



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

District Administration Office, 1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Click [October 28, 2025 BOE Meeting](#) to access the live stream/recording

Vision Statement:

Every student, empowered for tomorrow.

Mission Statement:

The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District empowers all students through innovative and personalized learning to achieve their full potential, embrace lifelong learning, and contribute responsibly to a changing world.

1. President Kimberly Solino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read the Public Meeting notice.
2. **Flag Salute**
3. **Oath of Office:** Kathryn Blew, Board Secretary, administered the oath of office to Andrea Stein representing Califon Borough/Tewksbury Township (Ref. 18A:12-2.1).
4. **Roll Call**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Municipalities Represented</u> | <u>Weighted Vote</u> |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 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 |
| Andrea Stein - Present | Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township | 0.8 |
| 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, G. Cottrell - Principal of North Hunterdon High School, R. Peterson - Principal of Voorhees High School, P. Stern - School Board Attorney, DiFrancesco Bateman Kunzman Davis Lehrer & Flaum, PC

5. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by B. Kotran** to approve agenda item 5.1.
Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-abstain; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes
5.1. [Minutes](#) - September 30, 2025 Regular Board meeting
6. **Recognition of Student Achievements**
- G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal recognized students, Norah Reeder and Dean Alvarez, for their concern and compassion in assisting a classmate during a medical incident.
 - R. Peterson, VHS Principal, recognized student Ella Ortiz for her athleticism on the soccer field. She has scored over 100 goals, setting a new Hunterdon County record.
 - R. Peterson recognized student Matteo Tramutola for his football skills. Mateo holds the record for most rushing yards, carries, and rushing touchdowns for a game, a season, and a career.
7. **Board Student Representatives' Report**
Maxwell Sklar reported for NHHS:
- NHHS Homecoming held on 10/11, with the theme "The Lights of Rio"
 - National Honor Society is hosting a blood drive planned for November
 - Powder Puff game played 10/22 - Seniors beat the Juniors
 - New parent drop off/pick up route
 - Fall sports update
 - Patriotic Youth Club, partnered with the History Honor Society is holding a warm hat and sock drive for homeless veterans
 - Senior class is planning its annual thrift shop fundraising event
 - Fall Play, 67 Cinderellas was held 10/18-19
 - Friendship Day will take place on 11/14
 - Spirit week was held during the week of 10/20 ending with a pep rally
 - Student Council hosted the Battle of the Beads fundraiser with proceeds donated to Crisis Response Canines charity
- Samantha Orr reported for VHS:
- VHS Homecoming-10/4
 - Fall sports update
 - Drama Club Production of Curtains - 11/13-16
 - Unified Theater Production of Moana Jr - 12/13
 - Unified Club is hosting a community night on 10/29. Unified Club is currently fundraising for the annual Turkey Splash planned for 11/15. If fundraising goals are met, Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Kieffer will be dressing up in costumes
 - Spanish Club celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Key Club hosted a food drive and collected 1580 lbs, -over a 100lbs more than last year. An additional Food Drive is planned for 11/17-24
 - National Honor Society held an induction ceremony on 10/7. NHS hosted a Pink Breakfast to raise money for breast cancer awareness on 10/17
 - History National Honor Society held a voter registration drive
 - Spirit Fest events included dress up days, Penny Wars, decorating, skits and a Dine Italian event hosted by the Key Club
8. **Presentation and Public Hearing** of the NJ Department of Education School Self-Assessment for [NHHS](#) and [VHS](#) for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, for July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025, presented by Jennifer Komoroski, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

9. [2025 NJSLA Results](#), presented by Richard Broan, Director of Curriculum, Articulation and Student Achievement

Board members discussed NJSLA test results, state and county comparisons, action steps and recommendations.

10. **Chief School Administrator's Report**

R. Bergacs provided the Chief School Administrator's Report:

- Thank you to staff and students for work in the success of school events including Homecoming, Theater productions and Spirit Week
- PSAT Testing for 9th, 10th and 11th-grade students at VHS and NHHS took place on 10/22. Thank you to all staff who helped ensure a smooth and successful testing day
- Food drives are active at both schools. North Hunterdon Kiwanis has organized a food packing event at CTMS on the Monday before Thanksgiving, where volunteers help sort and pack the donations for families.
- NHHS purchased a new driving simulator with half the cost funded by the North Hunterdon Education Foundation.
- Both schools did a great job with Spirit Week
- The 50th Annual Milk Can Game was well attended. Congratulations on a well-played game

R. Bergacs provided an update on the District's Strategic Plan and related District Goals

- 10.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (2) incidents reported, with (1) inconclusive and (1) founded

- 10.2. **Motion by B. Kotran and second by N. Gallo** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the September 30, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-abstain; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes

- 10.3. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton** to approve the annual renewal of the New Jersey Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2025-26 school year. (Documents are available in the board office)

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- 10.4. [Monthly School Reports](#)

11. **School Board President's Report**

- 11.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

- 11.2. [Board Goals](#) for 2025-26

K. Solino provided a statement regarding consideration among peers and promoting a bias-free, safe and welcoming environment.

12. **Attorney Report** - P. Stern provided a Legal Update:

- P. Stern discussed Project 2025 in regards to current climate, and includes a chapter regarding the Department of Education.

13. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- (8) individuals provided comments regarding the NHHS Girls soccer team, Board meeting format, and an individual's current litigation.

14. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology** - Committee Report

B. Kotran reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 10/22/2025:

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology agenda items
- Students attending the Somerset County Polytech program
- NJSLA test results presentation
- District's Strategic Plan

Motion by T. Hintz and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 14.1-14.4.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14.1. [Home Instruction](#)

14.2. [Out of District Placements](#)

14.3. Annual approval of [Nursing Services Plan](#) for the 2025-26 school year for North Hunterdon High School and Voorhees High School per N.J.A.C 6A:16-2.1

14.4. [2026-27 School Year Calendar](#)

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

N. Gallo reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 10/20/2025:

- Attendance policy
- Committee as a Whole Board meeting structure
- School security

Motion by A. Deeney and second by R. Lordi to move to a Committee of a Whole.

Board member discussion ensued regarding potential transition and timeline in moving to Committee of a Whole.

Motion by A. Deeney and second by R. Lordi *clarified* to move to a Committee of a Whole in December.

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

16. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation** - Committee Report

B. Chapman reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 10/20/2025:

- Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items
- District's audit presentation
- Finance related District goals
- VHS energy source
- Legal services invoices
- PaySchools cafeteria payments
- Student fundraising
- Student parking fee
- Social media litigation

Board members discussed grounds maintenance for the polytech site at NHHS campus, District's accounting, student fundraising, activities and parking costs for students.

Motion by R. Lordi to eliminate parking fees for the 2025-26 school year.

Board discussion ensued regarding the elimination of parking fees, and the board attorney guided the Board on process for recommending new initiatives.

Motion by R. Lordi and second by A. Deeney to eliminate parking fees for the 2026-27 school year.

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

Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 16.1-16.7.

Motion carried by voice vote for items 16.2-16.7, **Motion did not carry** for item 16.1:
B. Chapman-yes to items 16.1-16.7; A. Deeney-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7;
N. Gallo-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; T. Hintz-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; B. Kotran-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; R. Lordi-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; B. Mclsaac-yes to items 16.1-16.7; C. Reyes-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; D. Spanton-yes to items 16.1-16.7; A. Stein-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7; J. Viotto-yes to items 16.1-16.7; K. Solino-no to item 16.1, yes to items 16.2-16.7

- 16.1. [Contract Addendum](#) with Hunterdon County Vocational School District for Annual Grounds Maintenance for FY 2025-26
- 16.2. [Shared Service Agreement](#) with Clinton Township School District for ESL/Spanish Instruction Services
- 16.3. [Resolution 102825-3](#) for submission of the [Comprehensive Maintenance Plan](#), and approval of [Annual Maintenance Budget Worksheet](#) (Form M-1)
- 16.4. [Resolution 102825-4](#) Contract Award to A-Tech Concrete Co. for the District Office Ramp project
- 16.5. [Change Orders](#)
- 16.6. [Training and Travel Requests](#)
- 16.7. [Bills List](#) for October 2025

17. **Community Relations and Student Affairs** - Committee Report
Community Relations and Student Affairs did not meet this month - no report

Motion by T. Hintz and second by N. Gallo to approve agenda items 17.1-17.2.

Board members discussed the student club proposal and overnight field trip report.

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-no for item 17.1, yes for item 17.2;
A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes;
C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes

- 17.1. [Overnight Field Trips](#)
- 17.2. [Student Club Proposal](#)-Debate Club at VHS

18. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz provided that the NJSBA Delegates Assembly will be held on 11/22/25 and that the next HC School Boards meeting will be in December.

19. **Personnel** - Committee Report

A. Deeney reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 10/22/2025:

- Personnel agenda items
- Process for reviewing job descriptions

20. **Motion by B. Kotran and second by T. Hintz** to adopt [Resolution 102825-2](#) 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 10:15p.m.

21. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously on voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 11:42 p.m.

22. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by D. Spanton** to approve agenda items 22.1-22.2.
Motion carried by roll call vote: B. Chapman-yes; A. Deeney-yes; N. Gallo-yes;
T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes;
A. Stein-yes to item 22.1, abstain from item 22.2; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes

- 22.1. [Item P102825](#) - Personnel Agenda October 28, 2025

- 22.2. Executive Session Minutes September 30, 2025
23. **Old and New Business**
- B. McIsaac: Attended the NJSBA 2025 Workshop in October, and will report out to the Board in December.
24. **Motion by N. Gallo and second by B. Kotran to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary