



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

**MINUTES**

**Working Session**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Click [January 20, 2026 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 Brendan McIsaac called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and read the Public Meeting notice and Mission Statement.

**2. Roll Call**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Municipalities Represented</u>	<u>Weighted Vote</u>
Nicole Ayers - Present	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9
Bryan Chapman - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Andrew Hanley - Present	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	1.2
Tara Marie Hintz - Present	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	1.2
Richard Lordi - Absent	Union Township	1.4
Stephen Mathews - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Brendan McIsaac - Present	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9
Richard Morgan - Present	Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough	1.2
Cynthia Reyes - Absent	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Daniel Spanton - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Andrea Stein - Present	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
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, R. Pellechio - Director of Special Education Curriculum and Instruction, P. Stern - School Board Attorney, Taylor Law Group

**3. Flag Salute**

B. Mclsaac reviewed the anticipated process for the Working Session, which will include Board discussion. Monthly Regular Meetings will include much of the action/voting. The Board discussed voting on minutes from prior meetings.

4. **Minutes**

- 4.1. [Minutes](#) - December 16, 2025 Regular Board meeting
- 4.2. [Minutes](#) - January 6, 2026 Reorganization Board meeting

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

Superintendent, R. Bergacs will provide the Chief School Administrator's report at the monthly Regular Meeting on 1/27/26

- 5.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)
- 5.2. [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the December 16, 2025 Board meeting
- 5.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)

Board members discussed student absenteeism at both schools as well as new attendance policy, and the monthly school reports.

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

- 6.1. New Jersey School Board Recognition Month - [Resolution 012726-3](#)
- 6.2. 2026 Board Representatives and Delegate Positions/Vacancies - Board members discussed the Delegate role
- 6.3. [School Board's Conference Report](#)
- 6.4. Hunterdon County Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony - March 4, 2026. Attendees must RSVP by 2/4/26 if you plan to attend
- 6.5. Board Training and Regular Board Meeting - January 27, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office
- 6.6. Interview of Candidate(s) for the unexpired Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy - [Merrill Mezzacappa]

7. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- (1) individual commented on the Freedom to Read law and the District's library book policy

8. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

R. Broan, Director of Curriculum, Articulation and Student Achievement presented the [Future-Ready Steering Committee Progress Update](#)

Board members discussed the pilot program, AI tools, program feedback, and responsible use of AI.

- 8.1. Home Instruction
- 8.2. Out of District Placements

9. **Policy and School Security**

B. Mclsaac reported that the NJSBA provided a policy in compliance with the Freedom to Read Act, which will be reviewed by the Board. Additionally, B. Chapman will be chairing a Policy ad hoc committee, and members interested in working with this committee should contact B. Mclsaac.

Board members continued discussion on compliance with the Freedom to Read Act and the District's policy approval process

10. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

K. Blew, Business Administrator, Board Secretary presented [NHV Expenditures & Cost Containment for 2026-27](#)

K. Blew provided a review of the Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items.

- 10.1. [Amended Budget Summary](#) for the ESEA Grant for 2025-2026 School Year
- 10.2. [Resolution 012726-4](#) Contract Award to Envirocon LLC for HVAC Upgrades at the District BOE Building
- 10.3. Revised Contracts with Hunterdon County Vocational School District for [Full Time Educational Services Tuition](#) and [Shared Time Educational Services Tuition](#) for the 2025-2026 school year
- 10.4. Agreement with Ramp Health for a staff wellness program
- 10.5. 2026/27 Budget Calendar
- 10.6. Accept District [Donations](#)
- 10.7. Training and Travel Requests
- 10.8. 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 - [Technology Equipment for Disposal](#)
- 10.9. Bills List for January 2026
- 10.10. Resolution 012726-1 Monthly Financial Reports Certification for November and December 2025
- 10.11. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for the months ending November 2025 and December 2025

11. **Community Relations and Student Affairs**

- 11.1. [Overnight Field Trips](#)

12. **Delegates' Reports** - None

13. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Stein** to adopt [Resolution 012026-1](#) 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 9:21 p.m.

14. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by S. Mathews** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 10:01 p.m.

15. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by A. Stein** to appoint Merrill Mezzacappa for the Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy through December 31, 2026.

Board members discussed Merrill Mezzacappa's accomplishments, experience and desire to work on the Board.

**Motion** to appoint Merrill Mezzacappa for the Califon Borough/TewksburyTownship Board Vacancy through December 31, 2026 **carried unanimously by voice vote.**

16. **Personnel and Executive Session**

- 16.1. [Item P012726](#) - Personnel Agenda January 27, 2026
- 16.2. Executive Session Minutes - December 16, 2025
- 16.3. Executive Session Minutes - January 6, 2026

17. **Old and New Business**

- B. McIsaac will provide a summary of feedback (from Board) on structural decisions, liaisons, Board norms and legal conversations
- B. Chapman inquired on status of ground maintenance for the new polytech building
- B. Chapman inquired on status of SRO contracts
- B. Chapman provided a recommendation on policy approval process
- T. Hintz shared that the next Delegates meeting will be virtual on 1/29/26
- P. Stern shared that Governor Sherrill has nominated Lily Laux to become New Jersey's Commissioner of Education

18. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by A. Hanley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Kathryn Blew*

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary