

BLOOMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved July 30, 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
John Tufaro

Absent

Gabriel Lyons

Others Present

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

Flag Salute

II. 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.

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:

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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.

III. RECONVENE

Motion by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, that the Board of Education returns to regular session at 7:28 pm.

Motion carried unanimous voice vote.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

Vito Gagliardi, representing the Porzio, Bromberg & Newman law firm, explained the process that the Bloomsbury Board of Education undertook to arrive at the position to pass a motion this evening to file a petition with the NJ Commissioner of Education to terminate the send/receive relationship with Phillipsburg High School. This is the first step towards the ultimate goal of becoming a constituent of the North Hunterdon-Vorhees Regional High School regionalization. The Phillipsburg Board of Education withdrew its opposition to Bloomsbury's petition which resulted in the motion included on the agenda which would send Bloomsbury's petition to the Commissioner uncontested.

Once the Commissioner reviews, Mr. Gagliardi anticipates that the required public comment time period would commence in early July and run for 20 days. Any citizen can submit a comment to the Commissioner, not just Bloomsbury or Phillipsburg residents. Once the public comment period had expired, the Commissioner would review the comments and then make a final ruling. Dependent upon the expeditiousness of the Commissioner, it is possible that the Bloomsbury students would start attending the North Hunterdon Regional High School by September of 2025.

V. 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 **1.3**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 1.1** To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 regular meeting.

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1.2 To approve the 2022-23 HIB grade of 71.

1.3 To approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on or about February 14, 2023, the Bloomsbury Board of Education filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate its current sending-receiving for its high school students with the Phillipsburg Board of Education and enter into a new sending-receiving relationship with the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education to educate Bloomsbury’s students in grades 9-12, and thereafter seek to become a constituent member of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District through the regionalization process as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined it is in the best interest of the District to amicably resolve the matter and avoid the uncertainty and expense of legal action, thereby allowing the Petition to proceed uncontested; and

WHEREAS, members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the termination of the existing sending-receiving agreement and the proposed new sending-receiving relationship between Bloomsbury and North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional in accordance with the uncontested procedure set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-6.1*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bloomsbury Board of Education hereby approves the settlement agreement with the Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education with regard to Bloomsbury’s Petition before the Commissioner of Education filed on or about February 14, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education opens the public comment period, in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-6.1*, and formally announces the following:

On or about February 14, 2023, the Bloomsbury Board of Education filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate its current sending-receiving for its high school students with the Phillipsburg Board of Education and enter into a new sending-receiving relationship with the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education to educate Bloomsbury’s students in grades 9-12, and thereafter seek to become a constituent member of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District through the regionalization process as provided by law.

The record for public comment will be open for twenty days from today. Comments should be addressed to the Commissioner of Education, c/o Director, Office of Controversies and Disputes, New Jersey Department of Education, 100 River View Plaza, PO Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500. Comments shall not exceed 10 pages in length, shall be served on all parties to the case, shall include proof of such service when filed with the Commissioner, and shall specifically address the following statutory standard for the Commissioner's review of applications for change in designation, allocation, or apportionment: “Comments shall address the question of whether the proposed change in designation, allocation, or apportionment will result in a substantial negative impact in any of the affected school districts in one or more of the following areas: educational and financial implications; quality of education received by students; and racial composition of the student populations.” Comments must be served on the Commissioner of Education as set forth above, the Bloomsbury Board of Education and the Phillipsburg Board of Education, in person or by mail in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.2* and *1.3*.

Daniela Albright thanked Mr. Gagliardi, the administration and everyone who has been involved in this process.

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VI. PTO REPORT

Dr. Marycz said that Renee Bickert and Laney Lemasters were preparing for a meeting in the Fall to elect officers and reestablish the Organization.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC ON THIS 4th DAY OF JUNE 2024 REGARDING
THE MATTER OF IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A
SENDING-RECEIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NOTH HUNTERDON-
VOORHEES REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On or about February 14, 2023, the Bloomsbury Board of Education filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate its current sending-receiving for its high school students with the Phillipsburg Board of Education and enter into a new sending-receiving relationship with the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education to educate Bloomsbury's students in grades 9-12.

The Phillipsburg Board of Education has not opposed this petition and the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education supports this petition. If this petition is granted, the transition will be as follows: for three academic years, Bloomsbury's graduating eighth graders will have a choice to attend Phillipsburg High School or North Hunterdon High School, and thereafter all graduating eighth graders would be assigned to attend North Hunterdon High School, while the Bloomsbury students then at Phillipsburg High School would be allowed to remain and conclude their education there at Bloomsbury's expense.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the termination of the existing sending-receiving agreement and the proposed new sending-receiving relationship between Bloomsbury and North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional. As such, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-6.1*, the record in this matter shall remain open for a period of 20 days in order to allow the public an opportunity to comment. This 20-day period shall begin to run on this 4th day of June, 2024.

The public shall have 20 days from today to submit any written comments to the Commissioner of Education, at the following email address: ControversiesDisputesFilings@doe.nj.gov. Should an individual not have access to email, comments can be submitted via regular mail to the following address: Commissioner, c/o Director, Office of Controversies and Disputes, New Jersey Department of Education, 100 Riverview Plaza, P.O Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500. Comments cannot exceed 10 pages in length. Pursuant to the regulation, the comments shall address the following question: Will the termination of the existing sending-receiving relationship and/or the proposed new sending-receiving relationship between Bloomsbury and North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional, whereby Bloomsbury students in grades 9-12 would attend North Hunterdon High School, result in a substantial negative impact on any of the affected districts in one or more of the following areas: financial implications; quality of education received by students; and racial composition of the student populations.

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Any person or entity that submits comments to the Commissioner is required also to serve a copy at the same time upon Bloomsbury and Phillipsburg at the following addresses. Please note that both must be copied.

(1) Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., Esq.
Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, PC
100 Southgate Parkway
Morristown, NJ 07960
vagagliardi@pbnlaw.com
jaciaburri@pbnlaw.com
Counsel for Bloomsbury

(2) Brian Tipton, Esq.
Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli & Tipton, LLC
91 Larry Holmes Drive, Suite 200
Easton, PA 18042
btipton@floriolaw.com
Counsel for Phillipsburg

Anyone filing comments with the Commissioner must include with his/her comments a signed statement showing proof of service in the following form if sent via electronic mail:

I certify that on _____, which is the same date that I forwarded via electronic mail the comments included herein to the Commissioner of Education, I also sent via electronic mail copies of the comments to the legal counsel for the Board of Education of Bloomsbury and the Board of Education of Phillipsburg at the addresses stated in the notice regarding public comment.

Anyone filing comments with the Commissioner must include with his/her comments a signed statement showing proof of service in the following form if sent via regular mail:

I certify that on _____, which is the same date that I mailed the comments included herein to the Commissioner of Education, I also mailed copies of the comments to the legal counsel for the Board of Education of Bloomsbury and the Board of Education of Phillipsburg at the addresses stated in the notice regarding public comment.

Once all comments are received, Bloomsbury and Phillipsburg will have 20 days to file any reply.

VIII. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Kim Gasparovic said that the Summer Kickoff was held last Friday and was very successful.

IX. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Marycz said that Field Day was a massive success and thanked Auburn Donaruma, the staff and parents for all of their efforts. She also thanked all of the parents who came out for Career Day.

Dr. Marycz reviewed the activities during the last week of school.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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XI. ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator's Recommendations

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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 \$54,899.99 for the period May 15, 2024 through June 4, 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 June 4, 2024 current expense bill list for check numbers 19098 to 19140 totaling \$357,345.26.
- 2.3** To approve the Chief School Administrator and the Business Administrator to issue checks and make budget transfers necessary to close out the 2023-24 school year.
- 2.4** To authorize the Business Administrator to close the petty cash account as of June 30, 2024 and reopen the 2024-25 petty cash account in the amount of \$300 as of July 1, 2024.
- 2.5** To approve a student lunch price of \$3.50 and milk price of \$0.70 for the 2024-25 school year.
- 2.6** To approve a student breakfast price of \$1.75 for the 2024-25 school year.

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 **3.10**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Karen Bolmarcich to work up to 60 summer hours, paid at the contractual rate, to perform technological maintenance and upgrades.
- 3.2** To approve the 2024-25 school year substitute list.
- 3.3** To approve all staff for summer curriculum writing hours not to exceed 80 hours in total.
- 3.4** To approve Katie Scuderi as a nurse for the 2024 extended school year for 4.5 hours a day, 16 days total from 7/8/24 through 8/1/24 to be paid at the contract specified hourly rate.
- 3.5** To approve Grace Almquist as a full time teacher for the 2024-25 school year at Step 1, BA pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.
- 3.6** To approve Laney Lemasters for 16 PreK wall mural hours to be paid at the contractually hourly rate.
- 3.7** To approve Troudai Ayoub and Nancy Vitale to attend the PreK Curriculum Gold training meeting on June 11th at the Holland Township School. Cost is registration and mileage.
- 3.8** To hire Catherine Hoben as a Social Worker for the 2024-2025 school year at Step 8, MA pending criminal history check and approval of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6.

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- 3.9** To approve the appointment of Dr. Jenniffer Marycz as the Superintendent of the Bloomsbury School District for a term beginning on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2029 with an initial annual salary of \$167,148, and to approve the employment agreement between the Board and the Superintendent, which has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent, and to authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the agreement on behalf of the Bloomsbury Board of Education.
- 3.10** To approve the Chief School Administrator evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kaydeon Whidbee, to approve the following school affairs agenda items **4.1** through **4.4**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1** To approve the 2024-25 job manual.
- 4.2** To approve the 2024-25 mentoring program.
- 4.3** To approve the 2024-25 Safe Reopening Plan.
- 4.4** To approve two hours of online CPI training for Catherine Hoben, Emily Slack and Katie Scuderi, to be paid at their contractually hourly rate, and Jessica Flizack to be paid at her 2024-25 hourly rate.

XII. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 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