



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Board Training and Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Click [January 27, 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 Mclsaac called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., and read the Public Meeting notice and Mission Statement.
2. **Flag Salute**
3. **Oath of Office:** Kathryn Blew, Board Secretary, administered the oath of office to Merrill Mezzacappa representing Califon Borough/Tewksbury Township (Ref. 18A:12-2.1).
4. **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 (arrived 6:13 p.m.)	High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township	1.2
Richard Lordi - Present (arrived 6:16 p.m.)	Union Township	1.4
Stephen Mathews - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Brendan Mclsaac - Present	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9
Merrill Mezzacappa - Present	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
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 (arrived 6:09 p.m.)	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8

Also present: R. Bergacs - Superintendent, K. Blew - School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, G. Vargas-Dellacasa - District Technology Coordinator, C. Dagnell - Network Technician, G. Cottrell - Principal of North Hunterdon High School, R. Peterson - Principal of Voorhees High School, P. Stern - School Board Attorney, Taylor Law Group

5. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by C. Chapman** to approve agenda item 5.1-5.2.
Motion carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-abstain from 5.1, yes to 5.2; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-abstain from 5.1, yes to 5.2; S. Mathews-abstain from 5.1, yes to 5.2; B. McIsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain from 5.1, yes to 5.2; R. Morgan-abstain from 5.1, yes to 5.2; D. Spanton-yes

5.1. [Minutes](#) - December 16, 2025 Regular Board meeting

5.2. [Minutes](#) - January 6, 2026 Reorganization Board meeting

6. **Recognition of Student Achievements**

- G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal commended Brooklyn Kappus on setting a new school record for indoor shot put with a throw of 36' 9".
- R. Peterson, VHS Principal congratulated Alex Aldana on being selected as a finalist for his photograph, "Quad Tour", at the Drexel University High School Contest. His photograph will be exhibited at Antoinette Westphal College in Philadelphia.

7. **Board Student Representatives' Report:**

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Winter sports update
- Unified basketball team visited the Special Olympics Complex for a skills-building workshop
- Annual Pops concert performed by VHS orchestra and band - 2/19
- Drama Club's Spring Musical performance of Into the Woods will be in April
- Winter Pep Rally took place in December and included the Students for Change Club's 'Pie in the Face' fundraiser
- Student club events took place, including Key Club's book drive and Unified Club's awareness booth on World Braille Day
- Spanish students took a field trip to NYC where they attended La Gringa at the Theater Repertorio Espanol & visited the Spain Market
- Model UN was recognized as an 'Outstanding Delegation' at their conference in Hershey, PA. Liyana Fayadzed, Nathan Kaduyu & David Manning received awards.

Maxwell Sklar reported for NHHS:

- Winter sports update
- Unified basketball team vs staff game - 2/23
- National Honor Society's Annual Trivia Bowl coming up in March
- NHHS Theater's performance of Shrek the Musical will be in February
- Interact Club's Duck Donuts fundraiser is in progress and proceeds will be donated for the purchase of "The Joey Cart", in honor of Joey Edwards, for the Morristown Medical Center
- 8th Grade Orientation was held in January
- North Hunterdon Education Foundation is sponsoring a Jersey Mike's fundraiser
- NJ Cell phone ban law will be in effect for the 2026-27 school year

8. Cathy Pouria, New Jersey School Boards Association Field Services Representative presented Board Member Roles & Responsibilities Training - [Ethics for School Officials 2026](#)

9. Chief School Administrator's Report

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

- Due to the winter storm schedule adjustments were made for 1/27, including staff wellness events that will be rescheduled for a later date. Additionally, the end of the first semester date has been adjusted to January 28th
- NHHS's Coach Kyle Rehrig organized a teacher appreciation game where senior athletes recognized teachers who offered inspiration throughout their high school years. Teachers recognized were Mrs. Stell, Ms. Meister, Mrs. Luick, Mrs. Fortugno, & Mr. Yocum
- NHHS & VHS hosted an 8th Grade Orientation Program which included school tours and information about athletics, clubs, and activities
- VHS Model UN Delegation attended their conference in Hershey, PA, where they were recognized as an 'Outstanding Delegation'
- Congratulations to VHS student Matteo Tramutola on being named to the Brodens Baller top 100 NJ football players of 2025
- VHS Math Team earned the top spot in Hunterdon County following the New Jersey Mathematics League (NJML) Contest #3 and are now ranked 13th in NJ
- Congratulations to VHS Coach Chase Barbieri on being named the Boys Soccer Coach of the Year by Lehigh Valley Live
- Congratulations to VHS Basketball Coach Kevin Schafer on reaching 100 wins. He is only the 2nd coach to reach 100 wins in Voorhees history.
- Congratulations to NHHS student Phoebe Lingerfield for recognition by the Clinton Sunrise Rotary for her exceptional leadership skills and for being a part of the Interact Club
- Congratulations to the members of the Girls and Boys Swim Teams who competed in the HWS County Championships: VHS's Mia Lake, Elizabeth Rojewski and Brody Keeth; NHHS swimmers won the HWS Tournament. Congratulations to Savannah Pittenger, Caylee Smith, Alyssa Giovannis, Phoebe Rodriguez, Mina Cohn, and Sasha Farrish.

R. Bergacs has offered Board members building tours, reminding all to complete the Google form for interest.

R. Bergacs reported that Notebook LM (AI tool) is available in the shared Google drive for demonstration. B. Mclsaac recommended this tool for Board information.

R. Bergacs provided the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee update from the meeting on 1/13. Topics covered included discussion on PD course, The Whole Teacher; AI Research Library presentation; Staff Newsletter; Financial transparency

9.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (3) incidents reported, all unfounded

9.2. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by N. Ayers** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the December 16, 2025 Board meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; S. Mathews-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain; R. Morgan-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes

9.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)

R. Lordi inquired on the status of the District's decision on funding the wrestling team competition in Atlantic City. B. Mclsaac advised that correspondence has been received regarding the wrestling competition in Atlantic City and that conversations are underway. Items being discussed include permissibility for districts to pay, as well as the District's support and payments for such events.

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

- 10.1. January is School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by D. Spanton** to adopt [Resolution 012726-3](#). **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**
- 10.2. 2026 Board Representatives and Delegate Positions/Vacancies - S. Mathews will serve as the Board's Delegate.
- 10.3. [School Board's Conference Report](#)
- 10.4. Hunterdon County Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony - March 4, 2026. Attendees must RSVP by 2/4/26 if you plan to attend
- 10.5. Working Session - February 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office
- 10.6. Regular Board Meeting - February 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

11. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

(3) individuals commented on the State Wrestling Tournament

12. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

Motion by D. Spanton and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda item 12.1.
Board member votes: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes;
T. Hintz-yes; S. Mathews-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain;
R. Morgan-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes. R. Lordi was not present for this vote; however, subsequently voted "yes" (after agenda item 13). **Motion to approve agenda item 12.1 carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 12.1. [Home Instruction](#)

13. **Policy and School Security**

Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda item 13.1.

Board members discussed the policy approval process and the Board attorney advised that time between (1st & 2nd readings) offer time for input from staff and community members. Board members discussed policy 6163.1.

Motion by R. Morgan and second by B. Chapman to amend policy 6163.1 to allow for a 3 year limit for subsequent challenges.

Board discussion ensued regarding policy 6163.1.

Motion to amend policy 6163.1 language to allow for a 3 year limit for subsequent challenges carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-no; S. Mathews-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes

Motion to approve agenda item 13.1 carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-no; S. Mathews-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes

13.1. [First Reading of Policy](#)

Order of Business:

R. Lordi voted “yes” to approve item 12.1.

14. Finance, Facilities and Transportation

Motion by D. Spanton and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda items 14.1-14.11.

B. Mclsaac advised that resources will be available to Board members for understanding the financial reports. Board members discussed the bills list.

Motion to approve agenda items 14.1-14.11 carried by voice vote:

N. Ayers-yes with abstention from item 14.7; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes to items 14.1-14.8, no to items 14.9-14.11; S. Mathews-yes with abstention from item 14.7; B. Mclsaac-yes with abstention from item 14.7; M. Mezzacappa-abstain; R. Morgan-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes

K. Blew asked for a comment from R. Lordi regarding his “no” vote to items 14.9-14.11. This was determined to be discussed after the Board meeting.

14.1. [Amended Budget Summary](#) for the ESEA Grant for 2025-2026 School Year

14.2. [Resolution 012726-4](#) Contract Award to Envirocon LLC for HVAC Upgrades at the District BOE Building

14.3. 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

14.4. [Agreement](#) with Ramp Health for a staff wellness program

14.5. [2026/27 Budget Calendar](#)

14.6. Accept [Donations](#) to the District

14.7. [Training and Travel Requests](#)

14.8. 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](#)

14.9. [Bills List](#) for January 2026

14.10. [Resolution 012726-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for November 2025

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

15. Community Relations and Student Affairs

Motion by N. Ayers and second by A. Stein to approve agenda item 15.1.

Motion carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; S. Mathews-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain; R. Morgan-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes

15.1. [Overnight Field Trips](#)

16. Delegates' Reports

T. Hintz reported that the next Delegate meeting will be virtual on 1/29/26.

17. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by A. Stein** to adopt [Resolution 012726-2](#) 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 8:21 p.m.
18. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by S. Mathews** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:01 p.m.
19. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by A. Stein** to approve agenda items 19.1-19.3. **Motion carried by roll call vote:** N. Ayers-yes with an abstention from 19.2; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes with an abstention from 19.2; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; S. Mathews-yes with an abstention from 19.2; B. Mclsaac-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain; R. Morgan-yes with an abstention from 19.2; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes
- 19.1. [Item P012726](#) - Personnel Agenda January 27, 2026
- 19.2. Executive Session Minutes - December 16, 2025
- 19.3. Executive Session Minutes - January 6, 2026
20. **Old and New Business**
- B. Mclsaac has provided a summary of feedback (from the Board survey) regarding liaisons and board norms
 - B. Chapman requested that agenda items that have been added or modified between the monthly working meeting and regular meeting be highlighted
 - R. Lordi commented on the determination regarding the wrestling team competition and B. Chapman considered that policy should be uniform for all student activities
 - Board attorney, P. Stern commented on Board discussions and recommended protocol
21. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by D. Spanton** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary