

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT (7:03 P.M.)

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, adequate public notice of this meeting has been given by the Business Administrator in the following manner:

- A. Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Eastampton Community School on January 8, 2025.
- B. Mailed written notice to the *Burlington County Times* and *Courier Post* on January 12, 2025.
- C. Filed written notice with the Clerk of Eastampton Township on January 8, 2025.
- D. Posted official notice on the district's website.
- E. Mailed written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.

ROLL CALL:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Late Arrival Time
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		
Florencia Norton, Vice President		X	
Edward Besko	X		
Edward Hill		X	
Walter Maluchnik	X		
Stephanie McHugh	X		
Jamie Smith		X	

- ☒ Lianne Kane, Superintendent of Schools
- ☒ Ashlee Caldwell, DBA, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FIRE EXITS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

All meetings must be open to the public at all times except for those meetings at which certain excepted matters are discussed. However, the right of the public to be present at the meeting should not be confused with public participation. The public body retains the right to permit, regulate or prohibit active participation of the public at any meeting. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)).

This meeting will now be open to the public; however, if your questions or comments pertain to litigation, students, personnel or negotiations, we ask that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since we do not discuss these items in public.

- Donald Graham inquired about the DREAMS program. Mrs. Kane replied that DREAMS is funded by NJDOE for K-8 students to increase positivity and SEL.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (24-25-82)

December 17, 2024 (Regular and Executive Sessions)
January 7, 2025 (ReOrganization/Regular Session)

Roll Call

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President						X
Edward Besko		X	X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith						X

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

PRESENTATIONS:**A. Student Recognitions – Mrs. Kane, Superintendent/Principal**

- The following students were recognized as Golden Knight of the Month:
December
- K- McKenna Littleford (present)
- 1st- Ja'Sai Matthews
- 2nd- Patrick Slipp (present)
- 3rd- Ava Perro
- 4th- Jacob Morrison (present)
- 5th- Liam Richardson
- 6th- Connor King (present)
- 7th- Abby Bencivengo (present)
- 8th- Logan DeGregory (present)

B. Governor's Educator and Educational Services Professional of the Year Recognitions – Mrs. Kane, Superintendent/Principal

- The following staff members were recognized:
- Governor's Educator of the Year- Christine Glenn (present)
- Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year- Carol Guzman (present)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (Lianne M. Kane, Superintendent/Principal)**A. Information Item(s):**

- 1) Amended 2024-2025 School Calendar (24-25-83)
- 2) Liaison Reports
- 3) HIB Report dated January 16, 2025 (24-25-85)
- 4) Mid-Year District Goals Presentation

B. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the amended 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. (24-25-83)

2) Recommend the Board approve the Action Items on the HIB Report dated January 16, 2025 as presented on December 17, 2024. (24-25-85)

- Edward Besko reported the Liaison Report; the PTA is working hard to get ready for the Sweetheart Dance on 2/7/2025.
- Mrs. Kane reported that 5 HIBs were investigated; 1 was founded. Counseling, detention and apology letters have been implemented.
- Mrs. Kane presented the Mid-Year District Goals Presentation outlining progress on communication, data, supports, school culture, and professional development.
- Walter Maluchnik asked if there were any plans to collaborate with RVRHS to identify strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Kane responded that vertical articulation was scheduled for 01/14/2025. RVRHS will invite Eastampton to a meeting in the Spring.
- Walter Maluchnik asked if staff shout outs had to be pre-submitted. Walter Maluchnik advised it could be beneficial to accept spontaneous shout outs. It allows people to thank others and increases morale. Mrs. Kane responded that we use a Google Form.
- Donald Graham questioned why only 7th graders were in the program. Mrs. Kane responded that we were limited to one grade and 5th grade was suggested. Most behavior challenges come from 7th grade.
- Walter Maluchnik asked for specific language on the calendar that says what we will do if there is a snow day instead of using discretion. Walter Maluchnik stated we should be clearer in the language. Walter Maluchnik advised that Juneteenth is a Friday and there is flexibility for a snow day. Mrs. Kane stated she was fine with adding specific language and that we followed RVRHS' lead. Mrs. Kane responded that we created a committee and met a few times. Mrs. Kane said she can bring these recommendations to the committee and table the agenda item.
- Kerry Douglas questioned the 180+1 language on the calendar and stated we are required to have 181 student days.
- Kerry Douglas asked if we must have a certain percentage of students present for the day to count. Mrs. Kane responded I believe so.
- Approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar was tabled by Kerry Douglas and the BOE.

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President						X
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik		X	X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith						X

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

PERSONNEL: (Walter Maluchnik, Chairperson)

- Approval of Personnel items were tabled by Kerry Douglas and the BOE.

FINANCE: (Stephanie McHugh, Chairperson)

A. Information Item(s):

- 1) 2025 Disclosure Forms – Reminder: due April 30, 2025
- 2) Bid – 2425ECSCAMDEN Transportation Services due 02/04/2025

B. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following payrolls:
 - a. December 20, 2024 - \$292,686.46
 - b. January 15, 2025 - \$ 292,577.72
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the following invoices for payment: (24-25-86)
 - a. Regular Bills: \$406,451.70
- 3) Recommend the Board approve Line Item Transfers dated November 30, 2024. (24-25-87)
- 4) Recommend the Board approve the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2024. (24-25-88)
- 5) Recommend the Board approve the Board Secretary's Report dated November 30, 2024. (24-25-89)
- 6) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, we certify that as of November 30, 2024 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is also certified that the Board Secretary's report matches the Treasurer's Report. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

 Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, I certify that as of November 30, 2024 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, and repeals. Figures subject to final audit.
- 7) Recommend the Board approve the attached Cafeteria expense. (24-25-90)
- 8) Recommend the Board approve the attached Student Activity expenses. (24-25-91)
- 9) Recommend the Board approve the contract with Kingsway Learning Center to purchase the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Evaluation for the out of district student #12114 for \$800.00. (24-25-92)

- Dr. Caldwell reminded the board that disclosure forms will be due by 04/30/2025. Dr. Caldwell informed the board that there is a transportation bid open and available on the website.

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President			X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President						X
Edward Besko		X	X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh	X		X			
Jamie Smith						X

- ☒ Motion Carries
☐ Motion Fails

CURRICULUM: (Jamie Smith, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following field trip(s):

Date	Students	Destination	Time	Chaperones
5/8/25	7 th & 8 th Grade Band and Chorus	Broadway Show "The Great Gatsby" (replaces 4/16/25 "MJ The Musical" BOE approved 12/17/24)	8:45 am – 7:30 pm	4 staff /36 parents
5/22/25	8 th Grade	Pocono Valley	7:15 am – 9:00 pm	5 staff/10 parents
3/12/25	3 rd -8 th Special Education	Barnes and Noble, Moorestown	9:15 am – 1:00 pm	7 staff/1 parent
3/19/25	6 th , 7 th , 8 th Grades	2025 Teen Arts Festival RCBC Mount Laurel	8:45 am – 1:30 pm	4 staff/8parents

- 2) Recommend the Board approve a new extra-curricular after-school club, Knight Vision Club, a unique media and communications club.
- 3) Recommend the Board give approval for the district to apply for the DREAMS Program 2025-2026 school year grant. The DREAMS Program assists in helping all students increase their educational goals by supporting their mental and social-emotional health and wellness.

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President						X
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik		X	X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith						X

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

POLICY: (Kerry Douglas, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the first reading of the following policies from Alert 234 (sent via email):

A. A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials – 2023 Revisions

P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M) (Revised)
P 5533	Student Smoking (M) (Revised)
R 5533	Student Smoking (Revised)
P & R 7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M) (Revised)
P & R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)

B. General Policy and Regulation Updates

P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Revised)
R 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices (New)
P 5701	Academic Integrity (Revised)
P 5710	Student Grievance (Revised)
P 8500	Food Services (M) (Revised)

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President						X
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh		X	X			
Jamie Smith						X

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

- Kerry Douglas advised the board of the noteworthy changes. Mrs. Kane confirmed the changes were accurate.
- Stephanie McHugh asked if P&R5533 had a stipulation between smoking and vaping. Kerry Douglas responded that the language says they are the same.
- Kerry Douglas stated she is leaning towards Option 1 for the A.I. policy. Kerry Douglas said we will need a policy for students and another for staff. Kerry Douglas advised that we need to reach out to Strauss Esmay regarding P5111 because their options do not match our previous options.
- Kerry Douglas stated we need the offense language for the 2nd reading. Mrs. Kane responded that it is in the code of conduct and requested to change Level 2 to "or Administrator".
- Regarding outstanding meal balances: Kerry Douglas asked if we had issues. Dr. Caldwell stated that the cafeteria balances owed by families is around \$10,000. The \$10,000 will be corrected in 25/26, but that will not erase the behaviors.
- Walter Maluchnik discussed the power of A.I. when used correctly and stated we need to revisit the policy by the end of the year-within the next couple of months. Walter Maluchnik requested clarification on after school phone use.
- Approval of the 1st reading of P2365, P5460, and P9163 were tabled by Kerry Douglas and the BOE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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- Donald Graham shared information about the Governor banning cell phones in school and asked if the ban was included in the new policies. Kerry Douglas responded that there will probably be another update to include it.
- Paulina Obarzanek asked in Policy 5710 was discussed. Kerry Douglas said yes and summarized the language changes.
- Paulina Obarzanek asked if the policy changes can be made available to the public as it would be easier to follow along. Kerry Douglas said this was discussed before but a decision was not made; Kerry Douglas has no issue making the second reading public as long as it is allowable.

ADJOURNMENT:

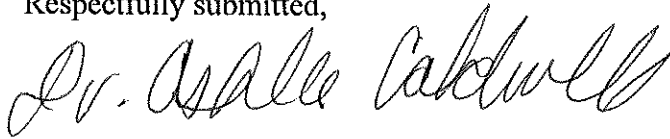
With no further business to discuss, the Board meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Kerry Douglas	Walter Maluchnik	Aye	

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Ashlee Caldwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ashlee Caldwell
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary