BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
280 ASBURY-WEST PORTAL ROAD
ASBURY, NEW JERSEY 08802
908-479-6336

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m
Ethel Hoppock Middle School - Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - President MacDonnell called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending notice to: The Hunterdon County Democrat, Bethlehem Township Clerk, email sent to school community and township residents, by posting on the bulletin boards in the Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Schools and by posting notice on the Board of Education website at http://btschools.org/

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mr. Greg Glazar, Mr. Thomas Gregor, Mr. Michael Hale, Mr. Daniel MacDonnell, Ms. Jennifer Seibert and Ms. Stephanie Yager

**one vacant board seat*

District Administrators Present: Edward Abato - CSA and Kirby Hendershot - SBA/BS

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

Motion by Ms. Yager, seconded by Mr. Gregor to enter closed session at 6:42 p.m. On a voice vote, all present were in favor.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board of Education discusses topics falling within certain specified exceptions to the requirement for open public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to discuss matters that fall within one or more of the statutory exceptions to open public meetings;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board shall adjourn from public session and enter into executive session for approximately 30 to discuss the following: Student Matters, Personnel, and Negotiations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will take action upon its return to public session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be.

Motion by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Mr. Gregor to return to public session at 7:15 p.m.

Bethlehem Township School District
2024 - 2025 District Goals

1. Goal: Referendum Planning

Objective: To successfully prepare and promote a school district referendum in, securing essential funding for educational enhancements, infrastructure improvements, and building upgrades.

2. Goal: Enhance School Safety and Security with a Focus on Staff and Student Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Objective: To create a safe, secure, and supportive school environment in the Bethlehem Township School District by integrating comprehensive safety measures with robust Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs for staff and students during the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Goal: Implement and Enhance the RTI Framework (Phase II) to Support Student Achievement

Objective: To fully integrate and enhance the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework within the Bethlehem Township School District during the 2024-2025 school year. This will include the identification of interventionists, development of new RTI action plans, and establishment of effective progress monitoring procedures to ensure all students receive the support they need to succeed.

4. Goal: Comprehensive Curriculum Rewriting for K-8 Science, Social Studies, Spanish, and STEAM

Objective: To develop and implement a rigorous, standards-aligned K-8 curriculum in Science, Social Studies, Spanish, and STEAM that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary connections, ensuring our students are prepared for a rapidly evolving global society.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII.. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Agenda Items Only

Public participation at board meetings is intended to allow individual members of the public to address the Board of Education on issues of public concern. The public comment period is an opportunity for the Board to listen to citizen concerns, but not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session or a "cross examination" between the public and individual members. While all comments made by the public will be taken under advisement, the Board will not respond to comments made by the public.

- Pursuant to Board Policy #0167:

- all statements from the public must be directed to the President or other presiding officer; no participant may address or question board members individually.
- members of the public who wish to make a statement during the Public Comments portion of the meeting may speak for no more than three (3) minutes.
- members of the public must identify themselves prior to speaking. Please state your name and address and group affiliation, if appropriate.

Motion by Mr. Hale to open public comments, seconded by Mr. Glazar. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Ms. Yager, seconded by Mr. Glazar to close public comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

VIII. BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

A. BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS - To fill one vacant board member seat through December 31, 2025.

Candidates for Board Vacancy:

- Mr. Wade Dendy - 7:00 pm:
- Ms. Dawn Schenck - 7:15 pm

Mr. Dendy was unable to make it and was rescheduled for a special meeting on March 12, 2025. Also scheduled to interview at the special meeting was Mr. Christopher Sensor. Ms. Schenk was interviewed. No second executive session was needed and nominations were not opened. At the conclusion of the special meeting on March 12, 2025, a candidate will be chosen to fill the open board seat.

IX. MINUTES - M1

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board of Education meetings, held on the dates indicated, be approved and filed.

January 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Ms. Yager to approve Minutes item A. On a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Yager, MacDonnell, Seibert)

X. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. MacDonnell spoke about possible meetings with local schools to discuss the idea of shared services. He also noted a thank you to Mrs. Besty Knaub and congratulations on her retirement.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Abato reported on the upcoming school plays. He also made note of wonderful things going on in the

classrooms at both schools.

A. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bethlehem Township Board of Education reviewed the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying case presented on January 22, 2025, and upheld the findings and/or consequences recommended by the Superintendent:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	Classified HIB Y/N	Additional Action Taken
Conley	December 2024	#5A	Yes	Restorative Practice/Code of Conduct
Conley	December 2024	#5B	No	Code of Conduct
Conley	December 2024	#5C	No	Code of Conduct
Hoppock	12/10/2024	#1	No	Code of Conduct

Motion by Mr. Glazar seconded by Mr. Gregor, to approve the Superintendent's HIB report. On a roll call vote, the HIB report was approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Update on budget prep and a compliment to Ethel Hoppock Principal, Kris Boganski for doing a great job of creating a positive culture in his building.

XIII. FINANCE

Committee Members: Thomas Gregor, Mike Hale and Jennifer Seibert

A. Approval of Bills List - *(Attachment Bills List)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached list of district bills for payment as presented by the School Business Administrator for the period January 23, 2025 through February 19, 2025 for a total amount of $756,177.33 which includes two payrolls:

January 30, 2025	$241,473.67
February 13, 2025	$261,797.99

B. Acceptance and Approval of Board Secretary's Report for the month of January 2025 *(Attachment*

January Board Secretary Report and January Reconciliation Report)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Board Secretary for January, 2025 and after review of the Board Secretary's and January 2025 Cash Reconciler's Reports, certify no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year and that no budgetary line-item account has been exceeded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1, and that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditure, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a).

C. Approve Line Item Transfers for the month of January 2025 *(Attachment January Transfers)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the line item transfers for January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025 in the amount of $54,235.13

D. Approval of Resolution regarding Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program Waiver of Requirements

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following resolution regarding Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for 2025-2026, and

Whereas, the Bethlehem Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the district projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Bethlehem Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Interim Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Hunterdon an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2025-2026 school year.

E. Approval of Class Trips for the 2024-2025 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following class trips:

Date(s)	Grades	Where	Bus provided by/cost
April 2025	Grade 4	Sterling Hill Mining Museum Ogdensburg, NJ	HC ESC - $410.00
April 2025	Grade 3	Red Mill Museum Clinton, NJ	HC ESC - $369.00

F. Approval of Board, staff workshop attendance and travel expenditures
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, make the findings and

approve attendance and travel for the following workshops/meetings.

- that travel is directly related to and within the scope of the employee or Board member's duties or responsibilities; and for employees, the school district's professional development plan;
- that travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district or furthers the efficient operation of the district;
- that the travel is in compliance with state and federal travel payment guidelines; and
- that the travel is in compliance with the District policy on travel.

Date(s)	Admin./ Staff Member	Program/Location	Cost	Mileage	Lodging	Meals and Incidentals
Feb. 11, 2025 - ½ day	Stacey Michalski	Effective Reading Interventions - Virtual	$89.10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feb. 11, 2025 - ½ day	Pam Ferrullo	Effective Reading Interventions - Virtual	$89.10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feb. 11, 2025 - ½ day	Kaitlyn Petrovski	Effective Reading Interventions - Virtual	$89.10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feb. 11, 2025 - ½ day	Leah Byk	Effective Reading Interventions - Virtual	$89.10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feb. 11, 2025 - ½ day	Mark Tapio	Math Articulation Meeting North Hunterdon High School, Annadale, NJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 6, 2025 - ½ day	Ken Bobal	ELA Articulation Mtg. North Hunterdon High Sch. Annandale, NJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 6, 2025 - ½ day	Mike Wilpizeski	ELA Articulation Mtg. North Hunterdon High Sch. Annandale, NJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 11 & 12, 2025	Stacey Michalski	Response to Intervention Workshop - Virtual	$695.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
March through April 2025	Lindianne DeSavino	Phonics First - Phonological Awareness Workshop-Virtual	$249.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
March through April 2025	Stacey Michalski	Phonics First - Phonological Awareness Workshop-Virtual	$249.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
March through April 2025	Angela Kelly	Phonics First - Phonological Awareness Workshop-Virtual	$249.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

March through April 2025	Lindianne DeSavino	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop - Orton Gillingham - Virtual	$239.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
March through April 2025	Stacey Michalski	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop - Orton Gillingham - Virtual	$239.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 31, 2025	Kaitlyn Petrovski	Catching Up Students Who have Fallen Behind in Math Bureau of Ed. & Research - Virtual Workshop	$295.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
May 13-16, 2025	Edward Abato	2025 NJASA Annual Conference - Caesar's, Atlantic City	$0.00	109.04	$361.89	$238.00
June 4-6, 2025	Kirby Hendershot	2025 NJASBO Annual Conference- Oceans, Atlantic City, NJ	$500.00	$109.04	$124.00	$200

Discussion: question and discussion about what the semi waiver is.

The Personnel Committee met on February 13. Mr. Gregor gave the report. Motion by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mr. Glazar to approve Finance items A-E. On a roll call vote, item A-E were approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XIV. PERSONNEL

Committee Members: Thomas Gregor, *Mike Hale (*Temporary committee appointment), and Jennifer Seibert

A. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation for Purposes of Retirement

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of the following staff member for purposes of retirement:

Name	Effective Date
Betsy Knaub	June 30, 2025

B. Approval of Substitutes for the 2024/2025 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2024/2025 school year.

Name	Certification	Position
Sophia Schwarzmann	Hunterdon County Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher
Nicholas Rogalski	Hunterdon County Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher

Discussion: Well wishes and gratitude to Betsy Knaub.

The Personnel Committee met on February 13. Mr. Gregor gave the report.
Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Gregor to approve Personnel items A and B. On a roll call vote, item A and B were approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XV. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Committee Members: Michael Hale, Daniel MacDonnell and Greg Glazar

A. Acceptance of Fire and Security Drill Reports for the month of January 2025

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the Fire Security and Bus Evacuations Drills for the month of January for the Thomas B. Conley School and Ethel Hoppock Middle School:

MONTH	SCHOOL	FIRE DRILL	SECURITY DRILL
January 2025	TBC	01/28/2025	01/31/2025
January 2025	EHMS	01/29/2025	01/30/2025

B. Approval of Facilities Usage

Date	Event	Facility	Group
3/4, 3/12, 3/19, 3/25, 4/2, and 4/9/25	Mindful Movements -Rebecca Billera	Thomas B. Conley Music Room	BTPTA
2/26, 3/5, 3/12/3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2025	Dungeons and Dragons - Nick Scaturro	Ethel Hoppock Middle School	BTPTA

The School Operations Committee met on Feb 13. Mr. Hale gave the report. Motion by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Mr. Gregor to approve School Operations items A-B. On a roll call vote, item A-B were approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XVI. EDUCATION & POLICY

Committee Members: Stephanie Yager, Tom Gregor, & *Jen Seibert (*Temporary committee appointment)

A. Approval of Second Reading of the Updated Policy Manuals from Strauss Esmay

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Second Reading of the updated Policy Manuals from Strauss Esmay.

B. Approval of Hoppock School Play Dates for 2024-2025 School Year
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Hoppock School Play performance dates on: February 27th at 7:00 p.m., February 28th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 1st at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Discussion: Question was asked when the new policies would be reflected online. Also, board members asked about the titles of the drama productions at each school.

The committee met on February 13, 2025. Ms Yager gave the report. Motion by Mr. Hale seconded by Mr. Glazar to approve Education and Policy items A and B. On a roll call vote, item A-B were approved as follows: 6-0-0 (aye Glazar, Gregor, Hale, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XVII. OLD BUSINESS
None

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS
None

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Ms. Yager to open public comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

- **Question regarding if the public was able to come and support the school play**

Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Gregor to close public comment. On a voice vote all were in favor.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (If necessary)
No second executive session

XXI. GOOD OF THE ORDER
Mr. Abato publicly thanked Betsy Knaub for her years of service at the Bethlehem Township School District

XXII. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

1. March 19, 2025 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hale, seconded by Ms. Yager. On a voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hendershot
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Approved on 3/19/2025