



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Click [November 25, 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. Roll Call

Name	Municipalities Represented	Weighted Vote
Bryan Chapman - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Angela Deeney - Absent	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 - Absent	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, M. Brennan- Asst. School Business Administrator, 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

3. Flag Salute

4. Motion by B. Kotran and second by N. Gallo to approve agenda item 4.1-4.2. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
 - 4.1. [Minutes](#) - October 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting
 - 4.2. [Minutes](#) - November 11, 2025 Special Board meeting

5. **Recognition of Student Achievements**

- R. Peterson, VHS Principal, recognized students Sara Ciarelli, Sofia Munoz and Samantha Pfingst for their efforts in making the Key Club food drive successful.
- G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal recognized students Phoebe Lingerfield, Emma Parente and Tess Pettorsson as the Senior Peer Leaders and key organizers for this year's NHHS Friendship Day.

6. **Motion by B. Kotran and second by C. Reyes** to approve [Resolution 112525-3](#) and attached [contract](#) to reaffirm Taylor Law Group, LLC as General Counsel with Phillip Stern as the Board General Counsel.

A Board member commented on the deliberation and procedure for the new contract award.

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

7. **Board Student Representatives' Report**

Maxwell Sklar reported for NHHS:

- National Honor Society hosted the first blood drive of the school year - 11/25
- The senior class will host the third annual thrift store fundraiser - 12/10
- North Hunterdon-Voorhees Leadership summit - 11/21. Leaders from both schools attended to strengthen leadership and teamwork skills.
- Friendship Day - 11/14 was well attended. Money was raised for Sophia's Shining Light Foundation, as well as gifts and donations for Kisses for Kyle.
- Girls Field Hockey team was crowned Sectional Champions
- Rho Kappa Honor Society held its first ever Rhosgiving, where students socialized over food and crafts. Canned food was collected for the school's food drive from participants.
- Key Club ran a successful food drive, collecting food from students and staff. The senior class collected the most and won an ice cream party.
- Pie a Teacher fundraiser proceeds were used to buy food for homeless people of the community. Mrs Fortugno won with over \$100 in her jar and will be pied next week.
- Rho Kappa and Patriotic Youth Club organized a sock and hat drive for donation to local veterans.
- Winter concerts planned for 12/4 and 12/11

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Fall sports updates included Girls Cross Country team named State Champions
- VHS Drama Club production of Curtains performed in November
- VHS Unified Theater production of Moana Jr - December performances
- Winter Choral Concert & Winter Instrumental Concert planned in December
- VHS Music Association ran a successful Winter Craft Fair - 11/22
- Unified Turkey Splash fundraiser raised over \$13,000 for Special Olympics.
- Student Council Powderpuff Game was a victory for the sophomore class and raised \$600
- National English Honor Society hosted Craftapalooza - 12/1, a wellness and craft event for students
- AP Scholar Awards were presented to VHS students

8. **Audit Presentation** - Mr. Andrew Kucinski, CPA, RMA, PSA, CFE of Nisivoccia, LLP, Mt. Arlington, NJ reviewed the Financial Highlights and summary of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

8.1. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by T. Hintz** to approve the receipt and acceptance of the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) and the [Auditor's Management Report](#) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as prepared by the District's appointed Certified Public Accounting firm, Nisivoccia, LLP of Mt. Arlington, NJ.

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

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

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

- Congratulations to NHHS seniors Jianna Marina and Max Sklar, who performed in Atlantic City as part of the New Jersey All-State Honors Choir.
- NHHS welcomed middle school choir, band and orchestra musicians to the Future Lions Music Event in November. Thank-you to music faculty members for their support in making the event a success. And thank you to the sending districts for their work in participating in this event.
- NHHS's Friendship Day 2025 in November focused on connection, teamwork, and fostering a positive school culture. The event was led by seniors Phoebe Lingerfield, Tess Pettorsson, and Emma Parente, and successfully raised \$2,500 for the Sophia's Shining Light Foundation.
- Thank-you to the North Hunterdon Education Foundation for funding an AI-enhanced CNC Milling Machine for the Technology Education program, providing students with hands-on experience in advanced manufacturing, CAD/CAM software, and AI automation.
- VHS Marching Band performed at the Hunterdon Developmental Center Halloween Parade.
- Congratulations to NHHS students Savannah Wrigley, Michael Kotran, and Maya Haig, who were honored at the TCNJ Honors Choir Festival, where Michael Kotran performed a solo during the concert.
- VHS students Ava Freiligh, Jake Zelasny, Jessica Rodrick, Clara Loenser, Dylan Merkel, and Gabe Payton were recognized at the TCNJ Wind Ensemble Festival.
- VHS students nominated by Mr. Giannelli and Mr. Reynolds were selected to participate in the Rowan University WindFest Honor Band, where they will have the opportunity to rehearse with Rowan faculty and composer John Mackey.
- VHS Unified Program participated in the Special Olympics NJ Thanks4Giving Dash & Splash, and raised \$13,321, earning first place statewide in fundraising and the Highest Team Participation award for the third consecutive year.
- Select NHHS and VHS students, recommended by teachers and administrators attended the third NHV Leadership Summit. These students participated in team-building activities, leadership workshops, and competitive challenges.
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee met on 11/18, which included a plan for annual goals. Current year's focus will be (1) foundational work to create a future-ready framework and (2) PD work and technology tool integration.
- Plans for the \$12,000 Wellness Grant through the School Health Insurance Fund are in the works for all staff.
- Feedback was reviewed from a recent survey highlighting two recurring themes: workload/class sizes and communication/transparency.

9.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (1) incident reported, inconclusive

9.2. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the October 28, 2025 Board meeting. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

9.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)

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

10.1. [Official School Board Election Results](#) from November 4, 2025:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM
Richard Morgan	Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough	3 year term
Nicole Ayers	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	3 year term
Stephen Mathews	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	3 year term
Andrew Hanley	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	3 year term

10.2. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

10.3. Reorganization Meeting - Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

K. Solino provided a statement encouraging leading as a model for respectful communication, and promoting a safe and welcoming space.

11. **Attorney Report - Legal Update - No Report**

12. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- (1) individual commented on student parking.

K. Solino announced the resignation of Angela Deeney from the Board and asked for a motion and a second to accept the resignation.

Motion by J. Viotto and second by A. Stein to accept the resignation of Board member Angela Deeney representing Califon Borough and Tewksbury Township. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

13. **Motion by J. Viotto and second by B. Kotran** to adopt curriculum proposals, agenda items 13.1-13.2. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

13.1. [Curriculum Proposal for Introduction to Artificial Intelligence ADV](#)

13.2. [Curriculum Proposal for Spanish Heritage Speakers ADV](#)

Board discussion took place regarding curriculum proposal and staff planning process

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

B. McIsaac reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 11/19/2025:

- Monthly Data
- Curriculum Proposals
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology agenda items
- Technology Education Program
- Committee of the Whole meeting structure

Motion by B. Kotran and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda items 14.1-14.2. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

14.1. [Home Instruction](#)

14.2. [Out of District Placements-Allocation of IDEA-B Tuitions Funding](#)

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

N. Gallo reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 11/17/2025:

- Attendance policy
- Policies for first reading
- Committee of a Whole and applicable policy
- 12/16/25 board meeting

Board members discussed meeting structure for the 12/16/25 meeting, policies up for first reading and board member access to draft policies in the shared Google drive.

P. Stern, school board attorney, reviewed the procedure for filling the board vacancy.

Motion by B. Chapman and second by N. Gallo to approve agenda items 15.1.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15.1. [First Reading of Policy](#)

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

B. Chapman reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 11/17/2025:

- Anticipated cost of health insurance-current health insurance market
- Audit report
- Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items

Board members discussed increases in healthcare insurance, services provided from the Board's appointed health insurance broker, as well as language in the current Association Agreement.

Legal Counsel representative for Bloomsbury School District provided information regarding expectations and potential impact resulting from the addition of Bloomsbury to the NHVRHSD, including financial and board representation.

Motion by T. Hintz and second by J. Viotto to approve agenda items 16.1-16.7.

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; N. Gallo-yes to 16.1-16.4, abstain from 16.5-16.7; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes to 16.1-16.4, abstain from 16.5-16.7; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes to 16.1-16.4, abstain from 16.5-16.7; A. Stein-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes to 16.1-16.5, abstain from 16.6-16.7

16.1. [Resolution 112525-4](#) Bloomsbury School District Referendum

16.2. Accept [District Donations](#)

16.3. [Training and Travel Requests](#)

16.4. Declare [District Property](#) 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

16.5. [Bills List](#) for November 2025

16.6. [Resolution 112525-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for July-September 2025

16.7. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for the months ending [July 2025, August 2025, September 2025](#)

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

T. Hintz reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 11/20/2025:

- Athletic team evaluations
- Student club proposals
- Student engagement
- Staff newsletter

Board members discussed surveys for athletic teams and extracurricular activities, outreach to sending districts, and BOE leadership communication with neighboring BOEs.

Motion by B. Chapman and second by B. Kotran to approve agenda items 17.1-17.4. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 17.1. [Overnight Field Trips](#)
- 17.2. Student Club Proposal-[Jewish Culture Club at NHHS](#)
- 17.3. Student Club Proposal-[Muslim Student Club at NHHS](#)
- 17.4. [Student Activity Contracts](#)

18. Delegates' Reports

T. Hintz reported on the NJ State's Delegate meeting held on 11/22/25 where proposed resolutions were included on the agenda, with (2) being rescinded prior to voting and (1) new resolution was approved. New leadership was also named. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2026.

T. Hintz announced that the next Hunterdon County Delegate meeting will be on 12/1/25 and will include a roundtable discussion on the budget process.

19. Personnel - Committee Report

K. Solino reported on the items discussed at the committee meeting on 11/19/2025:

- Personnel agenda
- Committee of a Whole

20. Motion by N. Gallo and second by B. Kotran to adopt [Resolution 112525-2](#) for an executive session to discuss matters reflected in the attached resolution. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.** The Board adjourned to executive session at 10:05 p.m.

21. Motion by B. Kotran and second by J. Viotto to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 10:26 p.m.

22. Motion by B. Kotran and second by J. Viotto to approve agenda items 22.1-22.3. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

- 22.1. [Item P112525](#) - Personnel Agenda November 25, 2025
- 22.2. Executive Session Minutes - October 28, 2025
- 22.3. Executive Session Minutes - November 11, 2025

23. Old and New Business - None

24. Motion by N. Gallo and second by A. Stein to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan

Assistant School Business Administrator