

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE BUSINESS OF ORGANIZATION
JANUARY 4, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- (1) Call Meeting to Order Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer
 • Ms.Boehmer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- (2) Open Public Meetings Act Statements Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer
 • Ms. Boehmer read the following:

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 May 11, 2023, adequate written notice of this meeting was posted at the bulletin board in the Township Clerk's Office at the Bedminster Township Municipal Building, the Bedminster Township School Main Office, mailed to The Courier News, The Bernardsville News, and to all subscribers, and filed with the Township Clerk.

- (3) Pledge of Allegiance Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer
 • Ms. Boehmer led the Pledge of Allegiance
- (4) Appoint Board Secretary Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education appoint Robbin Boehmer, Board Secretary, as the chair of the 2024 Reorganization Meeting.

Voice vote: All in favor

- (5) Election Results 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education certified the results of the Annual School Board Election held on November 7, 2023, including absentee ballots, for membership to the Board of Education of two (2) persons for two (3) year terms:

3-Three Year Terms

Sarah Nathans	1,487 Votes Cast
Laurie Anderson	28 Votes Cast (Write In)

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- Mrs. Boehmer congratulated and welcomed Ms. Anderson and Ms. Nathans to the board for their three year terms.

- (6) Oath of Office to New Board Members Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer
 • Ms. Boehmer administered the Oath to Ms. Anderson.
 • Mrs. Boehmer stated that Ms. Nathans was sworn in earlier in the week so that she would be able to attend the Somerset Hills board meeting as the Bedminister representative.

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(7) Roll Call

Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer

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

Code of Ethics

Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education adopt the Code of Ethics as it appears per N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

- I will uphold and enforce all laws and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, or social standing.
- I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if I disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
- I will vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available at the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

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- All members present board members read the Code of Ethics and acknowledged receipt of the Code of Ethics.
 - Mr. Wickizer reviewed the voting procedure as per the Board Bylaws regarding the election of the Board President and Vice President.

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- (8) Election of Board President Board Secretary Robbin Boehmer
- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Mr. Biedron
- (b) Nomination(s) for President
- Mr. Wickizer nominated Mr. Reaves for Board President
- (c) Motion to Close the Nomination moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Biedron
- (d) Roll Call Vote

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

- Mr. Reaves was elected President. Mr. Reaves accepted the nomination.
- Mrs. Boehmer congratulated Mr. Reaves on his appointment as Board President.
- The gavel was passed to Mr. Reaves as the new Board President.

- (9) Election of Board Vice President 2024 Board President
- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Nathans
- (b) Nomination(s) for Vice President
- Mr. Wickizer nominated Ms. Gomez for Vice President.
 - Mr. Reaves nominated Ms. Biedron for Vice President.
 - The board discussed each nomination.
 - Mr. Wickizer cited Ms. Gomez’s commitment to the board and the district for the long run and interest in the continuing excellence of the district.
 - Ms. Biedron also spoke of her desire for academic excellence, experience and interest in mentoring of new board members.
 - Both candidates’ nominations were recognized as meeting the board’s desire to identify those with potential who would be a continuing presence.
 - The board acknowledged that both nominations provided for a hard choice and that the election of either candidate was a positive election to the role.
- (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Segal
- (d) Roll Call Vote

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

- The board voted for Vice President by paper ballot.
- Mr. Reaves collected and read the responses to the public.
- Ms. Gomez received three votes.
- Ms. Biedron received two votes.
- There was one abstention.
- Mr. Reaves announced Ms. Gomez as the Vice President.

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- (10) Public Comments 2024 Board President
- Dr. Giordano asked Mr. Reaves if the committee assignments could be announced by Monday, January 8, 2024. Mr. Reaves said he would be able to meet this request.
 - Mr. Wickizer volunteered to chair the Finance and Facilities (F&F) committee.
 - Ms. Nathans volunteered to continue as the representative to the Somerset Hills Board of Education.
 - Mr. Reaves thanked Mr. Wickizer and Ms. Nathans for their continued support and accepted their offers.
 - Ms. Biedron offered to mentor other board members.

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.

- The board read the following acknowledgement:
- (11) WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Bedminster Township Board of Education is one of 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Bedminster Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the

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preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Bedminster Township Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2024 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Bedminster Township Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

(12) Adjournment: Special Meeting For The Business of Organization

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:38 pm moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Biedron

Voice vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain; 2 absent

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

**January 18, 2024
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,



Robbin Boehmer
Board Secretary