



Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Click [May 26, 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 7:02 p.m., and read the Public Meeting notice.

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 - Absent	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, J. Komoroski-Director of Special Services, R. Pellechio-Director of Special Education Curriculum and Instruction; G. Vargas-Dellacasa-District Technology Coordinator, G. Cottrell-Principal of North Hunterdon High School, R. Peterson-Principal of Voorhees High School

- B. McIsaac read the Mission Statement

3. Flag Salute

4. **Motion by A. Hanley and second by R. Morgan** 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-abstain from 4.1, yes for 4.2; S. Mathews-yes for 4.1, abstain from
4.2; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-abstain from 4.1, yes for 4.2; D. Spanton-yes;
A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes
- 4.1. [Minutes - April 21, 2026](#) Board Working Session Meeting
4.2. [Minutes - April 28, 2026](#) Annual Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting

B. Mclsaac read the Mission Statement.

Agenda Items #5 (Recognition of Student Achievements) and #6 (Board Student Representatives' Report) were re-ordered to be addressed following Item #10 (Opportunity for Public Comment).

~~5. **Recognition of Student Achievements**~~

~~6. **Board Student Representatives' Report:** Maxwell Sklar (NHHS); Samantha Orr (VHS)~~

7. **Review of the NJ Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, [District and School Grade Report for 2024-25](#)**, presented by Jennifer Komoroski, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

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

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

- Thank you to parent organizations at both NHHS and VHS for providing food to staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Administration provided additional appreciation events throughout the week. Also, thank you to NHHS Booster Club for providing lunch for all coaches.
- Congratulations to NHHS senior Emily Scott, who was awarded the 2026 Hunterdon-Warren Association of School Business Officials (HWASBO) Scholarship.
- NHHS welcomed students visiting from Spain, who were hosted by NHHS students and their families.
- Congratulations to NHHS students, Lucy Sklar and Eric Beswick and VHS students, Daphne Roskowski and Austin Fritz for being recognized at the Skyland Conference Scholar-Athlete Luncheon for the Carl Weigner Scholar Athlete Award.
- NHHS and VHS recently finished NJSLA testing. Thank you to all staff for helping make testing go smoothly.
- Representatives from the North Hunterdon Wrestling Club have reached out to collaborate with the District in erecting a wrestling facility on the NHHS campus.
- Graduation gowns for Board members planning to attend the graduation ceremonies will be available next week.
- Strategic Planning Advisory Committee met in May:
 - Overall progress of strategic planning goals and objectives was favorable, and the committee will continue to work on the goals and objectives they were not able to complete.
 - Website re-design will be implemented this summer.
 - The committee plans to review data from senior exit interviews regarding their high school experience.
- R. Bergacs reviewed the composition of the Strategic Planning Committee and plans to report on all goals and objectives at a future meeting.

- Staff members Aidan Giannelli and Meghan Plaxe were recognized in our BOE Staff Spotlight
- 8.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - (1) incident reported and founded
 - 8.2. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by N. Ayers** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB Incidents](#) reported at the April 28, 2026 Board meeting.
Motion carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-abstain; S. Mathews-abstain; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes
 - 8.3. [Monthly School Reports](#)
 - 8.4. Legal Notice Publications are available on our [website](#)
9. **School Board President's Report**
- 9.1. **Motion by S. Mathews and second by N. Ayers** to approve [Resolution 052626-3](#) urging relief from rising public school employee healthcare costs.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- B. Mclsaac reviewed the School Board President's Report agenda items:
- 9.2. NJSBA's Board self evaluation and CSA evaluation
 - 9.3. Board Leadership Roundtable with constituent Districts
 - 9.4. Deadline to submit [Nominating Petitions](#) for School Board vacancies to the County Clerk's office - July 27, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
 - 9.5. Annual Goal Setting and Regular Board Meeting - June 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office
 - 9.6. Voorhees High School Graduation Ceremony - June 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
 - 9.7. North Hunterdon High School Graduation Ceremony - June 16, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
- R. Bergacs provided transportation plans for board members planning to attend the graduation ceremonies.
- Board members discussed annual goal setting planned for the June meeting.
10. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
- (3) members of the public spoke on the following topics: mental health pilot program, gender identity policy, board meeting opportunities for public comment, executive session topics and agenda order.

Board Student Representatives' Reports *(taken out of order earlier in this meeting)*

Max Sklar and Maura Geen reported for NHHS:

- NHHS Theater presented the Spring cabaret earlier this month
- Seniors gathered for their end of year senior sunrise tradition
- NHHS hosted a Sunset for Sophia event in honor of Sophia DeTorres on 5/18
- Interact Club will host 'Shine for Sophia' field games event on 6/5, also honoring Sophia DeTorres
- Cultural foods and traditions will be shared at Cultural Celebrations Day on 5/27
- Honor Societies' induction ceremonies were held on 5/21
- NHHS World Language awards were presented on 5/19
- The Think Fast and Safe Driving Presentation was delivered to seniors on 5/26
- Spring Sports update and highlights
- Senior and Athletic Awards Night will take place on June 4 and will include recognition of the following athletes: Skyland Conference Scholar Athletes - Lucy Sklar and Eric Beswick; NJSIAA Scholar Athlete - Amara Scully; Hunterdon-Warren-Sussex Scholar Athletes - Natalie Olson and Alex Beswick; St. Luke's Perseverance Award - Patrick Wojital
- AP Testing concluded with 474 students taking a total of 713 AP exams

- The National Honor Society hosted their annual blood drive on 5/26
- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on May 13 and welcomed 97 new inductees
- Senior Prom will be held on 5/29
- Thank you to the PTSA for sponsoring the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, and continued support of Project Graduation

Andrew Bruce and Samantha Orr reported for VHS:

- Spring Sports update and highlights included Boys Lacrosse Salute to Service game to raise money for the Wounded Warriors Project, and Girls Lacrosse's clothing drive fundraiser
- Musical performances were presented on 5/13 & 5/20
- Broadway Revue/Senior Showcase will perform on 5/30-5/31
- State Teen Arts is planned for 6/1
- The Papermill Playhouse nominated Matthew Saam for a student achievement award for lighting design
- Students completed NJSLA Testing in May and final exams will be 6/9-6/12
- Student Awards will be presented on 5/27
- Unified held a banquet celebrating seniors for their participation in Unified programs
- Relay for Life is planned for 5/29
- The Class of 2029 hosted a school-wide movie night on 5/15
- Key Club held a nursing home drive, collecting items for residents
- History Honor Society's Field of Flags raised funds for the VFW 5119
- VHS will host a blood drive on 5/27
- Junior/Senior Prom is planned for 6/5 at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem

B. McIsaac expressed appreciation to the student representatives for a job well done.

R. Bergacs also thanked the student representatives, and recognized Meghan Plaxe for her recognition in the staff spotlight. (Ms. Plaxe was not present at the time of the Superintendent's recognition earlier.)

Recognition of Student Achievements *(taken out of order earlier in this meeting)*

- Greg Cottrell, NHHS Principal recognized Max Sklar and Maura Green for their roles as student board representatives and ongoing leadership and accomplishments.
- Ron Peterson, VHS Principal recognized Samantha Orr and Andrew Bruce for serving as student board representatives, as well as their participation in extracurricular activities and volunteer service hours.

[Special Education Program overview](#) presented by Jennifer Komoroski, Director of Special Services and Robert Pellechio, Director of Special Education Curriculum and Instruction

11. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology
Motion by T. Hintz and second by A. Stein to approve agenda items 11.1-11.3. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 11.1. [Resolution 052626-4](#) K-12 Curriculum Articulation Initiative
- 11.2. [NHV District Professional Development Plan for 2026-27](#)
- 11.3. [Home Instruction](#)

12. Policy and School Security
Motion by D. Spanton and second by N. Ayers to approve agenda item 12.1.

Board members discussed the transportation and student use of vehicles policies.

Motion by R. Lordi and second by C. Reyes not to re-institute the \$75 student parking fee.

Board members continued discussion on parking lot usage and student parking fee.

Motion not to re-institute the \$75 student parking fee did not carry by voice vote:

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

Motion to approve agenda item 12.1 carried unanimously by voice vote.

12.1. Policies for First Reading

12.1.1. [Policy 3541.1 Transportation Routes and Services](#)

12.1.2. [Policy 5131.3 Student Use of Vehicles](#)

13. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

Motion by B. Chapman and second by T. Hintz to approve agenda items 13.1-13.10.

Board members discussed chromebook cost and longevity. The Board also discussed communication of its support for the Bloomsbury referendum, and is considering formation of an ad hoc committee for this purpose.

K. Blew reported that the quote for the plow truck (Item #13.4) was quoted with incorrect pricing and requested that the item be tabled at this time.

Motion by B. Chapman and second by N. Ayers to table the purchase of the plow truck. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Motion to approve agenda items 13.1-13.10 carried by voice vote: N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-yes for 13.1-13.7, no for 13.8, abstain from 13.9-13.10; S. Mathews-yes; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-yes for 13.1-13.7, abstain from 13.8-13.10; D.Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes.

13.1. [Resolution 052626-5](#) to pursue a referendum to include Bloomsbury Borough as a constituent member of the regional district

13.2. Approve [Strauss Esmay](#) proposal to provide Policy Services for the 2026-27 school year

13.3. [Requisition of Taxes](#) for the 2026-27 school year

13.4. [Purchase\(s\) above \\$53,000](#) for the 2026-27 school year

13.5. [Multi-Year Contract\(s\)](#)

13.6. [Training and Travel Requests](#)

13.7. Accept [District Donation\(s\)](#)

13.8. [Bills List](#) for April 2026

13.9. [Resolution 052626-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification for April 2026

13.10. [Monthly Financial Reports](#) including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for April 2026

14. **Community Relations and Student Affairs**

Motion by N. Ayers and second by A. Stein to approve agenda items 14.1-14.3.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14.1. [Swimming Co-op Program Proposal](#)

14.2. [Student Club Proposal-Lions Den at NHHS](#)

14.3. [Student Club Proposal-Mind-Med at NHHS](#)

15. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz reminded the Board to complete the survey from Hunterdon County SBA for topics for the meeting on 6/4/26.

16. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by D. Spanton** to adopt [Resolution 052626-2](#) 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 9:24 p.m.
17. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by R. Morgan** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 10:02 p.m.
18. **Motion by N. Ayers and second by B. Chapman** to approve agenda items 18.1-18.4. **Motion carried by roll call vote:** N. Ayers-yes; B. Chapman-yes; A. Hanley-yes; T. Hintz-yes; R. Lordi-no for items 2.1-2.2 of 18.1 (Personnel Agenda), yes to remainder of 18.1, abstain from 18.2, yes for 18.3-18.4; S. Mathews-yes to 18.1-18.2, abstain from 18.3-18.4; R. Morgan-yes; C. Reyes-no for items 2.1-2.2 of 18.1 (Personnel Agenda), yes to remainder of 18.1, abstain from 18.2, yes for 18.3-18.4; D. Spanton-yes; A. Stein-yes; B. Mclsaac-yes.
- 18.1. [Item P052626](#) - Personnel Agenda May 26, 2026
- 18.2. Executive Session Minutes - April 21, 2026
- 18.3. Executive Session Minutes #1 - April 28, 2026
- 18.4. Executive Session Minutes #2 - April 28, 2026
19. **Old and New Business**
- D. Spanton asked for confirmation of consolidation of June meeting dates
 - B. Mclsaac is researching bylaws regarding board meeting structure for possible addition of a second public comment opportunity.
- Board members discussed the board meeting structure, process for possible addition of a second public comment opportunity, and review of bylaws.
20. **Motion by A. Stein and second by R. Morgan** 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