

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

**MINUTES**

**Annual Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

[Click April 28, 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 6:02 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 - Absent	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 (arrived 6:11 p.m.)	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, A. Weinstein-School Board Attorney, The Busch Law Group

**3. Flag Salute**

4. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by N. Ayers** to adopt [Resolution 042826-2](#) 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 6:05 p.m.

5. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Stein** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

6. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by M. Mezzacappa** to approve agenda items 6.1-6.2.  
**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

6.1. [Minutes](#) - March 17, 2026 Board Working Session Meeting

6.2. [Minutes](#) - March 24, 2026 Adopt Preliminary Budget and Regular Meeting

7. **Recognition of Student Achievements**

- G. Cottrell, NHHS Principal commended Sophia Randall who led the NHHS Fashion Club project creating blankets for donation to the Linus Foundation, which provides blankets to hospitalized children.
- R. Peterson, VHS Principal congratulated both Madelyn Petak and Christian Bollette for their athletic career milestones. Madelyn scored over 1,000 points for the VHS Girls Basketball team during her 4 years at VHS. Christian accomplished over 100 wins during his 4 years as a member of the VHS Wrestling team.

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

Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Spring sports update and recognitions
- VHS theater students performed 'Into the Woods' 4/16-4/19
- Student Arts groups will be participating in Teen Arts 4/29
- Marching band participated in a parade at Disney World and Freshmen Choir students competed in Disney as well
- Musical groups will perform at Spring concerts on 5/13 & 5/20
- Student club events this month included: Unified's silent disco & laser tag; Students for Change members planned activities for Bring Your Child to Work Day; Unified Club featured an Autism Awareness booth; and Key Club members attended their annual DECON convention, winning awards
- Student activity events planned for May include Relay for Life; Class of 2026 Dinner Cruise; Senior's Decision Day; and History Honor Society's Field of Flags honoring veterans

Maura Geen reported for NHHS:

- Concert Choir, Concert Band and Orchestra students performed at Disney World
- Student Peer Leaders visited sending district middle schools to share information about NHHS
- NHHS hosted a Career Fair where local professionals shared career insight
- Student activity events this month included: National Honor Society's Blood Cancer United Walk-a-Thon; PRISM Club's Day of Silence; NHHS is hosting Spanish exchange students; Student Ambassadors led activities at Bring Your Child to Work Day; Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted a Representing Recital; World Language students visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Theater students will be performing the Spring Cabaret on 5/1 & 5/2
- Student Advisory Committee met to discuss school events
- NHHS will host Special Olympics on 5/3
- Spring sports update

9. **Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2026-27 School Year Budget**

9.1. R. Bergacs reviewed the District's budget goals and K. Blew provided the Public hearing presentation on the [2026-27 School Year Budget](#).

The Board discussed the proposed 2026-27 budget.

9.2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

(2) members of the public commented on the 2026-27 school year budget.

B. McIsaac emphasized on the importance of connection among sending districts and municipalities in finding shared solutions for school budgets.

- 9.3. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by D. Spanton** to approve [Resolution 042826-4](#), adopting the 2026-27 school year budget and establishing maximum travel expenditures and maximum professional services expenditures.  
**Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

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

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

- Congratulations to the VHS cast of Into the Woods, who had a showing at the Bucks County Playhouse Student Theater Festival. Students earned multiple honors, including the Moment in the Woods Award for Emily Denis, the Spellbinding Performance Award for Masen Chen, and the John Tartaglia Award for Puppetry for Joanna McDonald. The entire cast was recognized with the Outstanding Ensemble Award.
- VHS Jazz Ensemble, directed by Aidan Giannelli, was selected to perform at the 29th Annual Moonglowers Jazz Festival. Junior Hank Lucash earned recognition as an Outstanding Soloist, and the saxophone section, led by Ava Freligh, was named both Outstanding Section and Overall Outstanding Saxophone Section of the evening.
- NHHS Show Choir earned a Gold ranking at the 34th Annual Roxbury Choir Invitational. Congratulations to the choir and to Mrs. Fonseca.
- NHV District was recently named an Honorary Member of the National Technical Honor Society, in recognition of our continued partnership and support of Career and Technical Education programs throughout Hunterdon County.
- NHHS and VHS students benefited from our annual Career Fair. Thank you to professionals and businesses for providing the students with the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight in planning for after graduation.
- Take Your Child to Work Day was a success. Thank you to our staff members for coordinating the day and creating fun activities.
- Congratulations to NHHS and VHS students who participated in the Music Mountain Theatre's inaugural Drama and Performing Arts Conference, as well as the Bucks County Playhouse Student Theatre Festival. NHHS's Max Sklar was awarded Best Production, and Best Male Lead; Best Dynamic Duo was awarded to Max Sklar and Jianna Marina.
- NHHS Music Department hosted their 22nd Annual Prism Concert, showcasing the talents of our student musicians, as well as serving as the largest fundraiser for the North Hunterdon Music Association.
- Upper Level Latin VHS students participated in the National Latin Exam. Kensey Flood earned a Maxima Cum Laude Silver Medal, and Christopher Carlucci earned an honorable Cum Laude. In addition, VHS Latin students competed at the New Jersey Junior Classical League State Convention at Gateway Regional High School, where VHS won 25 awards.
- Congratulations to NHHS Students, Lucy Sklar and Eric Beswick, for being recognized at the Skyland Conference Scholar-Athlete Luncheon for the Carl Weigner Scholar Athlete Award.
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee update from their April meeting reported on topics discussed: 2026-27 budget, instruction and management of AI, school cell phone policy, and the Emerging Leaders Program.
- Staff members Michelle Byron and Beth Stocker were recognized in our BOE Staff Spotlight

Board members discussed the Strategic Planning Committee initiatives for school climate and staff support, as well as the makeup of the committee. Also discussed was the school cell phone policy status, and plans for communicating a progress update on Board goals to the public.

R. Bergacs shared student attendance data and the Board discussed ongoing communication of the District Attendance Policy.

- 10.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (4) incidents reported, all unfounded
- 10.2. **Motion by A. Hanley and second by N. Ayers** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the March 24, 2026 Board meeting. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**
- 10.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)
- 10.4. 2026-27 Budget information is available on our [website](#)
- 10.5. Legal Notice Publications are available on our [website](#)

#### 11. **School Board President's Report**

- 11.1. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by M. Mezzacappa** to approve [Resolution 042826-5](#), urging greater transparency, predictability, and full funding of New Jersey's school funding formula. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

- 11.2. NJSBA's Board self evaluation and CSA evaluation
- 11.3. Board Leadership Roundtable with constituent Districts
- 11.4. Upcoming Board Meetings at the District Administration Office starting at 7pm:
  - 11.4.1. May 19, 2026 - Working Session
  - 11.4.2. May 26, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting
- 11.5. Voorhees High School Graduation Ceremony - June 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
- 11.6. North Hunterdon High School Graduation Ceremony - June 16, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

The Board discussed the possibility of re-scheduling the June Board Working Session date currently scheduled for 6/16/26.

#### 12. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

(2) members of the community offered comments, commending VHS's production of Into the Woods, and a request that the Board offer an additional opportunity for public comment at the meeting's end.

#### 13. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

**Motion by T. Hintz and second by D. Spanton** to approve agenda item 13.1-13.4. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 13.1. [Home Instruction](#)
- 13.2. [Professional Consultants-Student Services](#)
- 13.3. [Curriculum Textbook\(s\)](#)
- 13.4. [2025-26 School Year Calendar](#), revised for unused emergency closing days

#### 14. **Policy and School Security**

**Motion by R. Morgan and second by N. Ayers** to approve agenda item 14.1.

R. Bergacs noted the revision to the Student Assistance Coordinator job description following comments from the Working Session.

**Motion to approve agenda item 14.1 carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 14.1. Job Descriptions for [School Counselor](#) and [Student Assistance Coordinator](#)

15. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

**Motion by D. Spanton and second by B. Chapman** to approve agenda items 15.1-15.9.

K. Blew reported that the Easement provided to Elizabethtown Gas Company has been reviewed and approved by the District's architects, engineers and legal counsel. She acknowledged Elizabethtown Gas for the upcoming installation of the gas lines from the road to the Voorhees High School buildings this coming Summer 2026.

**Motion to approve agenda items 15.1-15.9 carried by voice vote:**

N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes to items 15.1-15.4, 15.6, 15.8, no to Travel #21-0624 included in item 15.5, no to item 15.7, abstain from item 15.9; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes to items 15.1-15.6, 15.8, abstain from items 15.7 and 15.9; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes

- 15.1. Approve the [Grant of Easement to Elizabethtown Gas Company](#) at Voorhees High School for \$1
- 15.2. [Resolution 042826-6](#), authorizing the use of Competitive Contracting for Student Information Systems
- 15.3. [Resolution 042826-7](#), authorizing the Business Administrator to solicit, receive and evaluate requests for proposals for liability insurance brokers per N.J.S.A.18A:18A-5(a)10
- 15.4. [Purchase\(s\) above \\$53,000](#) for the 2026-27 school year
- 15.5. [Training and Travel Requests](#)
- 15.6. 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 - [NHHS Library Materials](#), [VHS Library Materials](#)
- 15.7. [Bills List](#) for April 2026
- 15.8. [Resolution 042826-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for March 2026
- 15.9. [Monthly Financial Reports](#) including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for March 2026

16. **Community Relations and Student Affairs** - No items were discussed.

17. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz reported that the next State Delegate meeting will be on 5/16/26 and the Delegate Assembly Handbook has been published on the NJSBA website. The final County SBA meeting of the school year will be on 4/30/26.

18. **Motion by A. Hanley and second by A. Stein** to adopt [Resolution 042826-3](#) 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 8:42 p.m.

19. **Motion by B. Chapman and second by N. Ayers** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

B. Mclsaac called for a motion to add a resolution as Item 20.4 and read the resolution to the Board.

**Motion by A. Hanley and second by B. Chapman** to add item 20.4, Resolution 042826-8. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

20. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by R. Morgan** to approve agenda items 20.1-20.4. **Motion carried by roll call vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes; M. Mezzacappa-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-abstain; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes
- 20.1. [Item P042826](#) - Personnel Agenda April 28, 2026
  - 20.2. Executive Session Minutes - March 17, 2026
  - 20.3. Executive Session Minutes - March 24, 2026
  - 20.4. [Resolution 042826-8](#)
21. **Old and New Business**
- R. Lordi stated to the Board that he misread agenda item 11.1.1 (3/24/26 Meeting Agenda) and item 2.1.1 (3/24/26 Personnel Agenda) and would have changed his votes: “yes” to item 11.1.1 and “no” to item 2.1.1.
  - B. Mclsaac remarked on Board representation from Bloomsbury which will be addressed during future Board of Education meetings. R. Bergacs indicated that he provided information in his weekly update to the Board, and added that representatives from Bloomsbury may be present during next month’s Working Session meeting.
  - A. Hanley asked for clarification between ‘constituent’ districts and ‘sending’ districts. R. Bergacs provided insight and reviewed how the Board is represented.
  - B. Chapman inquired about the determination of Board member weighted voting structure if Bloomsbury is added as a constituent district. R. Bergacs described the process and potential outcomes.
  - B. Mclsaac read aloud the attached [Correspondence](#) received from the Hunterdon County Executive Superintendent.
22. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by N. Ayers** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Kathryn Blew*

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary