

# **BLOOMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**March 12, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

*Mission Statement: "The Bloomsbury School District, in partnership with parents and the community, will provide challenging educational programs that enable all students to achieve their full academic potential and to develop the social skills necessary to become life-long learners and responsible, productive members of the school, community, and society. Growth and development of the student as a whole requires the need to address the social and emotional development of students as well. Therefore, in addition to challenging students academically, we will focus on the core values of respect, responsibility, tolerance, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship."*

## **Agenda**

### **I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Reading of the Notice of Public Meeting-

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in the The Express Times & The Star-Ledger posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting.

C. Roll Call

Daniela Albright	_____
John Albright	_____
Gabriel Lyons	_____
John Tufaro	_____
Kaydeon Whidbee	_____

D. Flag Salute

### **II. PRESENTATION**

### **III. PTO REPORT**

### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at \_\_\_\_ p.m. This executive session is expected to last about 30 minutes. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is legal matters.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session may be taken.

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

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**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Bloomsbury Board of Education, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter.
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### **V. RECONVENE**

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to reconvene the meeting to public session at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

#### **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Policy/Personnel/Education
- B. Buildings & Grounds/Finance
- C. Negotiations Committee
- D. Bloomsbury Sustainability Committee

#### **VII. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

#### **VIII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda. All participants will be given five (5) minutes to state their issue. **All audience participants must state their name and address before speaking.** Thank you for understanding.

#### **X. ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator's Recommendations**

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

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#### **A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS**

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.5**.

**1.1** To approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 regular meeting.

**1.2** To approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 executive session.

**1.3** To approve the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

- P 1140 Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action (M) (Revised)
- P 1523 Comprehensive Equity Plan (M) (Revised)
- P 1530 Equal Employment Opportunities (M) (Revised)
- R 1530 Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint  
Procedure (M) (Revised)
- P 1550 Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices (M) (Revised)
- R 2200 Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)
- P 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M) (Revised)
- R 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint  
Procedure (M) (Revised)
- P 2411 Guidance Counseling (M) (Revised)
- P 3211 Code of Ethics (Revised)
- R 5440 Honoring Student Achievement (Revised)
- P 5570 Sportsmanship (Revised)
- P 5750 Equitable Educational Opportunity (M) (Revised)
- P 5755 Equity in Educational Programs and Services (M) (Abolished)
- P 5841 Secret Societies (Revised)
- P 5842 Equal Access of Student Organizations (Revised)
- P & R 7610 Vandalism (Revised)
- P 9323 Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition (Revised)
- P & R 2423 Bilingual Education (M) (Revised)
- P & R 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and  
Head Injuries (M) (Revised)

**1.4** To approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education (“North Hunterdon”) operates a limited purpose regional school district that currently serves high school students from Bethlehem Township, Califon Borough, Clinton Town, Clinton Township, Franklin Township, Glen Gardner Borough, Hampton Borough, High Bridge Borough, Lebanon Borough, Lebanon Township, Tewksbury Township, and Union Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bloomsbury Board (the “Board”) contacted North Hunterdon regarding the possibility of either joining North Hunterdon as a constituent member, which would require termination of the Board’s current sending-receiving relationship with Phillipsburg, or

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establishing a new sending-receiving relationship with North Hunterdon, which also would require termination of the Board's current sending-receiving relationship with Phillipsburg; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and North Hunterdon discussed the possibility of Bloomsbury sending its students in grades 9 through 12 to North Hunterdon High School; and

**WHEREAS**, Bloomsbury and North Hunterdon have agreed that, subject to approval by the Commissioner of Education of the Board's pending petition to withdraw from its sending/receiving relationship with Phillipsburg, Bloomsbury resident students in grades 9 through 12 will attend North Hunterdon High School via a sending-receiving relationship until such time as the voters in the respective communities approve Bloomsbury joining North Hunterdon-Vorhees Regional as a constituent member of the regional district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and North Hunterdon have negotiated the terms of a sending-receiving relationship that will govern their relationship until such time as the voters in the respective communities approve Bloomsbury joining North Hunterdon-Vorhees Regional as a constituent member of the regional district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and North Hunterdon have negotiated the terms of a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement relative to Bloomsbury's effort to terminate its relationship with Phillipsburg; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, in consideration of the aforementioned Hold Harmless/Indemnification Agreement, Bloomsbury hereby approves the instant sending-receiving agreement with North Hunterdon, subject to the terms and conditions referenced therein, contingent on the requisite approval by the Commissioner of Education of Bloomsbury's pending petition to withdraw from its sending-receiving relationship with Phillipsburg by the Commissioner of Education.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Bloomsbury hereby approves the Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with North Hunterdon which shall take effect immediately.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized to take such actions as are necessary to facilitate any required studies and tasks needed to support a petition to the Commissioner that would authorize a referendum for Bloomsbury to join the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional School District as a constituent member.

**1.5** To approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is dedicated to helping New Jersey school districts achieve educational excellence and district efficiencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant supports public school districts and governing bodies across New Jersey who wish to study the feasibility of school district regionalization and consolidation; and

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**WHEREAS**, school districts and governing bodies are invited to apply for funding to offset costs associated with conducting feasibility studies that support the creation of meaningful and implementable plans to form or expand regional school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP); and

**WHEREAS**, the Bloomsbury Board of Education and the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education have determined to evaluate whether the Bloomsbury School District and the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District may be able to attain improved educational quality and efficiencies through consolidation or regionalization; and

**WHEREAS**, a formal study was undertaken to accomplish this objective and, as Bloomsbury must sever its sending-receiving relationship with Phillipsburg before it may move to implement the regional implementation plan development, it may require an update to that study; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bloomsbury Board of Education has agreed to be the lead entity in conducting this updated study and will submit the application for financial support for this study to DLGS on behalf of all participating school districts and/or governing bodies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Bloomsbury Board of Education, that the Bloomsbury Board of Education does hereby join with the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education in applying for a SREP Grant to support the undertaking of updating, as necessary, the study regarding the potential of the Bloomsbury School District becoming a constituent member of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District and, if awarded, and upon execution of said Agreement, the Bloomsbury Board of Education does accept the Terms and Conditions specified in the Agreement in connection to this grant award.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Albright	_____	Whidbee	_____
Lyons	_____	Albright	_____
Tufaro	_____		

**B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.6**.

**2.1** To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$215.32 for the period February 27, 2024 through March 12, 2024 as presented, noting that Commissioner approval was

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not required as the year to date transfers on a cumulative basis do not exceed 10% pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

- 2.2** To approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **January 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c, the Board of Education certifies that as of **January 31, 2024**, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10a and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- 2.3** To approve the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of **February 2024** and further that, in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10c, the Board of Education certifies that as of **February 29, 2024**, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10a and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- 2.4** To approve the March 12, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 18990 to 19009 totaling \$205,802.45.
- 2.5** To approve the 2024-25 preschool budget.
- 2.6** To approve the following resolution:

To approve the tentative 2024-2025 school district budget as follows;

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 School Year using the 2024-2025 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$3,839,252	\$2,034,334
Special Revenue Fund	233,840	
Total Base Budget	\$4,073,092	\$2,034,334

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 30, 2024 at the Bloomsbury School for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 School Year.

WHEREAS, the Bloomsbury Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members

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to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$7,500 for all staff and board members.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Albright	_____	Whidbee	_____
Lyons	_____	Albright	_____
Tufaro	_____		

#### C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.3**.

- 3.1** To approve all certified staff for the 2024-25 “Summer Learning Academies”, as needed, to be paid at the contract specified hourly rate.
- 3.2** To approve all certified staff as substitute teachers and paraprofessionals for the 2024 extended school year and Learning Academies, as needed, to be paid at the contract specified rate and \$15.13/hr for the paraprofessional rate.
- 3.3** To approve Charlene Shackelford as a long term Health/PE leave replacement teacher for the 2023-24 school year, beginning on April 15<sup>th</sup>, at a daily rate of \$300.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Albright	_____	Whidbee	_____
Lyons	_____	Albright	_____
Tufaro	_____		

#### D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

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Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1**.

**4.1** To approve the attendance of staff members at the following conferences:

- Jenniffer Marycz to attend the Annual Hunterdon County Superintendent's Conference on 9/26/24 & 9/27/24 in Shawnee, PA. Cost is \$232 registration, lodging, mileage and M&IE.
- Kim Gasparovic and Dianna Pulcini to attend the ELA articulation at North Hunterdon High School on 3/21/24. Cost is mileage.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Albright	_____	Whidbee	_____
Lyons	_____	Albright	_____
Tufaro	_____		

#### XI. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

#### XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited on any educationally pertinent subject. All participants will be given five (5) minutes to state their issue. **All audience participants must state their name and address before speaking.** Thank you for understanding.

#### XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

#### VOICE VOTE