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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, February 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Ethel Hoppock Middle School - Library/STEAM Room

I. CALL TO ORDER - President MacDonnell called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 Courier News, 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. Thomas Gregor, Ms. Erin Roop, Ms. Jennifer Seibert, Ms. Stephanie Yager and Mr. Daniel MacDonnell

Board Members Absent: Ms. Yasmina Ben Bouchta, Mr. Greg Glazar

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

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

Motion by Ms. Roop, seconded by Ms. Yager to enter closed session at 6:37 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 25 minutes to discuss the following: Personnel

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. Gregor, seconded by Ms. Roop to return to the public session at 7:17 p.m.

Bethlehem Township School District
2025 - 2026 District Goals

District Goal #1: Evaluation & Adoption of New Programs

Objective:
By June 2026, the district will evaluate and adopt new science and social studies programs that align with state standards, promote inquiry-based learning, and support the needs of all students K-8.

District Goal #2: Facilities Planning and Safety Improvements

Objective:
During the 2025–2026 school year, the district will prepare a prioritized list of facility projects for both Ethel Hoppock Middle School and Thomas B. Conley Elementary School to guide long-term budgeting and planning, while completing critical safety upgrades this year.

District Goal #3: Implement and Enhance the RTI Framework (Phase III) to Support Student Achievement

Objective: To continue with the integration & enhancements of the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework within the Bethlehem Township School District during the 2025-2026 school year. This will include the adoption and implementation of new intervention programs aligned to our core programs used in each grade level, formalized tier 2 & tier 3 interventions, modifications to action plans based on new programs, continued use of diagnostic and screening assessments.

District Goal #4: Comprehensive Curriculum Rewriting for K-8 art, music and physical education

Objective: To develop and implement a rigorous, standards-aligned K-8 curriculum in art, music, and physical education 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. Gregor to open public comments, seconded by Ms. Yager. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

Ms. Sarah Lampariello spoke on behalf of the BTEA and gave well wishes to Mr. Kris Boganski in his new job. She also expressed the association's desire to keep the administrative structure the same after his departure. She stated that having a dedicated building principal is beneficial.

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

VIII. MINUTES - M1

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

January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Roop, seconded by Ms. Yager to approve Minutes Item A. On a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as follows 5-0-0 (aye Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell).

IX. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. MacDonell thanked administration, staff and students for doing a great job adjusting during the past couple of weeks when facility issues occurred and Hoppock students had to relocate to Conley for instruction.

X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Thank you to the custodial crew, Ms. Hendershot and Mr. Boganski for acting when the pipe burst at Hoppock and thank you to all staff for their flexibility.
- Mr. Abato spoke about the possibility of joining a consortium for Title II funds and the benefits it would provide.

XI. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- Update on expected medical benefits costs for next year
- Update on Governors address, which could impact the March meeting
- Reminder to complete the Financial Disclosure forms and a reminder that any newly elected official who has not completed the form is considered late
- Reminder to complete assigned governance training

XII. FINANCE

Committee Members: Yasmina Ben Boucta, Thomas Gregor, 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 22, 2026 through February 11, 2026 for a total amount of $432,180.94 which included one payroll:

January 30, 2026	$251,877.86

B. Acceptance and Approval of Board Secretary's Report for the month of January 2026 *(Attachment January Board Secretary Report and January Cash Reconciler Report)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Board Secretary for January 2026, and after review of the Board Secretary's and January 2026 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 *(Attachment JanuaryTransfers)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the line item transfers for January 1, 2026 through January 31, 2026 in the amount of $46,228.75

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 2026-2027, 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 Superintendent 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 2026-2027 school year.

E. Approval of Withdrawal and Appropriation of Maintenance Reserve
BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Board of Education, the Bethlehem Township School District authorizes to withdraw Maintenance reserve funds in the amount of $104,832.75 and appropriate funds for replacement and retrofitting of lights at Ethel Hoppock Middle School through the NJ Direct Install Program.

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
March 13, 2026	Leah Byk	Bureau of Education and Research, Math Learning Disabilities/Virtual	$295	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Mr. Gregor and Ms. Seibert were present, Ms. Ben Bouchta was absent. Mr. Gregor gave the report.

Ms. Roop asked about a 3-5 year facility plan. Mr. Gregor explained that we do have a Long Range Facility plan.

Motion by Ms. Seibert, seconded by Ms. Roop to approve Finance items A-F. On a roll call vote, item A-F were approved as follows: 5-0-0 (aye Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XIII. PERSONNEL

Committee Members: Yasmina Ben Bouchta, Thomas Gregor, Jennifer Seibert

A. Approve Staff Unpaid Leave of Absence Days

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following unpaid absence day for the following staff member(s):

Staff Member	Unpaid Leave Days
Amanda Ortega	Jan. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2026 and February 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 2026

B. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation

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

Name	Effective Date
Kristopher Boganski	March 27, 2026

C. Approval of Leave of Absence Request

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following leave of absence request:

D. Approval of Student Volunteers for the 2025-2026 School Year-ADDENDUM

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Charlotte Roop as a high school student volunteer for the Hoppock Middle School Drama Club for the 2025-2026 School Year.

E. Approval of Morning Duty Coverage for the Remainder of the 2025/2026 School Year-ADDENDUM
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Charity Dilts to serve as morning parent drop off duty teacher at Ethel Hoppock Middle School for 30 minutes per day at a rate of $25.00/hour, effective February 12, 2026.

Employee ID	Type of Leave	Paid Leave Dates (sick/ vacation)	Unpaid Leave with Benefits if Applicable	Unpaid Leave without Benefits	Return Date
7890	FMLA and NJFLI	N/A	3/16/2026	N/A	26-27 School Year

The Personnel Committee met on February 3, 2026. Mr. Gregor and Ms. Seibert were present, Ms. Ben Bouchta was absent. Mr. Gregor gave the report.

Motion by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Ms. Roop to approve Personnel items A-E. On a roll call vote, items A-E were approved as follows: 5-0-0 (aye Gregor, Roop (Abstain from D), Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XIV. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Committee Members: Daniel MacDonnell, Greg Glazar, Jennifer Seibert

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 2026	TBC	1/8/26	1/30/26
January 2026	EHMS	1/22/26	1/28/26

B. Approval of the 2026-2027 School Calendar - *Attachment*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar with 183 student days.

The School Operations Committee met on February 3, 2026. Mr. MacDonnell, Mr. Gregor and Ms. Seibert were present. Mr. MacDonnell gave the report.

Motion by Ms. Roop, seconded by Ms. Yager to approve School operations Items A and B. On a roll call vote, items A and B were approved as follows: 5-0-0 (aye Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XV. EDUCATION & POLICY

Committee Members: Stephanie Yager, Tom Gregor, and Erin Roop

A. Approval of the Second Reading of the following Policies/Regulations:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the First Reading of the following policies/regulations:

Policy #0142.1 - Nepotism
Policy #1552 (M) - Sexual Harassment - Staff
Regulation #1552 (M) - Sexual Harassment - Staff

The Education and Policy met on February 3, 2026. Ms. Roop was present and Ms. Yager and Mr. Gregor were absent. Ms. Roop gave the report. The board had discussion on policy 1552.

Motion by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Ms. Roop to approve Education and Policy Item A. On a roll call vote, item A was approved as follows: 5-0-0 (aye Gregor, Roop, Seibert, Yager, MacDonnell)

XVI. OLD BUSINESS-NONE

XVII. NEW BUSINESS-NONE

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- **Kerri O'Connor advocated for an improved outside play area for Pre-K.**

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

XIX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

XXI. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None needed

XXII. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

1. March 18, 2026 - Regular Meeting - EHMS Library/STEAM RM. - Public meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Gregor, Seconded by Ms. Seibert. On a voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hendershot
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Approved on 3/26/26