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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m
Ethel Hoppock Middle School - Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - President MacDonnell called the meeting to order at 6:33 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. Michael Hale, Ms. Jenny Holmes, Mr. Daniel MacDonnell, Ms. Jennifer Seibert, and Ms. Stephanie Yager
Board Members Absent: Mr. Greg Glazar, Mr. Thomas Gregor
District Administrators Present: Edward Abato - CSA and Kirby Hendershot - SBA/BS

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1 - 6:30 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Hale, seconded by Ms. Holmes to enter closed session at 6:35 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: Personnel and matters of investment of public funds.

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 Ms. Holmes seconded by Ms. Yager, to return to public session at 7:42 p.m.

VI. DISTRICT GOALS

1. Goal: Referendum - Planning

Objective: To successfully prepare and promote a critical school district referendum in January 2025 securing essential funding for educational enhancements, infrastructure improvements, and consolidation into one building PreK through grade 8.

2. Goal: School District Technology Enhancements & Integration

Objective: To significantly increase the integration of technology in our classrooms and enhance instructional opportunities for every student through the effective and purposeful use of digital tools and resources.

3. Goal: Curriculum Development

Objective: Develop and align curriculum frameworks that promote rigorous and relevant learning experiences for all students.

4. Goal: Establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Objective: Foster a culture of collaboration and continuous professional growth through the establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) among staff members.

VII. Public Hearing on Superintendent's Contract

A. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the Superintendent's contract as amended with the new title, Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction. All other details of the contract remain the same. Effective August 1, 2024.

Discussion: Mr. Abato will go from Superintendent/Principal of Ethel Hoppock Middle School to Superintendent/Director of Curriculum. There is no new position being created, just restructuring of responsibilities within current administrative positions. There were no public questions or comments.

Motion by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Hale to close the public hearing on the Superintendent's contract. On a roll call vote, item A was approved as follows 4-0-1 (aye Hale, Holmes, Yager and MacDonnell. Abstain Seibert)

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Email- Steve Schwab- opposed to position/roles/title change of Mr. Ed Abato

IX. 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, seconded by Ms. Yager to open Public Comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

Members of the public commented on the following:

- **Concerns of Mr. Abato's change in responsibilities. Curriculum is important and fear of being a superintendent and handling curriculum is tough. Curriculum at BTSD is outdated and there is a lot of work to be done.**
- **Concerns with the morale of teachers because they still do not have a settled contract.**
- **The optics of Mr. Boganski as principal after a year of serving as curriculum director is not good.**
- **Appreciation for Mr. Abato's explanation for the position change-very transparent**
- **No district goals surrounding SEL for staff and students.**
- **Why is BTSD not taking advantage of the preschool expansion aid?**
- **In support or pre school expansion aid.**
- **Concerns with consolidating Ethel Hoppock and Thomas B. Conley into one school.**
- **Lack of communication and information given to the public/parents.**

Motion by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Seibert to close public comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

X. MINUTES - M1

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

June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024 Executive Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Yager, seconded by Ms. Seibert to approve Minutes item A. On a roll call vote, item A was approved as follows:
6/24/24 Regular meeting minutes 5-0-0 (aye Hale, Holmes, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell.
6/6/24 Executive Meeting Minutes 4-0-1 (aye Hale, Holmes, Seibert, MacDonnell; abstain Yager)

XI. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

No report

XII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Abato Congratulated Dr. Sally Klemm, who received the Alyce Hunter Dissertation Award at Centenary University's 2024 Commencement ceremony for master's and doctoral graduates and gave a progress update on getting schools ready for the 2024-2025 school year and commended the custodial staff.

XIII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Ms. Hendershot gave an update on facility projects, reported the upcoming audit date, gave a reminder about filing with the County Clerk for open board seats and invited School Board Members to the School Board Convention in Atlantic City on October 21-25, 2024.

XIV. FINANCE

Committee Members: Thomas Gregor, Jenny Holmes, and Jennifer Seibert

A. Approve Participation in the ESSA Title III Consortium

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve participation in the ESSA Title III Consortium for fiscal year 2025 where by Readington Township School District will be the host district and Bethlehem Township Board of Education will be a participant district. Districts with an allocation less than $10,000 in Title III must join a consortium to receive the funds.

B. Approve the Submission of the 2024/2025 ESEA Consolidated Grant Application

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the acceptance and submission of the 2024/2025 ESEA Consolidated Grant in the following amounts:
Title II - $4,299.00
Title III - $679.00

C. Approve Submission of the 2024/2025 IDEA Grant Submission

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the submission of the 2024/2025 IDEA Grant in the following amounts:
BASIC 105,366
PreK 1,409

D. Approval of Contract with the Glasberg Behavioral Consulting Services, LLC - Att A

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a contract with the Glasberg Behavioral Consulting Services, LLC, West Windsor, NJ, to provide behavior analytical services. Effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 at a fee of $ 172.50 per hour up to 40 hours.

E. Approval of Bills List - Att B

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 June 27, 2024 through June 30, 2024 for a total amount of $163,214.56 which includes one payroll:

June 30, 2024	$101,718.17

F. Approval of Bills List -Att C
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 July 1, 2024 through July 24, 2024 for a total amount of $675,795.09 which includes one payroll:

July 15, 2024	$63,346.20

G. Approve Line Item Transfers for the month of June 2024 - Att D
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the line item transfers for June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of $84,586.32

H. Approval of Board, staff workshop attendance and travel expenditures
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, 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
Oct. 16 & 17, 2024 (2 days)	Heather Radcliffe-McGinnis	NJAHPERD Lake Conference, Blairstown, NJ	$199	$40.23	N/A	$239.23
Oct. 16 - 18, 2024	Dr. Sally Klemm	NJPSA/FEA Fall Conference	$565		$330	$172.50

The finance Committee met on 7/18. Ms. Seibert gave the report. Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Ms. Holmes to approve Finance Items A-H. On a roll call vote, items A-H were approved as follows: 5-0-0 (aye Hale, Holmes, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XV. PERSONNEL

Committee Members: Thomas Gregor, Jenny Holmes, and Jennifer Seibert

A. Approval of Substitute List for the 2024-2025 School Year - Att E
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the substitute list for the 2024-2025 School Year.

B. Approval of Stipend Advisors for the 2024-2025 School Year
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve

the following stipend advisors for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Staff Member	Stipend Activity	Amount (pending BTEA Negotiations)
Thomas Brotzman	Athletic Director	$1,799.00
Kylianne Philip	Coach - Volleyball	$2,053.00
Edward Wyant	Coach - Cross Country	$2,053.00
Nick Scaturro	Coach - Co-ed Soccer	$2,053.00
Ken Bobal	Coach - Baseball	$2,053.00

C. Approve Contracts for 2024/2025 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve contracts for the following individuals for the 2024-2025 school year as per the agreement between the Bethlehem Township Board of Education and the Bethlehem Township Education Association (BTEA) subject to further investigation pursuant to law.

Name	Level	Step	Salary	Position	Start Date
Benjamin Paine	BA	1	$52,889	Middle School Math Teacher	8/19/2024
Amy Schroeder	MA	1	$56,089	Elementary Teacher	8/19/2024

D. Appointment of Hoppock School Principal

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the appointment of Kristopher Boganski as the Principal of the Ethel Hoppock Middle School. Mr. Boganski's salary will be $97,850.00. Effective August 1, 2024.

E. Approval of Summer Custodial Help

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the following individuals to work at Conley and/or Hoppock Schools in the summer from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - 24 hours per week at the rate of $15.13 per hour. Effective July 10, 2024 to August 16, 2024.

Name
Jason Abbott
Kayden Amey

Name
Sam Michalski

F. Acceptance of Termination
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator accept the termination of employee #7929. Effective August 15, 2024.

Addendum G. Approve Contract for 2024/2025 School Year
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the following individual as a maternity leave replacement starting on August 19, 2024 and ending on or about November 25, 2024. Salary will be prorated for the time period in which the individual is employed.

Name	Level	Step	Salary	Position	Start Date
Antonia Simunek	BA	1	$52,889	Maternity Leave Elementary Teacher	8/19/2024

Committee met on 7/18 to discuss positions for the 24-25 school year. Ms. Seibert gave the report. Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Ms. Holmes. On a roll call vote, items A-G were approved as follows:4-0-1 (Aye: Hale, Holmes, Yager, MacDonnell. Abstain: Seibert)

XVI. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Committee Members: Michael Hale, Daniel MacDonnell and Greg Glazar

A. Acceptance of Fire and Security Drill Reports for the month of June 2024
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept the Fire and Security Drills for the month of June for the Thomas B. Conley School and the Ethel Hoppock Middle School..

MONTH	SCHOOL	FIRE DRILL	SECURITY DRILL
June 2024	TBC	06/26/2024	06/27/2024
June 2024	EHMS	n/a	n/a

B. Approval of Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2024-2025 school year - ATT F
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the submission to the Hunterdon County Dept. of Education Office for the Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Committee met on 7/18 to discuss various facility projects. Mr. Hale gave the report. Motion by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Yager to approve School Operations A-B. on a roll call vote, items A-B were

approved as follows: 5-0-0 (Aye: Hale, Holmes, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XVII. EDUCATION & POLICY

Committee Members: Stephanie Yager, Tom Gregor, & Jenny Holmes

A. Approval of Math Textbook Series
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Envisions Math 6-8 for the 2024-2025 School Year.

B. Approval of the 2024-2027 Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) - Att G
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve submission of the 2024-2027 Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) to the NJ Department of Education.

Committee met on 7/18 and discussed a new math textbook series being used this year that was piloted by teachers. Also discussed were policies waiting to be sent back by Strauss Esmay. There was no report. Motion by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Hale to approve items A-B. On a roll call vote, itemsA-B were approved as follows: 5-0-0 (Aye: Hale, Holmes, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XVIII. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion about referendum planning and how that plan will be shared out.

XIX. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

XX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Want to see district record board meetings.
- Will there be anything put out to the public about the referendum?
- Concerns about Ethel Hoppock moving to block scheduling.
- Concerns surrounding the average cost to send a student to BTSD compared to the state average.
- Advocating for BTSD to apply for the pre-school expansion aid.
- High number of HIB cases is concerning.
- Need more communication to parents.

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

XXI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (If necessary)

XXII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

XXIII. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

1. August 21, 2024 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Holmes to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Yager. On a voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hendershot
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Approved on 8/21/24