



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Click [February 24, 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 7:00 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 - Present	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
Merrill Mezzacappa - Present	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8
Richard Morgan - Present	Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough	1.2
Cynthia Reyes - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Daniel Spanton - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Andrea Stein - Present	Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township	0.8

Also present: R. Bergacs-Superintendent, K. Blew-School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, G. Vargas-Dellacasa - District Technology Coordinator, P. Stern-School Board Attorney, Taylor Law Group

3. Flag Salute

4. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by R. Morgan** to approve agenda item 4.1-4.2.
Motion carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-abstain from 4.1, yes to 4.2; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-abstain from 4.1, yes to 4.2; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-abstain; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

4.1. [Minutes](#) - January 20, 2026 Board Working Session Meeting

4.2. [Minutes](#) - January 27, 2026 Board Training and Regular Meeting

5. **Recognition of Student Achievements** - Students to be recognized at the March regular meeting

6. **Board Student Representatives' Report**

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Winter sports update
- Orchestra and Band performed their annual Pops Concert in February
- Choir groups Coffeehouse Performance - 3/6
- Theater group performance of Into the Woods - April
- Select Senior and Junior students scored well in the Biliteracy Test, and VHS received AP Honor Distriction as a result of high scores achieved
- Student club events in February included Spanish Club's Carnival and English Honor Society's Spa Day
- Upcoming student club events include Students 4 Change's volleyball tournament, Student Council's pickleball tournament, and Key Club's pancake breakfast
- Freshmen and Sophomore classes Spring Formal - 3/20
- Unified Club's Week of Respect will be held the week of 3/2

Maura Green reported for NHHS:

- NHHS Theater performance of Shrek the Musical - 2/27-3/1
- Junior Prom - 3/7
- National Honor Society's Trivia Bowl - 3/5, and blood drive 3/4
- Unified vs Staff basketball game - 2/24
- Spike for the Cure volleyball tournament - 3/11. Proceeds to benefit the Jason P. Schaible Foundation
- Interact Club held a Duck Donuts fundraiser to benefit "For Joey"
- Rho Kappa Honors Society has promoted Black History Month
- PRISM Club members hosted a dance with neighboring high schools - 2/19
- Winter sports highlights include the Boys Track Team's participation in the Millrose Games, and the Dance Team's State Championship Competition, where they placed 3rd

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

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

- NHHS & VHS Cheer Teams competed in the 2026 UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, FL. NHHS Cheer Team placed 12th
- NHHS student Gabriella Maldonado was a finalist in the Pomptonian Food Service's Healthy School Lunch Challenge and advanced to the Cooking Challenge at the Driscoll Foods Culinary Kitchen, where she was selected as a grand prize winner

- Members of the NHHS Tri-M Music Honor Society performed at the NAACP of Hunterdon County Black History Month Celebration in Flemington where they performed a special arrangement of Wade in the Water
- Congratulations to NHHS choir students Savannah Wrigley and Sofia Emery-Reed for their performance in the All-State Honors Treble Choir in Atlantic City where they represented NHHS at the state level
- NHHS Unified Bowlers competed in the Skyland Conference Inaugural Bowling Tournament
- NHHS Wrestlers qualified as sectional champs following a win over Middletown South HS
- VHS Wrestlers had a recent win against Hunterdon Central HS
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee update from the meeting on 2/10 focused on Wellness Initiatives along with other initiatives, paying consideration of teachers' busy schedules. The committee explored ideas for staff recognition, as well as a consistent Teacher/ESP of the Year process across both schools. The next meeting will include a "Financial Transparency" focus with K. Blew providing an overview of the budgeting process.
- Attendance report provided comparisons from last year as well as year to date absenteeism rates for both schools
- Board meeting structure and Board meeting dates will be shared with the community

7.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - No incidents

Board members discussed student attendance and potential impact on student performance.

7.2. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by A. Hanley** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the January 27, 2026 Board meeting.

Board members discussed language for voting on HIB incidents reported from the prior meeting. Board Attorney P. Stern provided guidance on the Board's responsibility for reported HIB incidents.

Motion to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the January 27, 2026 Board meeting **carried by voice vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-abstain; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

7.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)

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

- 8.1. NJSBA's Board self evaluation and CSA evaluation
- 8.2. SREP Grant - feasibility study update
- 8.3. Shared Service discussions

A summary of Board norms and meeting agenda structure is provided to Board members based on Board discussions and feedback.

8.4. Upcoming meetings:

- 8.4.1. Working Session - March 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

8.4.2. Adopt Preliminary Budget and Regular Board Meeting - March 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office

9. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

(3) individuals provided public comments regarding the Board meeting structure, budget presentation provided on 2/17, school and community connection, Lebanon Borough Council meeting and the Freedom to Read Act.

10. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Stein to approve agenda item 10.1-10.2. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

10.1. [Home Instruction](#)

10.2. [Professional Consultants-Student Services](#)

11. **Policy and School Security**

Motion by D. Spanton and second by N. Ayers to approve agenda item 11.1. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

11.1. [Policy Second Readings](#)

12. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

Motion by A. Stein and second by R. Morgan to approve agenda items 12.1-12.9.

Board members discussed the Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items as well as the forecasted increase in healthcare costs.

Motion to approve agenda items 12.1-12.9 **carried by voice vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes, with an abstention from item 12.5; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes to items 12.1, 12.4, 12.5 and no to items 12.2-12.3 and 12.6-12.9; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

12.1. [Resolution 022426-3](#) to amend official designated newspapers

12.2. Contract with Clinton Township for [School Resource Officer](#) for the 2025-26 school year

12.3. Contract with Lebanon Township for [School Resource Officer](#) for the 2025-26 school year

12.4. Project [Change Order\(s\)/Use of Allowance\(s\)](#)

12.5. [Co-op and State Contract Vendors](#) that may exceed the bid threshold for the 2025-26 school year

12.6. [Training and Travel Requests](#)

12.7. [Bills List](#) for February 2026

12.8. [Resolution 022426-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for December 2025 and January 2026

12.9. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for [December 2025](#) and [January 2026](#)

13. **Community Relations and Student Affairs**
Motion by D. Spanton and second by N. Ayers to approve agenda item 13.1. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**
 - 13.1. [Overnight Field Trips](#)
14. **Delegates' Reports** - No report. T. Hintz reminded the Board of the upcoming NJSBA Unsung Heroes event on 3/4.
15. **Motion by A. Stein and second by A. Hanley** to adopt [Resolution 022426-2](#) 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 8:08 p.m.
16. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by B. Chapman** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:10 p.m.
17. **Motion by A. Stein and second by N. Ayers** to approve agenda items 17.1-17.3. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**
 - 17.1. [Item P022426](#) - Personnel Agenda February 24, 2026
 - 17.2. Executive Session Minutes - January 20, 2026
 - 17.3. Executive Session Minutes - January 27, 2026
18. **Old and New Business**
 - B. McIsaac reviewed a summary of feedback (from the Board survey) regarding transition to committee of a whole meeting structure, board norms, legal presence at meetings, board liaisons and shared communication among the board members.

Board members discussed legal presence at meetings and the board attorney offered guidance on use of board attorney services. The Board continued to discuss ideas for timing of attorney presence.

 - N. Ayers asked that board members be mindful to respect and share the floor among board members
 - A. Stein expressed appreciation for getting the schools open and ready following snowy weather
 - C. Reyes asked for clarification when using "point of order" during a Board meeting, and the Board attorney provided an explanation as guided by Robert's Rules
 - B. Chapman requested that agenda items be flagged if they have changed between the working session and regular meeting
19. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by B. Chapman** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary