

# **BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Blairstown, New Jersey 07825**

**[www.blairstownelem.net](http://www.blairstownelem.net)**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 18, 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. Gerhardt, Mrs. Hambos, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. Rolph and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

### **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. Gerhardt reported that the finance committee met and discussed the issued regarding finding substitutes as well as financial concerns regarding personnel.

**H. PRESENTATIONS**

Start Strong Presentation by Mrs. Silvestri

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**J. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

October 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes

**Voice Vote:**

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Rolph

Against: None                      Abstained: None              Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**K. FINANCE**

*Resolutions R22-56 through R22-58; R22-67 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-56 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 October 8, 2021 and November 18, 2021.

<b>Fund 10 – Current Expense</b>	<b>\$1,140,790.52</b>
<b>Fund 20 – Special Revenue</b>	<b>\$78,716.79</b>
<b>Fund 60 – Food Service</b>	<b>\$36,529.04</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,256,036.35</b>

**R22-57 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 October 2021.

**R22-57 Accept Donation of Recess Balls for Four Square**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to accept the donation of recess balls for four square from the Caraballo family.

**R22-58 Approve The JDM Group to Upgrade and Install Security Camera System**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to approve The JDM Group to upgrade and install the security camera system not to exceed \$20,000.00 to be paid for out of the School Security Grant.

**R22-67 Accept the Funds for the Security Grant**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the School Business Administrator, to accept the funds for the Security Grant in the amount of \$23,356.00.

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mr. Cook

**Roll Call:** by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**L. PERSONNEL**

*Resolutions R22-59 through R22-63; R22-68 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-59 Approve Substitute Custodian**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Joseph Scialla as a substitute custodian at \$14.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-60 Approve Substitute Custodian**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Alex Diaz as a substitute custodian at \$14.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-61 Approve Hiring of Part-Time Paraprofessional**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Sydney MacDonough, 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.

**R22-62 Approve Hiring of Part-Time Paraprofessional**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Corey Russo, 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.

**R22-63 Approve Movement on the Salary Guide**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Dana Mosca to move to MA45 Step 17 on the salary guide in the amount of \$78,905.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-68 Approve Hiring of Part-Time Paraprofessional**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Rola Lahoud as a part-time paraprofessional, at \$12.00 per hour to increase to \$13.00 per hour January 1, 2022 (increase in minimum wage) for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

**Roll Call:** by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: Mr. Van Valkenburg on R22-63 only

Absent: Mrs.

McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**M. EDUCATION**

*Resolution R22-64 through R22-65 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-64 Approve HIB Report**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached HIB report.

**R22-65 Approve Nursing Services Plan**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the attached nursing services plan.

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. Hambos

**Roll Call:** by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**N. FACILITIES**

*Resolution R22-66 and R22-69 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-66 Approve Fire Door Retrofit Project to be Submitted to the DOE for Review**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the Fire Door Retrofit Project to be submitted to the DOE for review.

**R22-69 Approve Sale of Vail Road Property**

**WHEREAS**, the Blairstown Board of Education (hereinafter the “Board” or the “District”) is the owner of a parcel of land located at 35 Vail Road, Blairstown, New Jersey, identified by the Municipality’s Tax Map as Block 1503, Lot 4 and consisting of approximately 2.45 acres upon which the former Vail School is located (together, hereinafter the “Vail Road Property”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that based upon current enrollment projections and existing facility capacities, and taking into consideration the District's Long-Range Facility Plan, there is no future use or need for the Vail Road Property;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board has determined that the Vail Road Property is no longer desirable or necessary for educational purposes and should therefore be conveyed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-6 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4.

Accordingly, the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes the District Administration to submit this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of Education’s Division of Administration and Finance for authorization to dispose of the Vail Road Property.

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Jeremy Cook, Board President

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Matthew P. Herzer, Board Secretary

Motion by Mrs. Gerkhardt, second by Mrs. Rolph

**Roll Call:** by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

## **O. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **P. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **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. Zaimis asked for clarification on the scheduling of specials. She stated that there is one marking period where there is no STEM or library time. She is concerned with the reductions in time and asked if changes could be made.

Ms. Carpenter passed out literature to the board regarding the usage of computers with students in kindergarten. She wanted to know how much time kindergartners spend using Chromebooks. She is concerned that the usage of Chromebooks takes away from reading and development of letter recognition. Ms. Carpenter also added that computers have no place in kindergarten. She also asked if Linkit is a mandate or a school initiative and that the rollout of Chromebooks was ill timed.

Mike F. asked if the administration had any thoughts on child vaccine mandates. He also stated that children should not be forced to vaccinate. He also stated that the property at Vail Road should be kept for overflow.

Ms. Diego expressed concern over bad weather and recess. She asked what the children are allowed to do when they are not able to go outside. Ms. Diego also commented on the issue of lack of substitutes.

#### **S. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

None.

#### **T. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Blairstown Township Board of Education, that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

##### **Personnel**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The Minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

##### **Voice Vote:**

Motion by Mrs. Gerhardt, second by Mrs. Incho to go into executive session at 8:02 pm.

Against: None                      Abstained: None              Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

#### **U. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

##### **Voice Vote:**

Motion by Mrs. Hambos, second by Mr. Van Valkenburg to leave executive session at 8:41 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**R22-70 Approve Termination of Employee**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the termination of employee #45031689, effective immediately

Motion by Mr. Van Valkenburg, second by Ms. Klein

**Roll Call:** by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Sikkes

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Voice Vote:**

Motion by Mrs. Gerhardt, second by Mrs. Rolph to leave the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator