

# **BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Blairstown, New Jersey 07825**

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 5, 2021 Meeting**

**7:00PM**



### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. McElroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **B. FLAG SALUTE**

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

Present: Mrs. Gerkhardt, Mrs. Hambos, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Rolph and Mr. Van Valkenburg

Absent: Mr. Cook 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**

Security – The committee will be meeting August 12, 2021 to discuss ongoing security projects.

## **H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOVEMBER BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES**

- Michele Benigno – 3 Year Term
- Sotie Hambos – 3 Year Term
- Kathryn Hawkswell – 3 Year Term
- Jennifer Leach – 3 Year Term
- Sam Scocozza – 3 Year Term
- Shanna R. Sikkes – 3 Year Term
- Stefanie Fredericks – 2 Year Term

## **I. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **J. 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. As a virtual meeting, the public will be able to observe and participate in the meeting by attending virtually online.

A parent asked about the mask mandate for the upcoming school year.

Jennifer Major asked if the Board as a whole has written a letter to the Governor regarding mask mandates.

Erin Zabriske agreed with the other parents about not mandating all students to wear masks in school. Mrs. Zabriske thanked Dr. Ketch for his efforts and stated that parents should have a choice to mask their child. She also asked if the attorney could fight for our district.

Kristine Caravello agreed with the other parents regarding the opposition to the mask mandate and stated that Warren County had lower transmission rates. She also asked where the does the Board stand regarding the mandate.

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

- June 22, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- June 22, 2021 – First Executive Session
- June 22, 2021 – Second Executive Session

**Voice Vote:**

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Hambos

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

**L. FINANCE**

*Resolutions R22-1 through R22-6 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-1 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 June 23, 2021 and August 5, 2021.

<b>Fund 10 – Current Expense</b>	<b>\$539,466.94</b>
<b>Fund 20 – Special Revenue</b>	<b>36,790.00</b>
<b>Fund 60 – Food Service</b>	<b>\$1,243.55</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$577,500.49</b>

**R22-2 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 June 2021.

**R22-3 Report of the Treasurer and Board Secretary for May and June 2021 (Attached)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Treasurer and Board Secretary’s Financial Reports are in agreement for the month of May and June 2021, approved by the Board as recommended by the School Business Administrator.

**R22-4 Accept Security Grant Funds Award**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to accept the Security Grant Fund Award in the amount of \$23,356.00 (\$4,101.00 for Alyssa’s Law Compliance Reimbursement and \$19,255.00 for upgrades and replacements for surveillance server and security cameras).

**R22-5 Approve Establishment of Petty Cash Funds for 2021-2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the establishment of petty cash funds for the Superintendent’s office in the amount of \$150.00 and \$75.00 for the office of Special Services for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-6 Approve Grant Salaries for 2021-2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the following salaries to be partially paid through grants:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Full Salary</b>	<b>Salary Paid with Grant</b>
Ann Cain	IDEA Preschool	\$18,525.00	\$11,782.00
Joy Menzel	ESEA Title I	\$92,650.00	\$37,382.00

Motion by Mrs. Gerkhardt, second by Mrs. Rolph

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

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mr. Cook and Mrs. Sikkes

**M. PERSONNEL**

*Resolutions R22-7 through R22-15; R22-19 through R22-20 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-7 Approve Hiring of Speech Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Christine Ritz, Speech Teacher at MA Step 1 effective September 1, 2021 in the amount of \$56,810.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-8 Approve Sick Day Payout**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the sick day payout for Leslie Dell for 51 days at \$60.00 per day in the amount of \$3,060.00.

**R22-9 Approve Sick Day Payout**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the sick day payout for Patricia Ashbey for 21.50 days at \$60.00 per day in the amount of \$1,290.00.

**R22-10 Approve Sick Day Payout**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the sick day payout for Barbara Celentano for 13 days at \$60.00 per day in the amount of \$780.00.

**R22-11 Approve List of Substitute Teachers and Aides**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of returning substitute teacher and aides for the 2021-2022 School Year at \$80.00 per diem.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Blanchard	Sarah	Sub Aide
Centrella	Joan	Sub Aide
DiStasi	Maryann	Substitute Teacher
Dugan	Christa	Substitute Teacher
Edwards	Max	Substitute Teacher
Gillman	Jane	Substitute Teacher
Kampfe	Ariana	Substitute Teacher
Maring	Marilyn	Substitute Teacher
Muessig	Danielle	Substitute Teacher
Oatley	Jamie	Substitute Teacher
Sherman	Dian	Substitute Teacher
Warnkin	Barbara	Substitute Teacher
Washburn	Laurie	Substitute Teacher

**R22-12 Approve List of Substitute Nurses**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of returning substitutes nurses for the 2021-2022 School Year at \$200.00 per diem, \$130.00 per diem for field trips.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Lobycz	Claudia	Substitute Nurse
Simpson	Rachel	Substitute Nurse
Carpio	Jen	Substitute Nurse
Schmidt	Diane	Substitute Nurse

**R22-13 Approve List of Staff Members as Substitutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the following list of staff members as substitutes for the 2021-2022 School Year at \$40.00 per diem.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Bronstein	Robin	Substitute Teacher
Burham	Kelly	Substitute Teacher
VanWettering	Anna	Substitute Teacher
Finley	Kelly	Substitute Teacher
Sullivan	Crystal	Substitute Teacher
Hill	Kimberley	Substitute Teacher

**R22-14 Approve Movement on Salary Guide**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve Aimee Voss to move on the salary guide to MA, step 19 at \$80,360.00 for 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-15 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Joan Pelosi	Traffic Guard	\$2,400.00

**R22-19 Accept Resignation**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent accept the resignation of Jamie Oatley, Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher effective immediately.

**R22-20 Approve Hiring of Paraprofessional**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Hailey Lynn Nicastro, Paraprofessional, effective September 1, 2021 at \$12.00 per hour (to increase to \$13.00 per hour January 1, 2022 per State Minimum Wage Law).

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

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

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mr. Cook and Mrs. Sikkes

**EDUCATION**

*Resolutions R22-16 through R22-17 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-16 Approve the Danielson Model for Teacher Evaluations for 2021-2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the Danielson Model for Teacher Evaluations for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**R22-17 Approve the NJ Department of Education Model for Principal Evaluations for 2021-2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the New Jersey Department of Education Model for Principal Evaluations for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. Inscho, second by Mrs. Hambos

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

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mr. Cook and Mrs. Sikkes

**N. FACILITIES**

*Resolution R22-18 will be moved in one roll call vote*

**R22-18 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Requested Date</b>
Cate Pasculli	BES Musical Theater	See attached form
Pat Sagan	Blairstown Dept. of Recreation	See attached form
Allison Swift	Blairstown Youth Basketball	See attached forms
Joe Van Valkenburg	Blairstown Youth Softball	See attached form

Motion by Ms. Klein, second by Mrs. Gerhardt

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

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mr. Cook and Mrs. Sikkes

## **O. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **P. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board held a brief discussion regarding the anticipated announcement of the Governor's mask mandate for the upcoming school year.

## **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**

Pattie Van Valkenburg stated that there should be a choice for masks. She also asked about the sale of the Lambert Road property and asked for an explanation of the BEARS program. She also asked if teachers will send out newsletters for each grade level.

Stephanie Fredericks asked about the reading curriculum and requested to have a reading list for what is being read to the students.

Mrs. Zabriskie asked does a parent have a right to pull kids from things in the curriculum that the parent does not agree with. She also asked about how much we can ask teachers to do and stated that parents need to work with teachers.

A parent asked if advanced math classes will be held again.

Ms. Fleming spoke regarding the advanced math program.

## **S. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

None.



**T. ADJOURNMENT**

**Voice Vote:**

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. McElroy to leave the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mr. Cook and Mrs. Sikkes

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator