

BLOOMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved April 9, 2024

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Daniela Albright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Daniela Albright read the following statement:

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 Express Times & The Star-Ledger posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present

President, Daniela Albright
Vice-President, Kaydeon Whidbee
John Albright
Gabriel Lyons
John Tufaro

Absent

Others Present

Dr. Jenniffer Marycz, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Board Secretary

Flag Salute

II. PRESENTATIONS

None

III. PTO REPORT

None

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:01 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.

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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

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 Motion carried unanimous voice vote.

V. RECONVENE

Motion by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, that the Board of Education returns to regular session at 7:32 pm.

Motion carried unanimous voice vote.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VII. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

None

VIII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Marycz said the High Impact Tutoring program has begun and will continue through the summer.

Dr. Marycz congratulated Connie Hynes and Jessica Flizack for being recognized as the Bloomsbury Teacher of the Year and Educational Support Professional of the Year respectively. The party celebrating them will be held on 5/17/24.

Dr. Marycz said that the Art Show and Spring Concert are scheduled for 4/18, Career Day was being planned and thanked the rescue squad and state troopers who came to the school to read for "Read Across America" week.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy McKinsey said that her daughter was excited for the possibility of attending North Hunterdon Regional High School. She believes that would be better for the town and the students going forward.

Amber Wadsworth said she has a college aged daughter who graduated from Phillipsburg High School and one who is currently a freshman there. She said her

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students have thrived at Phillipsburg and believes it to provide a great education. Dr. Marycz commented that, should Bloomsbury begin a relationship with North Hunterdon, those students currently attending Phillipsburg would stay there.

Vicki Haggerty her kids attended Vorhees High School through the Academy Program. They are excelling there and love the school. She hopes that Bloomsbury will be able to switch to North Hunterdon.

The Board commented that they are pushing for this for primarily financial reasons in an attempt to stabilize the district's budget through the proposed send/receive in the short term with Bloomsbury ultimately being incorporated into the regionalization.

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.

A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.5**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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)

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- 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 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.

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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

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.

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B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.6**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 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 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

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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 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.

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.3**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 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 15th, at a daily rate of \$300.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 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.

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XI. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed amending the 2023-24 calendar. Resulting from the discussion, the following motion was offered:

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to amend the 2023-24 school year calendar to make April 8th a half day.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm on a motion by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary/B.A.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Member