

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT (7:00 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.

- No participants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (24-25-93)

January 21, 2025 (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:

January

K- Penelope Traum (present)

1st- Derek Schaeffer (present)

2nd- Gunnar Correia

3rd- Ricardo Avila Hernandez (present)

4th- Quinnley Jecen (present)

5th- Zyla Perez

6th- Nevaeh Bozarth

7th- Sayrah Khonsue

8th- Samrit Kaur (present)

B. Recognition – Dr. Ashlee Caldwell– Mrs. Kerry Douglas, Board President

- Mrs. Douglas thanked Dr. Caldwell for her service, wished her the best, and presented her with a floral arrangement.

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

1) HIB Report dated February 13, 2025 (24-25-94)

2) Department Reports

3) Liaison Reports

B. Action Item(s):

1) Recommend the Board approve the action item(s) on the HIB Report dated February 13, 2025 as initially presented at the January 21, 2025 meeting. (24-25-94)

- Mrs. Kane reported that 8 HIBs were reported; 2 were founded. Interventions included counseling, suspension, and parent meetings.
- Mrs. Kane discussed Department reports for Buildings & Grounds, Curriculum and Instruction, Special Services, Preschool, Technology, and Athletics.
- Mrs. Kane reviewed the 2025 iReady Mid-Year Diagnostics Results and shared a video from Knight's Vision, the new audio/visual club.

- Edward Besko reported the Liaison Report; the PTA hosted a wonderful Valentine's Day Dance.
- Jamie Smith asked if we anticipate that this year's first graders will have lower/higher percentages when they start 2nd grade next year. Mrs. Kane responded that there's always a slight decline with summer months and she anticipates scores will be lower at the start of the year. Several instruments and benchmarks will be used.
- Jamie Smith asked if teachers like iReady. Mrs. Kane responded yes-for the most part; it's hard to motivate the students.
- Edward Hill asked what the average was for the county and requested score information from other districts that use iReady. Mrs. Kane responded that not every district uses iReady; Statewide test scores will be released with the performance reports and NJSLA.
- Edward Hill asked what kind of material will replace the rubber mulch. Mrs. Kane responded that mulch will be replaced with certified mulch.
- Jamie Smith asked if the mulch would be backfilled. Mrs. Kane responded yes.
- Edward Hill asked for further clarification of which type of mulch will be used. Dr Caldwell responded that Certified playground mulch (made of engineered wood fiber) is specifically designed to provide better shock absorption and meet safety standards for fall zones, reducing the risk of injury.
- Kerry Douglas and the BOE tabled Items # A.4. and B.2. School Safety Data System Report Period 1 (September 1 – December 31, 2024) as the report was not presented.
- Edward Hill asked if a representative from the town council comes to BOE meetings as a courtesy or if someone was designated. Edward Besko responded that Octavia Lee is designated to the BOE this year.
- Mrs. Kane reported that she met with Kim White and the Chief; they will schedule quarterly meetings in the future.

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	X			
Walter Maluchnik						X
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith			X			

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

PERSONNEL: (Edward Hill, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board rescind the September 17, 2024 approval of Victoria Giquinto as Baseball Co-Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 2) Recommend the Board retroactively approve Richard Krause, Jr. as a long term substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$175.00 for teacher, Jeffrey Raible, who is out on a leave of absence from January 16, 2025 until further notice.
- 3) Recommend the Board retroactively approve a new contract for the 2024-2025 school year for Recess Aide, Scott Sharpe, effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 to reflect the new NJ State Minimum Wage of \$15.49 per hour.
- 4) Recommend the Board approve the employment of the following candidates as district substitute teachers effective February 19, 2025, pending completion of paperwork:

Jennifer Soles
Nikeya Rhym
Sophia Viteritto

- 5) Recommend the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for teacher Larry Foglia beginning May 23, 2025 through May 30, 2025.
- 6) Recommend the Board accept the retirement of teacher Larry Foglia, whose last day with the district will be June 30, 2025.
- 7) Recommend the Board approve the following staff members for 2024-2025 extra-curricular appointments as indicated, with a shared stipend as per negotiated agreement (percentage as indicated):

Jacqueline Smith	Knight Vision Club Co-Advisor (50%)
Michael Shoukry	Knight Vision Club Co-Advisor (50%)
Robert Glavan	Baseball Co-Coach (33.33%)
Nick Seibel	Baseball Co-Coach (66.67%)
- 8) Recommend the Board approve the following Application for Tuition Reimbursement:

Brian Barker - \$2,096 – Rutgers University
- 9) Recommend the Board approve the employment of Donna Skeenes as a recess aide effective February 19, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$15.49, pending completion of paperwork.
- 10) Recommend the Board accept the resignation of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dr. Ashlee Caldwell, effective February 28, 2025. Her last day with the district will be February 28, 2025.
- 11) Recommend the Board approve an extended unpaid medical leave for staff member ID #4087 from March 1, 2025 through approximately May 16, 2025, using unpaid FMLA days through April 2, 2025. Staff member ID #4087 will be required to pay full medical insurance premiums for the months of April and May 2025.

- Kerry Douglas and the BOE tabled Item # A.12. regarding the interim business administrator employment contract.

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	X			
Walter Maluchnik						X
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith			X			

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

FINANCE: (Stephanie McHugh, Chairperson)

A. Information Item(s):

- 1) 2025 Disclosure Forms – Reminder: due April 30, 2025
- 2) Updated Budget Calendar (24-25-95)

B. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following payrolls:
 - a. January 30, 2025 - \$294,014.27
 - b. February 14, 2025 - \$300,966.14
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the following invoices for payment: (24-25-96)
 - a. Regular Bills: \$ 1,107,788.07 (includes bond payment of \$683,072.25)
- 3) Recommend the Board approve Line Item Transfers dated December 31, 2024. (24-25-97)
- 4) Recommend the Board approve the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2024. (24-25-98)
- 5) Recommend the Board approve the Board Secretary's Report dated December 31, 2024. (24-25-99)
- 6) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, we certify that as of December 31, 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 December 31, 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 request for professional development. (24-25-100)
- 8) Recommend the Board approve the online submission of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 IDEA grant amendment and accept the following carryover funds:

	<u>2024-2025</u>
IDEA Basic Nonpublic	\$ 4,953

- 9) Recommend the Board renew a five-year Master Collaboration Services Agreement with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. (24-25-101)
- Dr. Caldwell reminded the board that disclosure forms are due by 04/30/2025. Dr. Caldwell reviewed the updated budget calendar, noted that the BOE is halfway through budget season and reminded the BOE that budget development is a 7+ month long effort.
 - Edward Hill asked what a Master Collaboration Service Agreement was. Dr. Caldwell responded that this is a cooperative agreement that saves time and money on bidding. The BOE joins and participates every 5 years.
 - Kerry Douglas asked if we usually do a budget presentation in March or if the amounts are just approved so they can go to the county. Dr. Caldwell responded that Mrs. Douglas was correct. There have been no budget presentations in March, only April.

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			
Edward Hill		X	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 trips:

Date	Students	Destination	Time	Chaperones
6/11/25	2 nd Grade	The Franklin Institute	9:00 am – 1:45 pm	5 staff/25 parents

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			
Jamie Smith	X		X			

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

POLICY: (Kerry Douglas, Chairperson)**A. Action Item(s):**

- 1) Recommend the second reading and adoption 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 2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) (New) – (Tabled)
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5460	High School Graduation (M) (Revised) – (Not applicable to us)
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)
P 9163	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interseholastic Events (M) (New) – (Not applicable to us)

- Kerry Douglas and the BOE remove item #5 from R 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices (New).

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			
Jamie Smith		X	X			

☒ Motion Carries

☐ Motion Fails

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: (Walter Maluchnik, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following request(s) for use of facilities:

1	Sacred Heart CYO Baseball and Softball	Youth baseball and softball recreation program	Mar 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 Apr 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30 May 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Softball and Baseball Fields
2	Westampton Recreation	Youth Futsal League Games	Sunday, Mar 2	8:00 am – 7:00 pm	MS Gym

- Jamie Smith asked what futsal was. Edward Hill responded that futsal is mini soccer with an actual soccer ball.

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	X			
Edward Hill			X			
Walter Maluchnik						X
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith			X			

- ☒ Motion Carries
☐ Motion Fails

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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- Dr. Caldwell thanked the Eastampton Township Board of Education for a wonderful two years. Dr. Caldwell said a lot was accomplished both professionally and personally and her time here was impactful. She credited the Eastampton Township Board of Education and stated that working the Eastampton Township Board of Education is a Business Administrator's dream come true.
- Edward Hill asked what the plan was. Mrs. Kane stated that the BOE did not call for an executive session.
- Edward Hill asked if the BOE has time to table this discussion. Kerry Douglas responded yes- we have a plan in place.

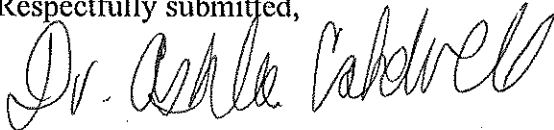
ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Kerry Douglas	Edward Hill	Yes	

- ☒ Motion Carries
☐ Motion Fails

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Ashlee Caldwell
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary