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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.
Ethel Hoppock Middle School Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - Mr. MacDonnell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Ms. Jenny Holmes (7:06 pm), Mr. Daniel MacDonnell, Ms. Jennifer Seibert, and Ms. Stephanie Yager

District Administrators Present: Edward Abato - CSA and Brian Latzke - SBA/BS

V. BUILDING CONSOLIDATION - UPDATE

Presentation - Parette Somjen Architects (Rachel Tiedemann and Caitlyn Adames), Edward Abato CSA, Brian Latzke SBA

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Suzanne Wilder - What will happen to Hoppock if it can't be sold, are there other options? Doesn't understand the need for PreK, drainage issues onto Iron Bridge. What is plan for water and septic upgrades? Be sure to communicate to residents that don't have children in the district. Can exterior lighting at Conley be reduced with sensors?
- Tom Curley - For the amount that needs to be done to renovate, should investigate building a new school.
- Lydia Lopez - If there is concern about water damage, is there a mold concern?
- Meg McGeehan - What is the long-term plan for Hoppock? If all students and staff are at one location concern for cafeteria space, gym space, bathrooms and parking. Support for PreK.
- Ms..Stacey - This has been a debate for 20 years. How do you keep it sustainable? What will happen to the building? Are there buyers? If it is empty, what is the cost to maintain and keep it open?
- Laurie Herzog - Support of future PreK. Looking into the best interests of the kids. Constantly fixing items each year.
- Paul Muir, mayor Bethlehem Township - Protect and preserve home values. Looking to partner with the school district. Upcoming tax reassessment.

Motion by Ms Holmes, seconded by Mr. Hale to close Public Comment. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

VII. NOTEWORTHY DATES

1. May 15, 2024 - Regular Board of Education Meeting - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Gregor to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Latzke
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Approved 6/26/24