



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Adopt Preliminary Budget and Regular Meeting

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

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

Click [March 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 Mclsaac 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 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 - 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, G. Cottrell - Principal of North Hunterdon High School, R. Peterson - Principal of Voorhees High School

3. Flag Salute

4. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by A. Hanley** to approve agenda items 4.1-4.2.

Motion carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes, with abstention from 4.1; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

4.1. [Minutes](#) - February 17, 2026 Board Working Session Meeting

4.2. [Minutes](#) - February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting

5. **Recognition of Student Achievements**

- R. Peterson, VHS Principal along with G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal presented the NHV District Ice Hockey team captains and senior team members and recognized the team for an outstanding season. Team seniors recognized: Joshua Kelco, Jonah Spagnuolo, Dominic Moushon, Liam Orban, Logan Konstalid, Chase Dreher.
- B. McIsaac congratulated the team members for their success

6. **Board Student Representatives' Report**

Maxwell Sklar reported for NHHS:

- Winter sports update
- Shrek the Musical performances were a success. Additional Shrek performances at the Music Mountain Theater Dramatic Performing Arts Conference and Bucks County Performing Arts Festival earned cast member awards.
- NHHS Jazz Ensemble received a "Silver" Excellent rating at the Annual Jazz Band Semifinal Showcase in Bethlehem, PA.
- The Golden Lions marching band marched at the Clinton St. Patrick's Day parade.
- North's Tri-M Music Honor Society is hosting a Representative Recital - 3/31
- Spike for a Cure volleyball competition raised money to support the Jason P. Schaible Memorial Fund.
- National Honor Society held its annual Trivia Bowl and donated proceeds to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
- Junior Prom and the Sophomore Semi Formal took place in March.
- Thank you to North Hunterdon Education Foundation, PTSA, Hunterdon County Prevention Resources, Hunterdon Health Systems and several generous parent donations for their donations towards Project Graduation. Donations have covered most of the transportation costs for this PTSA-sponsored event for the graduating seniors.

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Winter sports update
- Choir groups performed at the Coffeehouse Performance on 3/6.
- VHS Theater will present Into the Woods musical in April.
- VHS Theater group performed at the Bucks County Performing Arts Festival, and received awards.
- Juniors completed NJGPA testing in March.
- Recent and upcoming student activities events include a Health & Wellness Fair; a Freshman-Sophomore Spring formal; Unified Club's Week of Respect and Silent Disco/Laser Tag; and Relay for Life kick off week 3/23-3/27.

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

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

- NJGPA testing for Juniors took place last week and schools operated on a 2-hour delayed opening schedule.
- Congratulations to NHHS on their success with the Spike for a Cure fundraising event, where all proceeds were donated to the Jason P. Schaible Memorial Fund. The fund's mission is to provide non-medical support services to families of pediatric oncology patients.

- Congratulations to the North Hunterdon Jazz Ensemble and Mr. Casey Carroll for performing at the 14th Annual Jazz Band Semifinal Showcase on March 8th, where they won a “Silver” Excellent rating.
- NHHS theater students performed in Shrek the Musical in February with sold-out performances.
- Congratulations to VHS students Ava Freligh, Camila Lescano, and Gavin Caskey, who were selected to participate in the 2026 Rutgers Honor Band Day in March. Students will be playing in one of three wind bands, attending master classes and performing in Rutgers concert hall in the evening.
- Congratulations to the North Dance Team for being 3rd Place Champions in the New Jersey Cheer and Dance State Competition.
- NHHS students have been recognized as top artists in the 2026 New Jersey State Bar Foundation’s Student Courtroom Artist Competition. Congratulations to Ava Inwegen – 1st Place (State Champion), Ivy Sorhage – 3rd Place, and Elizabeth Spann – Honorable Mention.
- Congrats to NHHS Wrestlers, Stella Frigiola on placing 6th and Cayden Wadle on placing 8th in the States Championship.
- Thank you to the Kappus Family, Kappus Landscaping & the Hansen Family for their generous donation of the NHHS Throwing Circle.
- NHHS Prism concert - 3/26
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee update from the meeting on 3/10 focused on the budget process, and the Emerging Leaders Program. Staff members Summer Morris and Tony Makoski were recognized in our BOE Staff Spotlight.

7.1. **Motion N. Ayers and second to A. Stein** to approve [Resolution 032426-3](#)

Recognition of Unsung Heroes, Teresa Pettorsson and Larkin Villatoro. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

7.2. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (4) incidents reported, all unfounded

7.3. HIB Incidents reported at the February 24, 2026 Board meeting - None

7.4. [Monthly School Reports](#)

7.5. Legal Notice Publications are available on our [website](#)

B. Mclsaac confirmed that the construction in the area of VHS is due to a gas line installation for the surrounding area.

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

B. Mclsaac reviewed the School Board President’s Report agenda items:

8.1. NJSBA’s Board self evaluation and CSA evaluation

8.2. Board Leadership Roundtable with constituent Districts

8.3. Meeting with Franklin Township BOE leadership

8.4. Upcoming Board Meetings at the District Administration Office starting at 7pm:

8.4.1. April 21, 2026 - Working Session

8.4.2. April 28, 2026 - Annual Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting

9. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

(2) community members spoke during the Public Comment opportunity. Topics included NHHS’s upcoming Prism concert and student event participation, as well as the 2026-27 budget.

10. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**
Motion by D. Spanton and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda item 10.1. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

10.1. [Home Instruction](#)

11. **Policy and School Security**

Motion by B. Chapman and second by D. Spanton to approve agenda items 11.1-11.3. **Motion carried by voice vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-no to 11.1.1, yes to 11.1.2, 11.1.3, 11.2,11.3; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

C. Reyes subsequently changed her vote from “yes” to “no” for agenda item 11.1.1 (Old/New Business agenda item 18). **Motion to approve agenda items 11.1-11.3 carried by voice vote.**

11.1. [Policy Second Reading](#)

- 11.1.1. 2131.2 - Employment of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- 11.1.2. 3514.1 - School Furnished Electronic Device: Distribution and Use
- 11.1.3. 4151.5, 4251.5 - Jury Duty

11.2. [Policy Regulations and Exhibit](#)

- 11.2.1. 2130(R) - Principal Evaluation (Regulation)
- 11.2.2. 3160(R) - Transfer of Funds (Regulation)
- 11.2.3. 3515(R) - Smoking Prohibition (Regulation)
- 11.2.4. 5131(R2) - Code of Conduct (Regulation)
- 11.2.5. 5136(R) – Fund Raising Activities (Regulation)
- 11.2.6. 9325.4(E) Voting Method (Exhibit)

- 11.3. Job Descriptions for [Assistant School Business Administrator](#), [Coordinator of Human Resources, Payroll & Benefits](#), and [Human Resources Assistant](#)

12. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Hanley to approve agenda item 12.1

R. Bergacs reviewed budget goals and K. Blew presented the [Preliminary Budget](#) for 2026-27. Board members discussed the preliminary budget.

Motion to approve agenda item 12.1 carried on roll call vote:

N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-no; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-no; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

- 12.1. [Resolution 032426-4](#) Adoption of the 2026-27 Preliminary Budget and Annual Maximum Travel Expenditures

Motion by D. Spanton and second by B. Chapman to approve agenda items 12.2-12.13.

K. Blew noted changes from 3/17/26 Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items and current agenda: Resolution for Ratification of Emergency Facility Repairs is now attached, and contract with Honeywell has been removed.

Motion to approve agenda items 12.2-12.13 carried on roll call vote:

N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes to items 12.2-12.10, no to items 12.11-12.13; S. Mathews-yes, with an abstention from item 12.11; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes to items 12.2-12.10 and 12.13, no to items 12.11-12.12; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes, with abstention from items 12.4-12.5.

- 12.2. [Resolution 032426-5](#) Ratification of Emergency Facility Repairs
- 12.3. [Special Education Medicaid Initiative \(SEMI\) Corrective Action Plan](#)
- 12.4. Approve the insurance defense counsel assignment of the Comegno Law Group, PC, per request of the Board's insurance carrier, at the hourly rates of \$225/hour for partners, \$195/hour for associates, and \$125/hour for paralegals, to provide certain legal services regarding a covered matter, per the terms of the relevant insurance agreement
- 12.5. Tuition Contracts with Hunterdon County Vocational School District for [Full Time, on-site Academy Programs](#) and [Shared Time Polytech Programs](#) for the 2026-27 school year
- 12.6. [Participation in Coordinated Transportation](#) with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission for the 2026-27 school year
- 12.7. [Participation in Coordinated Transportation](#) with Warren County Special Services School District for the 2026-27 school year
- 12.8. [Training and Travel Requests](#)
- 12.9. Accept [District Donations](#)
- 12.10. 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
- 12.11. [Bills List](#) for March 2026
- 12.12. [Resolution 032426-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for February 2026
- 12.13. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for [February 2026](#)

13. Community Relations and Student Affairs

Motion by N. Ayers and second by A. Stein to approve agenda items 13.1-13.3.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- 13.1. [Student Club Proposal-Bioethics Club at VHS](#)
- 13.2. [Student Club Proposal-Hearts for Hope Club at VHS](#)
- 13.3. [Student Club Proposal-Investment Club at VHS](#)

14. Delegates' Reports

T. Hintz provided that the next meeting date for NJSBA will be in May, and HCSBA will hold their last meeting for the school year on 4/30.

- 15. **Motion by A. Stein and second by R. Morgan** to adopt [Resolution 032426-2](#) 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 8:58 p.m.

16. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by M. Mezzacappa** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:30 p.m.
17. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by B. Chapman** to approve agenda items 17.1-17.3. **Motion carried on roll call vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes, with an abstention from 17.1; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; S. Mathews-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes, with abstention from 17.2 and 17.3; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes.
- 17.1. [Item P032426](#) - Personnel Agenda March 24, 2026
- 17.2. Executive Session Minutes #1 - February 17, 2026
- 17.3. Executive Session Minutes #2 - February 17, 2026
- 17.4. Executive Session Minutes - February 24, 2026
18. **Old and New Business**
- C. Reyes changed her vote for item 11.1.1 from “yes” to “no”
 - M. Mezzacappa shared clarification regarding HIB procedures
 - S. Mathews suggested that the Board plan to present a resolution to NJ School Boards that address the budget process
 - A. Hanley inquired about the Board Leadership Roundtable
 - B. Mclsaac reminded Board members that communications are available in the shared Google drive
 - T. Hintz inquired about progress of a website dashboard as discussed as a part of the strategic planning
 - R. Lordi commented on website updates
19. **Motion by A. Stein and second by N. Ayers** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary