Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

MINUTES
Working Session Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
District Administration Office, 1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Click July 21, 2026 BOE Meeting to access the live stream/recording

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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.

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1. President Brendan McIsaac called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and read the Public Meeting notice and Mission Statement.

2. **Roll Call**

Name	Municipalities Represented	Weighted Vote
Nicole Ayers - Present	Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough	0.9
Bryan Chapman - Present	Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough	0.9
Andrew Hanley - Absent	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 - Absent	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, M. Squarcia-Director of School Counseling Services, R. Broan-Director of Curriculum, Articulation and Student Achievement, J. Komoroski-Director of Special Services, G. Vargas-Dellacasa-District Technology Coordinator

3. **Flag Salute**

4. **Minutes**
   B.McIsaac addressed the Board for comments or questions on the minutes. No comments were made.
   4.1. Minutes - June 23, 2026 Board Working Session Meeting

5. **Chief School Administrator's Report**
R. Bergacs provided the School Administrator's Report:
- Review of student attendance data for NHHS & VHS for year end under the new attendance policy
- Tara Hintz was commended on being selected to participate in the inaugural NJSBA Policy Leadership Cohort.
- Strategic planning update and preview of the District website's dashboard

Board members discussed the strategic planning progress report.

5.1. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)
5.2. HIB Incidents reported at the June 23, 2026 Board meeting.
5.3. Monthly School Reports
5.4. Strategic Planning progress report
5.5. Legal Notice Publications are available on our website

6. **School Board President's Report**
B. McIsaac reviewed the School Board President's Report agenda items:
6.1. Deadline to submit Nominating Petitions for School Board vacancies to the County Clerk's office - July 27, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
6.2. Regular Board Meeting - July 28, 2026
6.3. Bloomsbury Ballot Question
6.4. NJSBA's Workshop 2026 - October 19-22, 2026, Atlantic City, NJ

Board members discussed the Bloomsbury ballot question and community awareness of this information.

B. McIsaac reported that he shared resources to Board members regarding Board goals to be further discussed in August. R. Bergacs added that the District goals have also been shared.

7. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
(2) members of the community spoke during the public comment session regarding a memorial for Dave Robbins.

8. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**
R. Broan reviewed the Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology agenda items.

8.1. Home Instruction
8.2. Professional Consultants-Student Services
8.3. Out of District Placements/Incoming Tuition Agreements
8.4. Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired Service Contracts
8.5. Curriculum Textbook(s)
8.6. Participation in the ESEA Title III Consortium
8.7. Use of commissioner-approved highly effective educator activities for tenured teachers for the 2026-27 school year

9. **Policy and School Security**
B. Chapman provided an overview of the progress for the transition to Strauss Esmay for policy services. Board members discussed the approval process for the policy set and inclusion of policies previously determined by this Board, as well as language for the policy governing recognition and naming.

B. Chapman presented the policy regarding student use of internet enabled devices up for first reading, and the Board discussed the policy.

9.1. Policy for First Reading: 3515.1 Student Use of Internet Enabled Devices

10. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**

K. Blew provided an update for finance, facilities and transportation related items:

- Finance activities to close out the 25-26 school year are in process, with the annual audit scheduled for August.
- Progress of the HVAC project at the District office
- Report on transportation services provided by HCESC, as well as plans to go out for bids for athletic bus runs to best suit the District's needs.

K. Blew reviewed the Finance, Facilities and Transportation agenda items.

10.1. Accept the School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant of $174,250
10.2. Submission of the ESEA Grant for 2026-27 School Year: Title I: $48,413; Title II: $23,619; Title III: $1,784 and Title IV: $10,000 and associated Budget Summary
10.3. Resolution 072826-3 approval for Parette Somjen Architects professional services related to an HVAC assessment at NHHS
10.4. Approve the insurance defense counsel assignment of Hill Wallack LLP, per request of the Board's insurance carrier, at the hourly rates of $165/hour for partners, $125/hour for associates, and $85/hour for paralegals, to provide certain legal services regarding a covered matter, per the terms of the relevant insurance agreement
10.5. Resolution 072826-4 to renew membership with the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG)
10.6. Banners for NHHS Booster Club's Corporate Sponsorship Program to hang on Singley Field fence throughout the 2026-27 school year
10.7. Banners for VHS Booster Club's Corporate Sponsorship Program to hang on VHS property throughout the 2026-27 school year
10.8. Training and Travel Requests
10.9. Bills List for July 2026
10.10. Resolution 072826-1 Monthly Financial Reports Certification for June 2026
10.11. Monthly Financial Reports including Treasurer Report, Board Secretary Report and Transfer of Funds Report for June 2026

11. **Community Relations and Student Affairs** - No report

12. **Delegates' Reports**

T. Hintz provided updates for the NJSBA and HCSBA:

- NJSBA due date for new resolutions is 9/11/26
- HCSBA will meet on 9/28 at the new Polytech building, and R. Bergacs will be included in a Superintendent's panel.

B. McIsaac added that T. Hintz and himself will be participating in the October Somerset County SBA meeting panel on Board management and governance.

13. **Motion by A. Stein and second by N. Ayers** to adopt Resolution 072126-1 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 9:10 p.m.

14. **Motion by D. Spanton and second by T. Hintz** to reconvene public session. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the Board reconvened at 9:57 p.m.

15. **Personnel and Executive Session Minutes**

The personnel agenda was reviewed during the Executive Session and action will be taken at the 7/28/26 meeting.

15.1. Item P072826 - Personnel Agenda July 28, 2026
15.2. Executive Session Minutes - June 23, 2026

16. **Old and New Business**
   - R. Morgan inquired about the addition of a 2nd public comment session during BOE meetings.

17. **Motion by R. Morgan and second by A. Stein** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote** and the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary