

## **Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ**

# MINUTES Regular Meeting

# Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting Location - District Administration Office 1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Click August 19, 2025 BOE Meeting to access the live stream/recording

1. Vice President Nicole Gallo called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and read the Public Meeting notice.

#### 2. Roll Call

<u>Name</u>	Municipalities Represented	Weighted Vote
Vacant	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
Bryan Chapman - Absent	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Angela Deeney - Present	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
Nicole Gallo - Present	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	1.2
Tara Marie Hintz - Present	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	1.2
Beth Kotran - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Richard Lordi - Present	Union Township	1.4
Brendan McIsaac - Present	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9
Cynthia Reyes - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Kimberly Solino - Absent	Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough	1.2
Daniel Spanton - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Jessica Viotto - Absent	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9

Also present: R. Bergacs - Superintendent, K. Blew - School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, G. Vargas-Dellacasa - District Technology Coordinator, M. Squarcia - Director of School Counseling Services, R. Broan - Director of Curriculum, Articulation and Student Achievement, J. Komoroski - Director of Special Services, Phil Stern - School Board Attorney, DiFrancesco Bateman Kunzman Davis Lehrer & Flaum, PC

- 3. Flag Salute
- 4. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran** to approve agenda item 4.1. **Motion carried by voice vote:** A. Deeney-abstain; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes
  - 4.1. Minutes July 21, 2025 Regular Board meeting

- Strategic Plan Presentation Dr. Richard Bergacs and Dr. Richard Tomko
   Board members discussed the Strategic Plan aspects and implementation.
  - 5.1. **Motion by B. McIsaac and second by T. Hintz** to approve Resolution 081925-3 for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan for North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District "Navigating Tomorrow: A United North Hunterdon-Voorhees Strategic Path Forward" **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote**

#### 6. Chief School Administrator's Report

- 6.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) No incidents reported
- 6.2. HIB Incidents reported at the July 21, 2025 Board meeting were all unfounded.
- 6.3. Monthly School Reports No Report for July 2025
- R. Bergacs provided the Chief School Administrator's Report:
  - Congratulations to NHHS graduate Jon Carvalho for his performance with the SteelStacks All-Star Jazz Ensemble at the August 2nd MusikFest event in Bethlehem, PA
  - NHHS students, Anna Bennington, Michael Kotran, Adyson Orr, Abby Wrigley, and Savannah Wrigley, along with VHS student, Jaime Meyers and NHHS alum, Sophia Scala also performed at MusikFest through their voice teacher's studio
  - NHV is proud to recognize VHS junior Nolan Leyesa for the title of World Champion in Taekwon-Do at the 2025 International Taekwon-Do Federation World Championship in Barcelona, Spain this past July
  - Parents and Guardians have received back-to-school updates, and students now have their locker assignments and schedules for the upcoming school year
  - NHV staff starts on 8/20; Freshman Orientation will be held on 8/22, and the first day of school is Monday, 8/25. Welcome back to NHV staff and students
  - Polytech construction is progressing and a ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for 9/9

Board members discussed opening of the new Polytech building and Polytech staff and student parking.

#### 7. School Board President's Report

- 7.1. Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office
  - Hunterdon County School Board Meeting 9/29. Dr. Bergacs will be one of the panelists at the Roundtable of Superintendents and the topic will be AI
- 7.2. NJSBA Workshop 2025 October 20-23, 2025, Atlantic City, NJ
- 7.3. Recognition of outgoing Board Member Kristina Cagno representing Califon Borough and Tewksbury Township
  - 7.3.1. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by B. Kotran** to accept the resignation of Board member Kristina Cagno representing Califon Borough and Tewksbury Township. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote**

#### 8. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

 (1) member of the public commented on the upcoming Hunterdon County School Board meeting

- 9. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee Report
  - B. McIsaac reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 8/13/2025:
    - Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology agenda items
    - AP report
    - Social Studies program

Board members discussed student access to AP classes and availability of financial aid for AP exam costs, as well as consideration in the strategic plan for course offerings.

**Motion by A. Deeney and second by B. Kotran** to approve agenda items 9.1-9.3. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** 

- 9.1. <u>Professional Consultants-Student Services</u>
- 9.2. Tuition/Receiving Students
- Use of commissioner-approved evaluation options for tenured highly effective teachers outlined on pages 16-24 of the <u>Educator Evaluation Guidance</u> document.
- 10. **Policy and School Security** Committee Report
  - N. Gallo reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 8/11/2025:
    - BoardDocs platform
    - Language in current policy
    - School Security and related contracts

Board members discussed the upcoming Delegate Assembly on 11/22 and 10/3 deadline for the Board to submit a resolution to NJSBA via BoardDocs. Board attorney, P. Stern provided that analysis has been done on differences between Strauss Esmay and NJSBA policies, and both include the same policies.

### 11. Finance, Facilities and Transportation - Committee Report

- D. Spanton reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 8/11/2025:
  - Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items
  - Social Media litigation
  - Police security contracts
  - Capital projects update

Board members discussed the 2024-25 Extraordinary Aid award and allocation, as well as social media litigation.

Motion by B. Kotran and second by C. Reyes to approve agenda items 11.1-11.11. Motion carried by voice vote: A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes, with an abstention from item 11.7; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes, with an abstention from item 11.7; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes

- 11.1. Submission of the ESEA Grant for 2025-2026 School Year: Title I: \$53,682; Title II: \$27,802; Title III: \$1,361 and Title IV: \$10,000 and associated Budget Summary
- 11.2. Resolution 081925-4 Acceptance of the FY 2024-25 Extraordinary Aid award in the amount of \$1,066,081 and the FY 2025-26 appropriation
- 11.3. Resolution 081925-5 Increasing the Bid Threshold
- 11.4. <u>Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Joint Transportation</u>

  Agreement for the 2025-26 school year
- 11.5. <u>Banners</u> for VHS Booster Club's Corporate Sponsorship Program to hang on VHS property throughout 2025-26 school year
- 11.6. <u>Co-op and State Contract Vendors</u> that may exceed the bid threshold for the 2025-26 school year
- 11.7. Training and Travel Requests

- 11.8. Declare <u>District Property</u> as damaged and/or obsolete and grant authorization for disposal and/or sale by the Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45
- 11.9. <u>Bills List</u> for August 2025
- 11.10. Resolution 081925-1 Monthly Financial Reports Certification for June 2025
- 11.11. <u>Monthly Financial Reports</u> including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for the month ending June 2025
- Community Relations and Student Affairs Committee Report
   Community Relations and Student Affairs did not meet this month no report

   Motion by D. Spanton and second by C. Reyes to approve agenda items 12.1-12.2.
   Motion carried unanimously by voice vote
  - 12.1. Renewal of membership to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) for North Hunterdon High School and Voorhees High School for the 2025-26 school year
  - 12.2. Pursuant to Policy and Regulation 9210 approve <u>Booster Clubs and Parent</u>
    <u>Organizations</u> for the 2025-26 school year
- 13. **Delegates' Reports** No Reports
- Personnel Committee Report
   R. Bergacs reported that the Personnel Agenda was discussed at the committee meeting on 8/13/2025
- 15. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by B. Kotran** to adopt Resolution 081925-2 for an executive session to discuss matters reflected in the attached resolution. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board adjourned to executive session at 8:14 p.m.
- 16. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously on voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:32 p.m.
- Motion by B. Kotran and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda items 17.1-17.2.
   Motion carried by roll call vote: A. Deeney-yes for 17.1, abstain from 17.2;
   N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes;
   D. Spanton-yes
  - 17.1. <u>Item P081925 Personnel Agenda August 19, 2025</u>
  - 17.2. Executive Session Minutes July 21, 2025
- 18. Old and New Business
  - Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Deeney that the Board put into discussion
    with the Policy Committee becoming a board committee of the whole. Motion
    carried unanimously by roll call vote
  - District's network address and platform
  - Strategic Plan reporting Dashboard framework
- 19. **Motion by B. Kotran and second by C. Reyes** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew, CPA

Kathryn Blew

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary