

Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location - District Administration Office
1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Click September 30, 2025 BOE Meeting to access the live stream/recording

1. President Kimberly Solino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and read the Public Meeting notice.

2. Roll Call

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<u>Name</u>	Municipalities Represented	Weighted Vote
Vacant	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
Bryan Chapman - Present	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 - Present	Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough	1.2
Daniel Spanton - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Jessica Viotto - Present	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

- Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran to approve agenda item 4.1.
 Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-abstain; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes;
 - T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes;
 - D. Spanton-yes; J. Viotto-abstain; K. Solino-abstain
 - 4.1. Minutes August 19, 2025 Regular Board meeting

5. Chief School Administrator's Report

- R. Bergacs provided the Chief School Administrator's Report:
 - Congratulations to NHHS Senior, Sophia Stacy, who won first place in the NAMI Hunterdon Expressive Arts Contest for her painting.
 - Congratulations to NHHS senior, Joseph Koyfman on being named a Semifinalist in the 71st Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.
 - NHHS & VHS are proud to announce their students recognized as Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program: From VHS: Anthony Giello, Si Liu, Samantha Orr, Zacvk Zamarra From NHHS: Alex Beswick, Eric Beswick, Mia Henck, Audrey Minsavage, Caleb Morman, Matthew Murry, Moyosore Ogunkoya, Saanvi Sachin, Samantha Shustack, Ivy Sorhage, Mason Witkowski, Amber Wronski, Kevin Zhang; Biomed Students: Chidera Emeaso, & Natalie Lowenstein
 - NHV School District held its annual County-Wide College Fair on 9/17, with approximately 140 colleges, military, universities, and tech schools in attendance.
 - The Career Development Program at NHHS is expanding its partnership with local businesses, which provides our special education students with valuable, hands-on work experiences in a local business setting.
- 5.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) (1) incident reported and founded
- 5.2. HIB Incidents reported at the August 19, 2025 Board meeting were unfounded
- 5.3. School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports <u>North Hunterdon High School</u> and <u>Voorhees High School</u>
- 5.4. Monthly School Reports
- 5.5. <u>District Goals</u> for 2025-26

Discussion ensued among Board members regarding the District goals.

6. School Board President's Report

- 6.1. Introduction of Student Board Representatives:
 NHHS Maxwell Sklar (representative), Maura Green (alternate)
 VHS Samantha Orr (representative), Andrew Bruce (alternate)
- 6.2. Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office
- 6.3. NJSBA's Workshop 2025 October 20-23, 2025, Atlantic City, NJ
 - K. Solino shared a statement with the Board on the importance of compassionate leadership for our students and promoting a respectful and safe environment.
- 6.4. Interview of Candidates for the unexpired Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy Aurora Rodriguez Pipeling and Andrea Stein
- 6.5. <u>Board Goals</u> for 2025-26

Board members discussed the Board Goal suggestions. K. Solino to continue the finalization of Board Goals for Board action at a future meeting.

- 7. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - (6) members of the public provided comments regarding potential board candidates, as well as Board Goals
- Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran to adopt <u>Resolution 093025-1</u> 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 8:20 p.m.
- 9. **Motion by N. Gallo and second by B. Kotran** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously on voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:49 p.m.

Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran to reorder the agenda, moving agenda item 18.3, Appoint (candidate) for the Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy through the expiration of the current term on December 31, 2026, to be the next item of business.

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote

Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Chapman for the nomination of Andrea Stein as candidate for the Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy.

Motion carried on roll call vote: B. Chapman-yes; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-no;

- T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-no; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-no; D. Spanton-yes;
- J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-no. A quorum was obtained.
- K. Solino welcomed Andrea Stein to the Board and thanked the candidates for their interviews.
- 10. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology** Committee Report
 - B. McIsaac reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 9/24/2025:
 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology agenda items
 - State Testing
 - Strategic Curriculum Plan
 - Special Education programs

Motion by T. Hintz and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 10.1-10.4.

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes for 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, no for 10.3;

- A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes;
- C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes
- 10.1. Home Instruction
- 10.2. Out of District Placements
- 10.3. Approve Mind of the Athlete, LLC of Bethlehem, PA for Athletic Leadership Academy presentations at North Hunterdon High School and Voorhees High School in the amount of \$7,500 per school
- 10.4. ESEA Title III Consortium participation with Readington School District

11. **Policy and School Security** - Committee Report

N. Gallo reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 9/22/2025:

- Attendance policy and regulation 5113
- Regulation 1330 revision
- Committee as a Whole board meeting structure

12. Finance, Facilities and Transportation - Committee Report

D. Spanton reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 9/22/2025:

- Social media litigation
- Extraordinary Aid
- Student parking
- Student drop off/pick up traffic
- Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items
- NHHS parking lot project

Board members discussed staff training & travel. K.Blew provided a summary of the social media litigation opportunity.

Motion by B. Kotran and second by T. Hintz to separate agenda item 12.3 to 12.3-A, Contract with Clinton Township for School Resource Officer & 12.3-B, Contract with Clinton Township for Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers; and to separate agenda item 12.4 to 12.4-A, Contract with Lebanon Township for School Resource Officer & 12.4-B, Contract with Lebanon Township for Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-no; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-no; J. Viotto-no; K. Solino-yes

Motion by D. Spanton and second by N. Gallo to approve agenda items 12.1-12.10, inclusive of 12.3-A, 12.3-B, 12.4-A and 12.4-B

Discussion ensued, and clarified the motion on the table.

D. Spanton and N. Gallo rescinded the motion to approve agenda items 12.1-12.10, inclusive of 12.3-A, 12.3-B, 12.4-A and 12.4-B

Motion by B. Kotran and second by T. Hintz to table items 12.3-A, Contract with Clinton Township for School Resource Officer, and 12.4-A, Contract with Lebanon Township for School Resource Officer

Motion carried by roll call vote: B. Chapman-no; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-no; J. Viotto-no; K. Solino-yes

Motion by N. Gallo and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 12.1-12.10 not inclusive of tabled items 12.3-A and 12.4-A.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote

- 12.1. Accept the \$12,000 annual Wellness Grant from the Schools Health Insurance Fund for the 2025-26 school year
- 12.2. Accept the revised FY 24-25 Extraordinary Aid award in the amount of \$1,067,340

- 12.3. Contracts with Clinton Township for <u>School Resource Officer</u> and <u>Class III</u>
 Special Law Enforcement Officers for the 2025-26 school year
- 12.4. Contracts with Lebanon Township for <u>School Resource Officer</u> and <u>Class III</u>
 <u>Special Law Enforcement Officers</u> for the 2025-26 school year
- 12.5. Change Orders
- 12.6. Multi-Year Contract(s)
- 12.7. <u>Banners</u> for NHHS Booster Club's Corporate Sponsorship Program to hang on Singley Field fence throughout the 2025-26 school year
- 12.8. Training and Travel Requests
- 12.9. 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
- 12.10. Bills List for September 2025

13. **Community Relations and Student Affairs** - Committee Report

T. Hintz reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 9/25/2025:

- Homecoming and student event funding
- VHS school history display
- VHS energy source/potential natural gas conversion

Board member discussion ensured regarding natural gas conversion

Motion by B. Kotran and second by B. McIsaac to approve agenda items 13.1-13.2. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote

- 13.1. Overnight Field Trips
- 13.2. Student Activity Contracts

14. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz shared an update from the recent HC School Boards meeting, which included a Superintendents roundtable discussion on Al use.

T. Hintz, NHV Board delegate for the NJSBA, reported that the next NJ School Boards meeting will be on Nov. 22 which will include voting for resolutions.

15. **Personnel** - Committee Report

A. Deeney reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 9/24/2025:

- Shared communication among Board members
- Committee support in the District's Strategic Plan

Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton to remove items 16 and 17 from the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote

16. Call for a motion and second to adopt Resolution 093025-2 for an executive session to discuss matters reflected in the attached resolution. The Board expects to be in executive session for approximately 1 hour, and upon return to public session, action will be taken. Voice vote

17. Call for a motion and second to reconvene public session. Voice vote

- Motion by B. Kotran and second by N. Gallo to approve agenda items 18.1-18.2 Motion carried by roll call vote: B. Chapman-yes for 18.1, abstain from 18.2; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; J. Viotto-yes for 18.1, abstain from 18.2; K. Solino-yes for 18.1, abstain from 18.2
 - 18.1. <u>Item P093025</u> Personnel Agenda September 30, 2025
 - 18.2. Executive Session Minutes August 19, 2025

Agenda Item 18.3 moved to Agenda Item 9:

18.3. Appoint (candidate) for the Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy through the expiration of the current term on December 31, 2026

19. Old and New Business

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at NHHS Polytech campus
- Liberal Arts program at Hunterdon County Polytech
- 20. Motion by T. Hintz and second by J. Viotto to adjourn.Motion carried unanimously by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew, CPA

Kathryn Blew

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary