

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2024
7:15 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

Mr. Reaves called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

B. Open Public Meeting Notice

In compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey" adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Bedminster was provided in the following manner: On July 24, 2024, adequate written notice of this meeting was posted at the bulletin board in the Township Clerk's Office at the Bedminster Township Municipal Building and the Main Office of the Bedminster Township School, mailed to The Courier News, The Bernardsville News, and all subscribers, and filed with the Township Clerk.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Reaves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Roll Call

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Yes	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson		

E. Executive Session – 6:30 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, g, h below which falls within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule:

- a. Individual privacy - no HIBs, parent privacy
- b. Collective bargaining agreements
- c. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- d. Investment of public funds of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- f. Pending or anticipated litigation
- g. Attorney-client privilege
- h. Personnel - employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Open Public Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

F. Recognition of Board Member - Mr. Reaves

Superintendent's Report

- Hello and thank you for joining us
- Enrollment
- no HIBs, thanks to our counseling/admin/parent partnership
- MS Principals met again - BTS/BMS

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- Winter concerts Orch & Strings, Winter Band & Jazz, Winter Choral & Handbell - thanks Mr. Lefurge & Mr. Copeland and student performers
- District Goals - wellbeing - food donations, toy drive - 5th grader partnered with a hospital
- SLEO MoA J item
- District goals- PM remediation on-going (Title I funds)
- District Goals:well-being - spring staff training CPR recertification
- NJQSAC Quality Single Accountability Continuum Jan meeting with full committee
- EoY assembly Ms. Gomez will attend
- New hires: L item(s)
- Wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and break, annual re-org mtg Mon, Jan 6th
- Recognition with a plaque of outgoing BoE member, Mr. Jeff Reaves - thank you for your service to all the students and staff at BTS

Business Administrator’s Report

G. Public Questions/Comments

Please note that this segment will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. At this point in the meeting, comments from the public will be open to agenda items only. Each person is kindly requested to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes. As per Board Policy, all participants must preface comments by first stating his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate. Any written statements are to be provided to the Board Secretary, in advance of the Board Meeting, prior to the statement being read at a Board Meeting.

H. Approval of Minutes

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- November 21, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Abstain from Executive minutes, yes to Regular minutes	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson		

I. Task Groups

- Negotiations Committee - Jeff Reaves
 - More discussion to be had on negotiations
- Somerset Hills School District - Sarah Nathans
 - Board Meeting next week
- Technology Representative - Gabriel Wickizer

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- o No report - meet next year
- Security/Safety Ad Hoc Representative - Patty Segal
 - o Meeting - 12-14 people on call
 - o Update on security features infrastructure
- Child Care - Sarah Nathans
 - o No update

Delegate/Representative Appointments

- New Jersey School Boards Association - Gaby Gomez
 - o January governance-mandated training
 - o Trenton meeting for state aid - make your voices heard
- PTO - Gabriel Wickizer and Gaby Gomez
 - o No general meeting was held
 - o Dine and Donate event at Bridgewater Shack Shack 12/3/2024 - success

J. BUSINESS

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

2025 Contract – Lead Attorney of Record

J.1 Nicholas Celso III, Esq. of the Busch Law Group, LLC, 450 Main Street, Metuchen, New Jersey, as attorney of record from January 1, 2025 through the January 2026 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175 for general legal services, special education and construction matters. Work performed by paralegals and law Clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated November 18, 2024.

2025 Contract – Special Education Attorney of Record

J.2 Nathanya G. Simon of the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey as the special education attorney of record from January 1, 2025 through the January 2026 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175.00 for special education legal matters. Work performed by Associates shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$165.00. Work performed by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100.00, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated December 5, 2024.

J.3 Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs. 2025 Lincoln Highway, Suite 200, P.O. Box 3012, Edison, New Jersey for professional services rendered through 9/30/2024 for student #2027247 in the amount of \$152.00

2024-2025 Music and Drama Service Providers

J.4 the following:

Provider	Activity	Estimated Cost

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Mr. Chris Vokes	Piano tuning	\$160.00
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Facilities Usage Request(s)

J.5 the following facility request(s):

Organization	Event	Usage date(s) and time(s)
Student Council	Winter Fun Night	January 29, 2025

Cybersecurity

J.6 the following:

Vendor/Service	Estimated Expenses
PBG Networks	\$60,000.00
Insurance 3rd party	\$30,000.00
Insurance 3rd party	\$8,755.00
Experian	\$20,000.00
Antivirus vendor	\$4,200.00
Security	\$8,000.00
Barracuda	\$7,000.00
Legal	\$40,000.00

Memorandum of Agreement

J.7 approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Township Board of Education hereby approves the MOA concerning the hiring and placement of a Class III Police Officer, a Memorandum of Agreement Between Bedminster Township and Bedminster Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

Medical Transportation

J.8 approves the following medical transportation beginning January 6, 2025:

Student #	Transportation	Amount
289584	Able Medical Transportation	\$926.00 per day

J.9 Mr. Wickizer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Segal to add the repeal of Policy #5756 to the January 16, 2025

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agenda.

J. agenda items J.1 through J.9

Motion to approve **Items J.** moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Anderson

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Yes	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Ms. Nathans, no to J.9	Absent	Ms. Stevinson		

K. FINANCE

Finance & Facilities Committee Report - Gabriel Wickizer

- Rod Grant Chillers and RTU project
- Removal of 4 trees, survey of property

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

2024-2025 Financial Reports

K.1 the Report of the Secretary for November 2024 submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-16.10(c)(3), I, Eulalia Gillis, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations this fiscal year.

the recommendation that the Secretary's Report for November 2024 be accepted and filed, and the Board of Education hereby certifies that no major account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for November 2024 be accepted and filed.

2024-2025 Transfers

K.2 transfers for the 2024-2025 school year totaling \$302,169.09 from November 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024 as per the monthly transfer report.

2024-2025 Invoices-General Agency Account

K.3 the invoices presented for payment totaling \$1,156,570.83 from the General Agency Account from November 22, 2024 through December 12, 2024:

Fund	Amount
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(10) General Fund	\$1,142,476.88
(12) Capital Outlay	\$0.00
(20) Special Revenue	\$14,904.17
(30) Capital Projects	\$0.00
(40) Debt Services	\$0.00
Total	\$1,157,381.05

2024-2025 Invoices-Student Activities Account

K.4 invoices presented for payment totaling \$860.03 from the Student Activities Account from November 22, 2024 through December 12, 2024.

2024-2025 Invoices-Food Service Account

K.5 invoices presented for payment totaling \$296.00 from the Food Service Account from November 22, 2024 through December 12, 2024.

Approval of 2024-2025 ESEA Grant Amendment

K.6 WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve the submission EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) grant application and any amendments;
WHEREAS, the Bedminster Township Schools Board of Education is in need of amending the fiscal and program allocations, AMEND ESSA - TITLE II grant application to accept and distribute 2024 carryover of \$8,119.00. Funds are available for obligation between July 1, 2023 and must be expended by September 30, 2024.

Title	2024-2025 Amount	Carryover	Total
Title IA	\$30,753.00	\$0.00	\$30,753.00
Title IIA	\$11,589.00	\$8,119.00	\$19,708.00
Title IVA	\$10,000.00	\$2,499.00	\$12,499.00
Title III	\$20,029.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

ROD GRANT PROJECTS 2024-25

Chiller Project #9625

K.7 Accepts the Receipt of Bids for the 2024-25 ROD Grant Chiller Project #9625 pursuant to the requirements of Title 1:18A-4, the Bedminster Board of Education received the following bids for the Chiller Project.

Rejects the Bids for the 2024-25 ROD Grant Chiller Project #9625 pursuant to the requirements of Title 1:18A-4, the Bedminster Board of Education rejects the following bids for the Chiller Project as follows:

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RTU Replacement Project #9626

K.8 Accepts the Receipt of Bids for the 2024-25 ROD Grant RTU Replacement Project #9626 pursuant to the requirements of Title 1:18A-4, the Bedminster Board of Education received the following bids for the RTU Replacement Project.

Rejects the of Bids for the 2024-25 ROD Grant RTU Replacement Project #9626 pursuant to the requirements of Title 1:18A-4, the Bedminster Board of Education rejects the following bids for the RTU Replacement Project as follows:

Acceptance of Financial Audit for Year Ending June 30, 2024

K.9 accepts the financial Audit and findings expressed by the auditing firm of Nisivoccia, LLP, as cited in their reports entitled: Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024, and Auditors’ Management Report on Administrative Findings - Financial, Compliance, and Performance for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024.

K. agenda items K.1 through K.9
Motion to approve **Items K.** moved by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Nathans
Moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Nathans to amend K7 & K8 to remove all language pursuant to the award, but keep bid receipt and rejections

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Yes	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson		

L. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS

Programs & Personnel Committee Report– Laurie Anderson

- Meeting on all L items were discussed

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve:

Curriculum

L.1 the following staff, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Bedminster Township Board of Education and the BEA contract in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027:

Teacher	Subject / Grade Level	Hours
McNamara	Science - Grade 3	Up to 40 hours

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Rescind 2024-2025 Stipends

- L.2 rescind the following stipends being offered for the 2024-2025 school year are part of the negotiated contract between the Bedminster Township Board of Education and the Bedminster BEA contract, in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027, and within the terms and conditions of Stipends - Schedule A, Stipends - Schedule B, Stipends - Schedule C* (*C3 and C4 - not all staff being approved will be needed for all on-site or off-site duties) as per the Bedminster Township Board of Education and the Bedminster BEA Association Tentative Agreements:

BEDMINSTER SCHOOL 2024-2025 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES		
Activity Title	Last Name of Staff Member	Stipend - Schedule
Drama Club Director (Primary) Grade 2	Alfieri	A

2024-2025 Stipends

- L.3 the following stipends being offered for the 2024-2025 school year are part of the negotiated contract between the Bedminster Township Board of Education and the Bedminster BEA contract, in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027, and within the terms and conditions of Stipends - Schedule A, Stipends - Schedule B, Stipends - Schedule C* (*C3 and C4 - not all staff being approved will be needed for all on-site or off-site duties) as per the Bedminster Township Board of Education and the Bedminster BEA Association Tentative Agreements:

BEDMINSTER SCHOOL 2024-2025 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES		
Activity Title	Last Name of Staff Member	Stipend - Schedule
Drama Club Director (Primary) Grade 2	Leonti	A

New Hires(s)

- L.4 the following newly hired staff per the provisions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027, pursuant to a successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5 and proof of fingerprinting:

Name	Position	Salary	Anticipated start date
David Egner	Teacher	\$79,065.00 prorated (Step 13, BA+15)	January 6, 2025

Leave of Absence

- L.5 a paid medical leave of absence for employee #B0000756 from December 17, 2024 through January 28, 2025.

Payment of Unused Vacation Days

- L.6 the following to receive payment for unused vacation days upon their resignation per the terms and conditions of the applicable employment contract:

Amber Jimenez	\$2,454.88 Vacation Day Payout	resigned as of December 4, 2024
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Trips

L.7 the following class/field trips:

Grade	Trip/Location	Date
Grade 1	The Growing Stage Theater Field Trip; Netcong, NJ	May 2025

Workshop(s)/Site Visit(s)

L.8 the following staff for the workshop(s)/site visit(s) listed:

Name	Date	Title	Cost
Karna Johnsen	12/10/2024	EWEG Training; Manville, NJ	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Kelly Peck	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Jolanta Kolodziejski	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Elena Garcia Albea	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Joanna Alfone	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Hannah Scansaroli	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Ana Grimm Bolle	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Klaudia Zdybel	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in house)	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Kelly Peck	1/14/2025	Best Practices for New Jersey Public School Behavior Analysis	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Elena Garcia Albea	1/14/2025	Best Practices for New Jersey Public School Behavior Analysis	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage

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Klaudia Zdybel	1/14/2025	Best Practices for New Jersey Public School Behavior Analysis	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Thomas Notte	02/24/2025 - 02/25/2025	NJAHPERD Annual Convention	\$350.00 Registration; \$49.44 Mileage
Jenna Thomas	02/24/2025 - 02/25/2025	NJAHPERD Annual Convention	\$350.00 Registration; \$49.44 Mileage

Substitute Teacher Hires(s)

L.9 the following, per the substitute salary guide for the 2024-2025 school year pursuant to successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5 and proof of fingerprinting:

Sarah Price

Resignation(s)

L.10 the following resignation(s):

Name	Position	Reason	Effective Date(s)
Natalie Ostrowski	Teacher (leave replacement)	Resignation	February 9, 2025

L.11 the Bedminster Township Board of Education to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm at the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 16, 2025.

L. agenda item L.1 through L.11

Motion to approve **Items L.** moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Mr. Reaves

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Yes	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Ms. Nathans	Absent	Ms. Stevinson		

M. Public Questions/Comments

Please note that this segment will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. At this point in the meeting, comments from the public will be open to agenda and non-agenda items. Each person is kindly requested to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes. As per Board Policy, all participants must preface comments by first stating his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate. Any written statements are to be provided to the Board Secretary, in advance of the Board Meeting, prior to the statement being read at a Board Meeting.

N. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Public Session at 7:49 p.m. moved by Mr. Reaves, seconded by Mr. Wickizer

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Carried as follows: Yes: (6); No: (0); Abstain: (0); Absent (1)

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

**January 6, 2025
OPEN PUBLIC RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 6:00 PM**

Immediately followed by

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
January 16, 2024
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**