen Schumacher	“AI and Writing Symposium,” sponsored by Drew University, Madison, NJ	10/25/24	Registration Mileage Tolls	\$75.00 \$25.10 \$3.55
Amy Pierret	“Leading with AI through Generative AI,” sponsored by FLENJ, Monroe, NJ	12/4/24	Registration Mileage Tolls	\$149 \$51.42 \$11.58

Mike Koth	“2024 National Athletic Directors Conference,” sponsored by NIAAA, Austin, TX	12/13/24-12/16/24	Registration Airfare Mileage Tolls Hotel M&IE	\$235 \$287 \$11.37 \$14.20 \$492 \$224
Amy Pierret	“NECTFL 2025 Annual Conference,” sponsored by The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New York, NY	2/28/25	Registration Mileage Tolls Parking	\$185 \$21.06 \$30.94 \$50

B-6. Approve the following facilities use requests as indicated below:

Organization Name	Activity and Location(s)	Date(s)	Time(s)
Brotherhood Lacrosse	Practices; Lower Turf Fields	Sundays 9/8/24 - 9/29/24 10/6/24-10/27/24	8:30 AM – 11:00 AM
NH Jr. Football & Cheer Association	Practices; Lower Turf Fields	Thursdays 9/12/24-9/26/24 10/3/24-10/31/24 11/7/24-11/14/24	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Americans Soccer	Practices; Lower Turf	Monday – Friday 8/26/24-11/22/24	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Americans Soccer	Games; Turf Stadium	Sundays 9/8/24-11/24/24	8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

B-7. Approval of the following student placements for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment(s).

Item	Student ID	Provider	Type	Duration	Cost
a.	24336	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – Milestones Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$45,449
b.	25373	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – LLD Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$42,246
c.	25406	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – LLD Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$42,246
d.	27812	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – LLD Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$42,246

e.	28163	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – LLD Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$42,246
f.	28181	Pascack Valley Regional High School District – LLD Program, Hillsdale, NJ	Tuition	8/29/24-6/30/25	\$42,246
g.	22708	Bergen County Special Services – Springboard Program, Paramus, NJ	Tuition	9/5/24-6/30/25	\$65,817
h.	25370	Cresskill Board of Education, Cresskill, NJ	Tuition	9/3/24-6/30/25	\$38,494
i.	25370	Cresskill Board of Education, Cresskill, NJ	Counseling	9/3/24-6/30/25	\$1,200
j.	25349	Bergen County Special Services – Visions, Emerson, NJ	Tuition	9/5/24-6/30/25	\$65,817

B-8. Approval of the following services for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment(s).

Item	Provider	Service	Cost
a.	Brookfield Education Services	Bedside Instruction	\$70/hour up to 10 hours per week
b.	Silver Hill Hospital	Bedside Instruction	\$70/hour up to 10 hours per week

B-9. Resolution to Terminate All Participation Under the SHBP and SEHBP (Including Prescription Drug Plan and/or Dental Plan Coverage).

RESOLVED, that the Northern Highlands Board of Education hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the Program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and/or Dental Plan coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the SHBP and/or SEHBP (N.J.S.A. 52: 14-17 .25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees.

- We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the Program.
- We understand that the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.
- We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the NJDPB and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.
- We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.

B-10. Health Benefits – SEHBP Health Insurance - Notice of Cancellation

RESOLVED, to Authorize the Business Administrator to notify SEHBP that the Board of Education will terminate participation in the health plans, effective October 31, 2024, at 11:59 PM.

B-11. Health Benefits - Designation of New Health Insurance Provider

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the 14-month proposal for Health Benefits from Horizon BlueCross BlueShield of NJ as the Health Insurance carrier, effective November 1, 2024, at 12:00 AM.

B-12. Health Benefits - Designation of Broker of Record

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoints Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors as the District’s Broker of Record for Health Benefits, effective November 1, 2024, at 12:00 AM.

B-13. Approval of Home Instruction for Student ID 27837 beginning August 12, 2024 for ten (10) hours per week at the rate of \$70/hour pending an out-of-district placement. *(To be reimbursed by the Ho-Ho-Kus School District.)*

B-14. Accept, with regret, the resignation of ROBERT STEFAN, Part-Time Bus Driver/Custodian, effective August 31, 2024.

B-15. Approve the appointment of ROBERT STEFAN as an on-call Bus Driver for the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$40/hour, effective September 1, 2024.

B-16. Approval of the License Agreement with Ramapo Ice Rinks, Inc. for the 2024-2025 season totaling \$28,957.50, wherein Northern Highlands Regional High School pays \$12,500 and the Ice Hockey Parent Association pays \$16,457.50.

B-17. Approval of the renewal of MindWise Innovations site license to provide professional development resources and access for students to support the Signs of Suicide (SOS), suicide program for a total cost of \$1,500.00 to be paid for using ESSER III funds, per attachment.

B-18. Approval of the updated Guide for Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls, available in the District Board Office.

B-19. Approve the settlement claim form documents for the “FieldTurf Artificial Turf Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation” and accept the settlement offer of \$2,000, per attachment.

B-20. RESOLVED, that the Northern Highlands Board of Education accept the proceeds from the sale of the following items that are fully depreciated and no longer in use by the maintenance department. All sales were facilitated through Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, all assets have been sold as is, where is and without warranty. Once the asset is removed from the premises there is no refund of monies previously paid.

Item	Sale Amount
2007 Bluebird 54-Passenger School Bus VIN#1BABGCKA27F238946	\$657

B-21. Approve the appointment of Educere LLC, Ambler, PA and the attached agreement for the 2024-2025 school year to provide “educational services” to the district that is being awarded based upon an exception contained in Title 18A, specifically 18A:18A-5a-5 which excludes “library and educational goods and services” from bidding, per attachment.

B-22. Approve ARIBEL CASTANO as an on-call bus driver for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$38/hour, effective immediately following the completion of required documentation.

Roll Call:

9. **ACTION ITEMS FOR the Education Agenda for August 26, 2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:**

_____ moved and _____ seconded:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approve/accept the following Education items, **E-1** through **E-37**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, effective immediately following the completion of required certification and documentation:

E-1. Accept and affirm the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation report, per attachment.

E-2. Accept and affirm the Monthly Student Suspension report, per attachment.

E-3. Approve the second reading of the following Board of Education Policies, Regulations and Bylaw updates, per attachment.

P0141	Board Member Number and Term
P0141.1	Board Member Number and Term – Sending District
P0141.2	Board Member Number and Term – Receiving District
P2200	Curriculum Content (M)
P&R3160	Physical Examination (M)
P&R4160	Physical Examination (M)
R5200	Attendance (M)
P5337	Service Animals
P5350	Student Suicide Prevention (M)
P8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M)
P&R8467	Firearms and Weapons (M)
P9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants

E-4. Approve the Northern Highlands Regional High School District Goals, for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed below.

DISTRICT GOAL #1: Northern Highlands will engage in the comprehensive improvement of K-12 literacy practices, with a specific focus on grades 9-12. Professional development will include an emphasis on instructional best practices such as close reading, vocabulary acquisition, and differentiated instruction, with the goal of effective learning for all students.

DISTRICT GOAL #2: Northern Highlands will continue a thorough evaluation and enhancement of all aspects of mathematics and will continue professional learning to enhance our current instructional approaches, programs, and practices.

E-5. Approve the Northern Highlands Regional High School Board of Education Goals, for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed below.

BOE GOAL #1: The Board of Education will complete a new Send/Receive agreement with the Ho-Ho-Kus and Saddle River Districts.

BOE GOAL #2: The Board of Education will review the current community newsletter. The Board will determine alternative ways of communicating information with the communities. A

plan will be established that includes distribution methods, timelines, content and responsibilities.

- E-6.** Approve the 2024-2025 Student/Parent Handbook, per attachment.
- E-7.** Approve the 2024-2025 Faculty/Staff Handbook, per attachment.
- E-8.** Approve the 2024-2025 General Emergency and Crisis Management Procedures, per attachment.
- E-9.** Approve the 2024-2025 Annual District Nursing Services Plan, per attachment.
- E-10.** Approve the 2024-2025 School Safety and Security Plan, per attachment.
- E-11.** Approve the 2024-2025 Security Drill Statement of Assurance and proposed monthly School Security Drill schedule, per attachment.
- E-12.** Approve the submission of the 2024-2025 NJ K-12 Site Assessment checklist, provided by the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP) in collaboration with the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), for security assessment and reporting requirements, per attachment.
- E-13.** Approve the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NHRHS, the Allendale Police Department and the Upper Saddle River Police Department, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.
- E-14.** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Live Streaming between NHRHS, the Allendale Police Department and the Upper Saddle River Police Department, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.
- E-15.** Approve the School Based Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team, for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed below.

JOSEPH OCCHINO - Principal

MICHAEL KOTH - School Security Specialist/Assistant Principal

DR. TONY LAROCCA - Assistant Principal

CHRISTINE WEGERT - Director of School Counseling

THOMAS BUONO - Director of Special Services

DR. JESSICA VERDICCHIO - Supervisor of Wellness, Phys. Ed, Health and Equity/LCSW

JOSEPH TORRES - Mental Health Social Worker

ALLISON ROCCA - SAC/LCSW

JENNIFER FERENTZ - School Counselor

MICHELE ZUNGOLI - School Counselor

CATHY BERBERIAN - School Social Worker

PAUL ALBARELLA - Teacher/Student Coordinator

RACHEL MAIETTA - School Psychologist

MELISSA MONTEGARI - School Psychologist

THOMAS WITKOWSKI - Student Council Advisor

DR. DEREK BERBERIAN - School Physician

ANNE RUTKOWSKI - School Nurse

DENISE TALOTTA - School Counselor
LAURA ELISCU - School Counselor
DANIEL REHAIN - School Counselor
BRANDON RAJKOVICH - School Counselor
ROBIN BURTON - Speech/Language Specialist
GINA FUSCHETTO - School Social Worker
WILLIAM WRIGHT - SLEO Class III Officer, Allendale Police Department

- E-16.** Accept and affirm the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings checklist, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.
- E-17.** Approve the course proficiencies, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.
- E-18.** Approve the revised School Calendar, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.
- E-19.** Approve all Northern Highlands Staff/Security, Substitutes and Coaches/Advisors for supervision, chaperones and event workers, as necessary, for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed below.
- Cafeteria Supervision for morning hours, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$5,000.
 - Detention Supervision for afterschool hours, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed of \$7,000.
 - Saturday Detention Supervision, at the NHEA rate, 4 hours per scheduled Saturdays, not to exceed \$2,700.
 - Chaperones for Fall Play, at the NHEA rate, for 4 chaperones per day, for 3 days, not to exceed \$1,080.
 - Chaperones for Spring Musical, at the NHEA rate, for 4 chaperones per day, for 4 days, not to exceed \$1,350.
 - Chaperones for Freshman Play, at the NHEA rate, for 4 chaperones per day, for 3 days, not to exceed \$1,080.
 - Chaperones for Senior Trip, for 15 chaperones, at no cost to the district.
 - Chaperones for Senior Prom, for 15 chaperones, at no cost to the district.
 - Chaperones for Junior Prom, for 15 chaperones, at no cost to the district.
 - Chaperones for DECA Regional Conference, not to exceed 15 chaperones, which include advisors, at the NHEA rate, at no cost to the district, other than substitute cost.
 - Chaperones for DECA State Conference (overnight trip), not to exceed 15 chaperones, which include advisors, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$10,500. If applicable, substitute cost may be necessary.

- Chaperones for DECA International Career Development Conference (overnight trip), not to exceed 10 chaperones, which include advisors, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$11,500. If applicable, substitute cost may be necessary.
 - Event Workers for all Athletic competitions, at the NHEA rate.
 - Event workers for Pasta Mania, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$1,500.
 - Event workers for Family Night, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$756.
 - Event workers for Open House, at \$200 per person, not to exceed \$2,600.
 - Light and Sound Tech Crew, at various campus events, at the NHEA rate.
 - Proctors for make-up cumulative exams, at a rate of \$25 per hour, not to exceed \$200.
 - PSAT/PreACT proctors at a rate of \$150, \$225 or \$300 per testing day and hallway monitors at a rate not to exceed \$150 per testing day, with a portion to be paid by College Boards.
 - Technology assistant for facilitation of the digital PSAT/SAT, not to exceed \$500 per testing day, with a portion to be paid by College Boards.
 - Home Instruction, at the NHEA rate, as needed.
 - Student Database Coordinator for state testing assignments, at a rate of \$45 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000.
 - Library Supervision for morning and afterschool hours, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$11,500.
 - Fitness Supervision for morning and afterschool hours, at the NHEA rate, not to exceed \$10,000.
- E-20.** Accept with regret, the resignation of DORSEY WILLIAMS, Paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2024, per attachment.
- E-21.** Approve the appointment of CHERYL DELARRA, Paraprofessional, for the 2024-2025 school year, effective September 16, 2024 or sooner, at a salary of \$25,988 (prorated), per attachment.
- E-22.** Approve the following field trip(s), for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed below.
1. Softball Team: Training and teambuilding: 3/21/25-3/25/25 (overnight trip)
 - KSA Events softball field availability - Training
 - Cabana Bay Beach Resort, Orlando FL - Accommodations
 2. Physics Classes: Application and study of forces, motion and gravity: 6/3/25
 - Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson NJ

E-23. Approve the following list of advisors/chaperones/school nurse, as listed below.

NAME	EVENT	DATE(S)	AMOUNT TO BE PAID
MARIA LABARBIERA	Softball Team	3/21/25- 3/25/25	No substitute cost M&IE not to exceed \$310.50
TROY BIANCHI	Softball Team	3/21/25- 3/25/25	No substitute cost M&IE not to exceed \$310.50
TBD (Not to exceed 12 chaperones - based on teacher availability)	Physics Classes	6/3/25	Substitute cost not to exceed \$600

- E-24.** Approve JOANIE MALIN, NICOLE HAMPTON, ERICA OCCHINO, DENNIS WALKER, KATHLEEN OCCHINO, and FRANK ANDRIANI as event workers, as necessary, at the NHEA rate, for all Athletic competitions, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- E-25.** Approve ROBIN GOTTESMAN as Volunteer School Photographer, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- E-26.** Approve a change in degree status for DOREEN ALBANO, Teacher of Art, from MA+30 to MA+60, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-27.** Approve a change in degree status for CELINA DIGILIO, Teacher of Italian, from BA to MA, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-28.** Approve a change in degree status for KIMBERLY KENDER, Teacher of Special Education, from BA to MA, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-29.** Approve a change in degree status for SARA MAGRETTO, Teacher of Science, from MA+30 to MA+60, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-30.** Approve a change in degree status for BRANDON RAJKOVICH, School Counselor, from MA to MA+30, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-31.** Approve a change in degree status for ANTHONY SAGLIOCCA, Teacher of Business, from MA+30 to MA+60, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-32.** Approve a change in degree status for CAITLIN SHURMINSKY, Teacher of Mathematics, from MA to MA+30, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-33.** Approve a change in degree status for JENNIFER SIMONE, Teacher of Social Studies, from BA to MA, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-34.** Approve a change in degree status for MEREDITH SKLAR, Teacher of Art, from MA+30 to MA+60, effective September 1, 2024.
- E-35.** Approve the appointment of SHELDON WRIGHT to assistant in the distribution of technology devices, for the 2024-2025 school year, up to a maximum of 40 hours, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000.

E-36. Approve BRIAN BUONO, SALLY D’AMBROSIO, JAMES D’ARECCA, JR., CARLA GOODWIN, MAGGIE HORN, DAVID KOENIG and KARINA MANCINI as Substitute Teachers, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachments.

E-37. Approve the receipt of three out of district Tuition Students, for the 2024-2025 school year, per attachment.

Roll Call:

10. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Northern Highlands Regional High School Board of Education shall go into executive session to discuss the following matters:

- **No Executive Session Scheduled**

The minutes of this executive session will be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. There are some topics (such as student matters) for which the need for confidentiality may never cease to exist.

_____ moved, and _____ seconded that the Board move into executive session.

TIME: All in Favor: _____ Opposed: _____

_____ moved, and _____ seconded that the Board moves into public session.

TIME: All in Favor: _____ Opposed: _____

15. ADJOURNMENT

_____ moved, and _____ seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

TIME: All in Favor: _____ Opposed: _____