

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE BUSINESS OF ORGANIZATION
JANUARY 6, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- (1) Call Meeting to Order Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis
 • Ms. Gillis called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
- (2) Open Public Meetings Act Statements Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis
 • Ms. Gillis 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 December 5, 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, 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 Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis
 • Ms. Gillis led the Pledge of Allegiance
- (4) Appoint Board Secretary Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education appoint Eulalia Gillis, Interim Board Secretary, as the chair of the 2025 Reorganization Meeting.

Moved by Ms. Stevison and seconded by Ms. Nathans

- (5) Election Results 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education certified the results of the Annual School Board Election held on November 5, 2024, including absentee ballots, for membership to the Board of Education of two (2) persons for two (3) year terms:

3-Three Year Terms

Gabriel Wickizer	2,618 Votes Cast
Marshall Mabry	2,391 Votes Cast

- Ms. Gillis congratulated and welcomed Mr. Wickizer and Mr. Mabry to the board for their three-year terms.
- (6) Oath of Office to New Board Members Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis
 • Ms. Gillis administered the Oath to Mr. Wickizer and Mr. Mabry

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(7) Roll Call

Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Mr. Mabry	Yes	Stevinson		

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 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.
- All present board members read the Code of Ethics and acknowledged receipt of the Code of Ethics.

(8) Election of Board President

Interim Board Secretary E. Gillis

- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
- (b) Nomination(s) for President
 - Ms. Stevinson nominated Ms. Nathans for Board President, seconded by Mr. Wickizer
- (c) Motion to Close the Nomination moved by Ms. Stevinson, seconded by Ms. Segal

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(d) Roll Call Vote

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Mr. Mabry	Yes	Stevinson		

- Ms. Nathans was elected President. Ms. Nathans accepted the nomination.
- Ms. Gillis congratulated Ms. Nathans on her appointment as Board President.
- The gavel was passed to Ms. Nathans as the new Board President.

(9) Election of Board Vice President 2025 Board President

- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Segal
- (b) Nomination(s) for Vice President
- Mr. Wickizer nominated Ms. Gomez for Vice President, seconded by Ms. Anderson.
- (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Ms. Segal, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
- (d) Roll Call Vote

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Mr. Mabry	Yes	Stevinson		

(10) Public Comments 2025 Board President

- Ms. Stevinson thanked Ms. Nathans and Ms. Gomez for stepping up and being the board president and vice president
- Ms. Gomez welcomed Mr. Mabry to the board

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 acknowledgment:
- (11) WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2025 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

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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 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 6:19 pm moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Segal

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Yes	Ms. Segal		
Yes	Mr. Mabry	Yes	Stevinson		

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

**January 18, 2024
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM**

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OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Eulalia Gillis
Interim Board Secretary