

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 7, 2021 Meeting

7:00PM



A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Rolph, Mrs. Sikkes and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

D. NOTICE OF MEETING

This is a regular meeting of the Blairstown Township Board of Education. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk, and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education offices as well as on the front door of the Blairstown Elementary School in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

See attached report.

F. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

See attached report.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Rolph reported that the Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the updated curriculum materials. Changes to the curriculum included the order of units put together and the change of pacing.

H. PRESENTATIONS

None.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Blairstown Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

Mrs. Diego asked how much ESSR III funds are coming to the district.

J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

September 2, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2021 – Executive Session Minutes

Voice Vote:

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

K. FINANCE

Resolutions R22-32 through R22-36 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-32 Authorization for Payment of Bills (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator to approve the bills list as submitted for the dates between September 3, 2021 and October 7, 2021.

Fund 10 – Current Expense	\$1,004,151.95
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	\$94,210.73
Fund 60 – Food Service	\$1,020.00
Grand Total	\$1,099,382.68

R22-33 Approve Line Item Transfers (Attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the budget line item transfers for July to September 2021.

R22-34 Approve Vendor for Wheelchair Lift Replacement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve Mobility Elevator & Lift Company to replace the existing wheelchair lift in the amount of \$24,400.00 to be paid out of Maintenance Reserve Funds.

R22-35 Approve Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve Account

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the withdrawal of \$24,400.00 from the Maintenance Reserve Account for the wheelchair lift replacement project.

R22-36 Approve Field Trip Transportation Contract with the Allamuchy Township Board of Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve the following list of field trips and transportation contract with the Allamuchy Township Board of Education for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Date	# of Students	Destination	# of Buses	Trip Cost
10/22/2021	70	Camp Mason	2	\$647.16
10/26/2021	44	Waterloo Village	2	\$600.88
11/2/2021	51	DaVinci Science Center	2	\$647.16
TBD	65	Somerset County Environmental Education Center	2	\$647.16
11/23/2021	80	Fairview Lake YMCA Camp	2	\$600.88
4/7/2022	70	Centenary University	2	\$600.88
3/22/2022	8	Foot Hill Castle and Mercer Museum	1	\$393.16
4/26/2022	15	The Hydrogen House Project	1	\$323.58
5/5/2022	65	NJ Sea Consortium	2	\$1,017.46

5/12/2022	51	The Crayola Experience	2	\$647.16
5/25/2022	51	Lehigh Valley Zoo	2	\$647.16
5/27/2022	80	Sterling Hill Mines and Museum	2	\$508.30
TBD	70	North Warren Regional HS	2	\$600.88
6/2/2022	44	Liberty Science Center	2	\$462.44

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

L. PERSONNEL

Resolutions R22-37 through R22-44; R22-52 through R22-55 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-37 Accept Resignation of Treasurer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation of Lisa Benzaia, Treasurer effective September 7, 2021.

R22-38 Approve Hiring of Treasurer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Joe Schneider as Treasurer at a prorated salary of \$4,000.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-39 Approve Increase to Full-Time

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve increasing Ali Wolfskehl from 0.70 FTE to full-time at BA Step 2 for \$54,685.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-40 Approve Unpaid Medical Leave

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the unpaid medical leave after utilizing all available sick days for Laurie Pillus, until October 18, 2021.

R22-41 Approve Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Marissa Hardy as a substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-42 Approve Hiring of Part Time Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Catherine Bowman, part-time paraprofessional upon the receipt of finger print clearances at \$12.00 per hour, to increase to \$13.00 per hour January 1, 2022 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-43 Approve Hiring of Part Time Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Diane Nicasastro, part-time paraprofessional upon the receipt of finger print clearances at \$12.00 per hour, to increase to \$13.00 per hour January 1, 2022 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-44 Approve Stipend Positions

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the following stipend positions for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Name	Position	Amount
Kelly Zaleski	Spelling Bee Supervisor	\$400.00

R22-52 Approve Hiring of Part-Time Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Elizabeth Vigren as a part-time paraprofessional, 3 days a week at \$12.00 per hour to increase to \$13.00 per hour January 1, for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-53 Approve Hiring of Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Joanne Palmer as a substitute teacher, pending the results of the criminal history background check for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-54 Approve Maternity Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Jessica Farley-Lynch for maternity leave commencing December 13, 2021 to June 15, 2022 with a return date of June 16, 2022. Her leave will utilize 44 sick days December 13, 2021 to February 23, 2022, New Jersey Family Medical Leave Act from February 24, 2022 to May 26, 2022 and 13 sick days from May 27, 2022 to June 15, 2022.

R22-55 Approve After School Wilson Reading Program Tutor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Kaitlin Baker as the After School Wilson Reading Program Tutor for two 30 minute sessions per week at \$42.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Ms. Klein

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

M. EDUCATION

Resolution R22-29; R22-45 through R22-49 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-29 Approve Curriculum for 2021-2022 (Tabled at the September 2, 2021 Meeting)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the Computer Science and Design Thinking, Music, Physical Education, Science, Visual Arts and World Language (Spanish) curricula.

R22-45 Approve District Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached District Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-46 Approve Structured Learning Experience with North Warren Regional School District

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the structured learning experience with North Warren Regional School District to allow high school students to conduct job sampling as paraprofessionals for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-47 Approve List of Field Trips

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of field trips for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Date	Bus Required	Destination
	No	Main Street, Blairstown
10/22/2021	Yes	Camp Mason
10/26/2021	Yes	Waterloo Village
11/2/2021	Yes	DaVinci Science Center

TBD	Yes	Somerset County Environmental Education Center
TBD	Yes	Fairview Lake YMCA Camp
12/12/2021	No	Museum of Jewish Heritage (Virtual)
3/1/2022	Yes	Centenary University
3/22/2022	Yes	Foothill Castle and Mercer Museum
4/26/2022	Yes	The Hydrogen House Project
5/5/2022	Yes	NJ Sea Consortium
5/12/2022	Yes	The Crayola Experience
5/25/2022	Yes	Lehigh Valley Zoo
5/27/2022	Yes	North Warren Regional HS
5/27/2022	Yes	Sterling Hill Mines and Museum
6/2/2022	Yes	Liberty Science Center

R22-48 Approve Out of District Contract with Celebrate the Children

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the tuition contract with Celebrate the Children for student # 867381534 in the amount of \$74,160.00 and \$27,000.00 for extraordinary services (180 Days) for the 2021-2022 School Year.

R22-49 Approve the Return to Virtual Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached Return to Virtual Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. McElroy, second by Mrs. Sikkes

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

N. FACILITIES

Resolution R22-50 through R22-51 will be moved in one roll call vote

R22-50 Approve Tentative Facility Use Requests

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the tentative facility use requests for the following groups:

Name	Organization	Requested Date
Christine Malcolm	PTG	Library – 10/21/2021 from 5-8 PM

R22-51 Approve Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. McElroy

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None Abstained: None Absent: Mrs. Gerhardt and Mrs. Hambos

O. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

P. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed the property on Edge Hill Road in Blairstown. Mr. Herzer presented the original 1821 deed as well as tax maps with the property location. The property is 0.23 acres in size and is zoned for single family residential use; however the lot does not meet bulk requirements to build on. A cursory title search turned up a conflicting deed from 1879. The Board asked Mr. Herzer to retain the services of a title search company to determine whether the Board owns the property.

Q. OLD BUSINESS

1. Teacher Empowerment Training
2. Ad hoc Survey Committee Report – Survey to begin after the 2020-2021 School Year is completed
3. Cluster board services ad-hoc committee
4. Resource Officer/Added Security Measures

R. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Ms. Diego had a question regarding quarantine protocols. She asked is there a better way to contact trace students so that the district is not sending home healthy children. Ms. Diego also asked if there is a better way to keep the records.

S. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Ketch reported that there is new legislation that states that curriculum should include acceptance and inclusion.

T. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Mrs. McElroy to leave the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator