



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Click [December 16, 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 7:04 p.m. and read the Public Meeting notice.

2. **Roll Call**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Municipalities Represented</u>	<u>Weighted Vote</u>
Bryan Chapman - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
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
Vacant	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8

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, Taylor Law Group

3. **Flag Salute**

4. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran** to approve agenda item 4.1.
Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes;
B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-abstain;
A. Stein-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes
4.1. [Minutes](#) - November 25, 2025 Regular Board meeting
5. **Recognition of Student Achievements**
 - R. Peterson, VHS Principal, recognized Sourish Das, Anthony Giello, and Zack Zamarra for excelling in the Math League competition. VHS is currently the leading school in Hunterdon County.
 - G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal recognized the student officers of the National Arts Honor Society: Jianna Marina, Ava Vallely, Aarthi Kondra, Natalie Olson, Ivy Sorhange, Elizabeth Spann, Emily Zhang, Rheanna McConnachie, Sophia Stacy. These members collaborated to create and paint a mural in the NHHS cafeteria.
6. **Board Student Representatives' Report**

Maxwell Sklar reported for NHHS:

 - Music concerts featuring Choir, Orchestra and Jazz ensembles -12/4 & 12/11
 - Jazz Ensemble, Show Choir, and String Orchestra visited sending district middle schools - 12/5 & 12/12
 - NHHS Dance Team joined the Golden Lions Marching Band to march in the Clinton Christmas parade
 - The Senior Class hosted the 3rd annual thrift store 12/10, raising over \$1,300 for the Senior Class
 - Wrestling Club donated funds for a wrestling mural in the wrestling hallway.
 - Many AP Scholars were recognized at NHHS
 - Sophomore class has planned a holiday movie night for all students on 12/19
 - Student Advisory Committee met 12/16 to discuss upcoming school events and give input towards school related items

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

 - VHS Competition Cheer Team hosted their Victory Competition - 12/13
 - VHS Unified Theater Production of Moana Jr - 12/13 & 12/20
 - Winter Choral & Instrumental Concerts - 12/16 & 12/18
 - VHS Marching Band participated in the Clinton Christmas parade - 12/5
 - VHS placed 2nd out of 16 teams at the Warren Hunterdon Academic Meet
 - National Honor Society participated in Operation Holiday Box and provided 42 boxes for children in need
 - Key Club hosted a cookie walk on 12/12 and raised \$500 for community service projects. Key Club is also collecting for their Giving Tree fundraiser that will benefit VHS families in need
 - English National Honor Society hosted Craftapalooza
 - VHS staff are competing in Deck the Halls, a door decorating contest
 - A local scholarship list has been posted on the counseling page for seniors
 - A pep rally is planned for 12/23 and will recognize winter sports captains
7. **Chief School Administrator's Report**

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

 - As a part of our Staff Health & Wellness Initiative, Hunterdon Health & Wellness offered a Body Balance yoga-type class for staff members during the Professional Development Day on 12/10.

- Dr. Spencer presented a “Mind of the Athlete” series: *Frustration: How to Manage Emotions to Thrive* at NHHS & VHS this week for all winter season athletes.
 - NHHS Teacher of the Year is Rachelle Naples, World Language Teacher, and Educational Service Professional of the Year is Cynthia Peck, School Nurse.
 - VHS Teacher of the Year is MaryBeth Reff, Science Teacher, and Educational Service Professional of the Year is Dan Tarantula, School Psychologist.
 - Congratulations to NHHS students Defne Dogus, Maya Haig, and Daniela Knox for acceptance into the Honors Region Choirs. They will perform in January at Rutgers University.
 - Congratulations to NHHS Senior, Brooklyn Kappus, for breaking the shot put indoor school record at the Coach Saint Invitational Meet.
 - VHS students, Kayla Iannace, Jacob Zelasney, Jess Rodrick, and Ava Freligh, participated in the Rowan University WindFest Honor Band on 12/2, where they worked with Rowan students and faculty, as well as composer John Mackey.
 - VHS is kicking off winter break with dress-up themes for Winter Spirit Week and staff members are competing in door decorating contests at both NHHS and VHS.
 - Results from fall sports end-of-season surveys have provided feedback that help ensure students are having a positive experience in our athletic programs, and helps to support coaches in their work as well. Thank you to our coaches and athletic directors for all they do.
 - Attendance Report showed improvement in both NHHS & VHS
 - The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) is continuing its work:
 - Pillar #2, Personnel is in the planning stages of developing an Emerging Leader program.
 - Pillar #1, Instruction & Program has surveyed staff, students and parents on their views of AI in education. SPAC will continue the work of developing strategies for professional development for staff, and project based learning that will ensure our students use critical thinking skills.
- 7.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (1) incident reported, inconclusive
- 7.2. **Motion by B. McIsaac and second by T. Hintz** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the November 25, 2025 Board meeting.
Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; N. Gallo-yes; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-yes; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-abstain; A. Stein-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes
- 7.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)
- 7.4. Recognition of outgoing Board members: Nicole Gallo, Beth Kotran, Kimberly Solino, and Jessica Viotto

Board members expressed appreciation to outgoing board members

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

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

K. Solino thanked fellow board members for their volunteerism, and student board representatives for their representation for the student body.

K. Solino provided a statement encouraging leading with compassion and demonstrating a bias-free environment.

9. **Attorney Report** - Legal Update - None

10. **Opportunity for Public Comment** - None

11. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

Motion by D. Spanton and second by C. Reyes to approve agenda items 11.1.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11.1. [Home Instruction](#)

12. **Policy and School Security**

Motion by N. Gallo and second by B. Kotran to approve agenda item 12.1.

Board members discussed safety for students who walk through car pick up line in the direction of Beaver Brook property, as well as parents following drop off/pick up route procedures.

Motion for approval of item 12.1 carried unanimously by voice vote.

12.1. [Second Reading of Policy](#)

13. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

Board members discussed: Training and travel report cost detail; Contract with ESS Northeast, LLC., in addition to substitute availability, pay rate and substitute utilization report; Bills list format; Conveyance of finance agenda items

P. Stern, Board attorney, reviewed board and administrator roles.

Motion by T. Hintz and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 13.1-13.5.

Motion carried by voice vote: B. Chapman-yes; N. Gallo-yes to items 13.1-13.2, no to items 13.3-13.5*; T. Hintz-yes; B. Kotran-yes; R. Lordi-abstain from items 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, 13.5, no to item 13.3; B. McIsaac-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; J. Viotto-yes; K. Solino-yes to items 13.1-13.2, no to items 13.3-13.5**

*upon return from Executive session at 8:45 p.m., N. Gallo changed her vote for Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items 13.1-13.5: Yes to items 13.1-13.2, abstain from items 13.3-13.5

**upon return from Executive session at 8:45 p.m., K. Solino changed her vote for Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items 13.1-13.5: Yes to items 13.1-13.2, abstain from items 13.3-13.5

13.1. [Addendum](#) to the District Agreement with ESS Northeast, LLC

13.2. [Training and Travel Requests](#)

13.3. [Bills List](#) for December 2025

13.4. [Resolution 121625-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for October 2025

13.5. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for the month ending [October 2025](#)

Board members continued discussion on the bills list and also discussed the voting outcome for approval of the financial reports.

P. Stern, Board attorney, advised the board regarding comments on staff members during the public meeting.

14. **Community Relations and Student Affairs**

Board members discussed sports and activity related surveys, and communication of surveys to board members.

15. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz reported that the HCSBA met earlier this month which involved a roundtable discussion regarding the budget. K.Blew was a participant in the Business Administrator roundtable discussion. Unsung Heroes will be announced at the March meeting, and nominations are encouraged for students deserving of this recognition.

16. **Personnel**

17. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by T. Hintz** to adopt [Resolution 121625-2](#) 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 8:43 p.m.

18. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Kotran** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:26 p.m.

19. **Motion by N. Gallo and second by B. Kotran** to approve agenda items 19.1-19.2. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

19.1. [Item P121625](#) - Personnel Agenda December 16, 2025

19.2. Executive Session Minutes - November 25, 2025

K. Solino changed her vote for Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items 13.1-13.5: Yes to items 13.1-13.2, abstain from items 13.3-13.5

N. Gallo changed her vote for Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items 13.1-13.5: Yes to items 13.1-13.2, abstain from items 13.3-13.5

Motion to approve agenda items 13.1-13.5 remains **carried by voice vote.**

20. **Old and New Business**

- T. Hintz commented on progress of the board working as committee of a whole
- P. Stern, Board Attorney, advised on procedure for questions from the Board

21. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by J. Viotto** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary