

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 16, 2025  
7:00 p.m**

**A. Call to Order**

Ms. Nathans called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 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 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**

Ms. Nathans led the Pledge of Allegiance

**D. Roll Call**

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

**E. Executive Session – 6:35 p.m.**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) g and 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
- 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. Winter Wellness Presentation by Wellness Committee students**

**Superintendent’s Report - SSDS HIB Reporting Period 1 summary 07/01-12/31/24, District Goals update**

- Thank you for joining us this evening
- Wellness Committee presentation this evening Winter Wellness
- Educator of the Year - Congratulations Mrs. Sullivan (McCoy)
- Congratulations Ms. Nathans (President) & M.s Gomez (VP) - BoE

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- Welcome Marshall Mabry - new BoE member
- Thank you law enforcement, Jan 9th Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Recognized firefighters, EMT/EMS, police, citizens, those who continue to battle the LA Fires
- Enrollment - 416 students at BTS, 277 student at BHS
- no HIBs, counseling/admin/parent partnership working together
- District goals- PM remediation is ongoing (Title I)
- NJQSAC Quality Single Accountability Continuum committee meeting Jan 9th
- School closed Monday, Jan 20th - MLK, Jr. Day
- February - Green Team annual water bottle filling station challenge
- School closed Friday, Feb 14 & Monday, Feb 17th
- Mrs. Mowery - Read Across America w/o Feb 24th
- Next meeting Feb. 20th, public NJSBA training 5-6:30, executive 6:30, public 7pm
- Honor and recognize our board & boards of ed across the state, during board recognition month
- Full School Safety Data System (SSDS) Reporting Period 1 public report: 0 incidents of violence, vandalism, substances, weapons, or confirmed HIBs; 12 programs and 11 trainings offered to stakeholders
- Progress on the Annual District Goals half-year report out to the board of training, programs, practices, newsletters, collaborations, presentations, and PLC/faculty meeting topics related to Math achievement, ELA achievement, and Citizenship and Well-Being progress

**Business Administrator's Report**

- Budget Prep
- Chapter 44
- ROD Grant - prep with stakeholders for possible start at the end of the school year
- Ethics Disclosure Reminder

**G. Public Questions/Comments - 7:25 p.m.**

The following residents had questions/comments about Policy 5756:

Tina Dadas, Caroline Parker, Tiffany Elliott, John Taylor, Jeff Reaves, Tom Elliott, Kim Taylor, Sandy Ruzicka, Jesse Ruzicka and Jeff Reaves were in favor of abolishing;

The following had comments about Policy 5756 and were not in favor of abolishing the policy:  
Suzie Stevinson;

CSA, Jennifer Giordano, urged the board to reconsider their decision in light of the pending appellate court decision;

Jeff Reaves reiterated that there is no need to wait until after the court decision to abolish the policy.

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Motion to close the first public session at 8:00 p.m.  
Moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Stevinson

*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:

- Rescind the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- November 21, 2024 Revised Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 12, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 6, 2025 Reorganization Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve **Item H.** moved by Ms. Stevinson, seconded by Mr. Wickizer

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

**I. Task Groups**

- Negotiations Committee - TBD -
  - No report
- Somerset Hills School District - Suzie Stevenson for Gaby Gomez
  - Website, budget, retreat, curriculum meeting
- Technology Representative - Gabriel Wickizer
  - Key changes to improve the safety and security of technology
- Security/Safety Ad Hoc Representative - Patricia Segal
  - No report
- Child Care - Laurie Anderson
  - No report

**Delegate/Representative Appointments**

- New Jersey School Boards Association - TBD
- PTO - Gaby Gomez and Gabriel Wickizer
  - Met last night, Spring Fling in April ticket sale begins 2/3

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**BUSINESS**

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

**District Wellness**

J.1 May 2025 as Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month.

**Submission of the 2024-2025 ESEA Title I Performance Report**

J.2 the submission of the 2024-2025 ESEA Title I Performance Report on December 20, 2024.

**NJDoE Equivalency Application for NJQSAC Cohort 3**

J.3 the submission of the NJDoE Equivalency Application for NJQSAC Cohort 3.

- CSA, Jennifer Giordano updated the board of the NJQSAC NJDoE Equivalency Application option if weighted performance indicators are needed for Indicators 1-7 NJQSAC I&P

**Contracts**

J.4 the following:

Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47, the Bedminster Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the following contracts previously awarded by the Board of Education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey State Title 18A:18. *et sec*, New Jersey Administrative Code Title 6A:23, and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR, Part 200. The specific terms of each of these contracts will be detailed in the resolution as the board takes official action.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Matheny Medical & Educational Center	\$580.00 at the per diem rate for tuition for the 2024-2025 school year	On or about January 6, 2025 Student #289584
The Medical Access Group, D/B/A, A Caring Connection	RN \$77.00 per hour LPN \$67.00 per hour CHHA \$32.00 per hour	Student #289584

**Transportation Contract**

J.5 Able Transportation \$926 per diem for out-of-district special needs transportation for the 2024-2025 school year (prorated - ends no later than June 30, 2025)

J.6 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

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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 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.

**Policies**

J.7 the first reading of the following policy:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
P 2365	Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) - <b>Postponed</b>	N
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)	R
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M)	R
P 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices - <b>Postponed on this agenda, move to February agenda for first reading</b>	R
P 5533	Student Smoking (M)	R
P 5701	Academic Integrity	R

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P 5710	Student Grievance	R
P 7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M)	R
P 8500	Food Services (M)	R
P 9163	Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (M) - <b>Strike policy</b>	N
P 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)	R

\*A- Abolished; N- New; R- Revised

**Regulations**

J.8 the first reading of the following regulation:

Number	Description	Action
R 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices - <b>Postponed on this agenda, move to February agenda for first reading</b>	N
R 5533	Student Smoking	R
R 7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M)	R
R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)	R

\*A- Abolished; N- New; R- Revised

- CSA Jennifer Giordano reviewed the policy alert summary of revisions publicly for all policies and regulations listed above

**Facilities Usage Request(s)**

J.9 the following facility request(s):

Organization	Event	Room(s) Requested	Usage date(s) and time(s)
Bedminster Recreation	Afterschool Hip Hop Program	Room 262	2/3/2025 - 3/31/2025 on Mondays; 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Bedminster Recreation	Lego Engineering Club	Room 262	2/6/2025 - 3/27/2025 on Thursdays; 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

J. agenda items J.1 through J.9

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

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

**FINANCE**

Finance & Facilities Committee Report - Gabriel Wickizer  
 o ROD grants, budget

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

the recommendation that the Secretary’s Report for December 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 December 2023 be accepted and filed.

**2024-2025 Transfers**

K.2 transfers for the 2024-2025 school year totaling \$ 111,897.97 from December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

**2024-2025 Invoices-General Agency Account**

K.3 invoices presented for payment totaling \$2,400,910.94 from the General Agency Account from December 13, 2024 through January 16, 2025.

Fund	Amount
(10) General Fund	2,366,734.46
(12) Capital Outlay	742.63
(20) Special Revenue	17,883.85
(30) Capital Projects	15,550.00
(40) Debt Services	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,400,910.94</b>

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**2024-2025 Invoices-Student Activities Account**

K.4 invoices presented for payment totaling \$1,974.24 from the Student Activities Account from December 13, 2024 through January 16, 2025.

**2024-2025 Invoices-Food Service Account**

K.5 invoices presented for payment totaling \$15,296.74 from the Food Service Account from December 12, 2024 through January 16, 2025.

**K.** agenda items K.1 through K.5

Motion to approve **Items K.** moved by Ms. Segal, seconded by Ms. Gomez

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

**PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS**

Programs & Personnel Committee Report - Suzie Stevinson

- o Discussed all L items at a meeting held on January 15, 2025

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

**SSDS/HIB Mandating Reporting**

L.1 the SSDS/HIB Grade ITP submission for the reporting period 1 data collection dates of incidents, training, and programs for July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

**Paraprofessional SOA**

L.2 the bi-annual Statement of Assurance (SOA) regarding the use of the Paraprofessional Staff for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Job Description and Salary Adjustment**

L.3 the revision of the Accounts Payable/Purchasing Specialist job description and prorated salary for Lisa Rica of \$66,872.00 effective February 1, 2025, for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Workshop(s)/Site Visit(s)**

L.4 the following staff for the workshop(s)/site visit(s) listed:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Lisa Bodaj	1/13/2025 & 1/15/2025	QBS Safety Care Training (led by Klaudia Zdybel in-house)	\$6.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage



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Kelly Gutierrez	01/16/2025 previously approved on 11/21/2024, rescheduled from 1/10/2025	NJPSA Navigating Courageous Leadership: Would you follow you?; virtual 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	\$150.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Kelly Gutierrez	1/16/2025	Elevating Supervisors' Success Series. Engaging in Productive Conversations: A Supervisor's Toolbox (Virtual) 2:00 - 4:00 pm	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Lauren Zugale	1/22/2025	Spring 2025 New Jersey District Test and Technology Coordinator Training, Princeton, NJ	\$0.00 Registration; \$28.01 Mileage
Kelly Gutierrez	2/7/2025	Building Bridges Not Barriers: Enhancing Collaboration Among Community, Board, Families, and Staff for Student Success (Virtual)	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Kelly Gutierrez	2/10/2025	Elevating Supervisors' Success Series Supervisors' Roundtable: The Roles & Responsibilities of Supervisors (Virtual)	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Lauren Zugale	3/6/2025	NJPSA TMI Education Workshop - Hot Issues in Discrimination Law: 2024-2025 (virtual)	\$125.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Kelly Gutierrez	3/12/2025	Legal One Hot Topics: The Supervisor's Role (Virtual)	\$0.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Jennifer Holzberger	3/19/2025	2025 FLENJ Annual Conference	\$180.00 Registration; \$0.00 Mileage
Peggy Doorly	3/27/2025 - 3/28/2025	2025 NJ Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Convention - Atlantic City, NJ	\$255.00 Registration; \$116.46 Mileage
Alison Gagliolo	3/27/2025 - 3/28/2025	2025 NJ Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Convention - Atlantic City, NJ	\$255.00 Registration; \$116.46 Mileage

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**2024-2025 Stipends - Stipends for Additional Hours**

- L.5 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:

<b>BEDMINSTER SCHOOL 2024-2025 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Activity Title</b>	<b>Last Name of Staff Member</b>	<b>Stipend - Schedule</b>
Math Counts (more hours/competition)	Prinz	Schedule A
Chaperone	Brantner	C3

**Trips**

- L.6 the following class/field trips:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Trip/Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Grade 2	Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ	February 2025
Grade 6	Stokes State Forest, Branchville, NJ	May 2025
Grade 7	Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Township, NJ	June 2025

**Leave Replacement Hire(s)**

- L.7 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Anticipated start date</b>
Jacqueline Martoccia	Leave Replacement Teacher	\$69,165.00 (prorated) MA Step 1	February 10, 2025 through June 30, 2025

**Substitute Teacher Hires(s)**

- L.8 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:

David Rowland

**Hourly Wage Revision**

- L.9 the following, hourly wage of \$15.49 effective January 1, 2025, for Technology Assistant, Brandon Lekai, to meet the minimum wage requirements.

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**Course Approval(s)**

L.10 tuition reimbursement for the following staff:

Name	Course	Credits	Institution	Term	Amount
Hannah Scansaroli	CEIC 6110 Parenting and Parent Involvement in School and Community	3	William Paterson University	Spring 2025	\$2,515.00
Hannah Scansaroli	CEIC 6020 Curriculum, Environment and Assessment in Pre-K & K Classrooms	3	William Paterson University	Spring 2025	\$2,515.00

L. agenda item L.1 through L.10  
Motion to approve **Items L.** moved by Ms. Segal, seconded by Ms. Gomez

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

- The full Board discussed whether to abolish or keep Policy 5756 before voting

**Transgender Policy 5756**

M.1 Motion to abolish Board Policy #5756 as requested by resolution J.9 added at the December 12, 2024 board meeting.

Yes	Ms. Anderson	No	Ms. Stevinson	Yes	Ms. Gomez
Abstain	Mr. Mabry	Yes	Mr. Wickizer	No	Ms. Nathans
Yes	Ms. Segal				

Motion to approve **Item M.1** moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Stevinson

**NEXT MEETING**

N.1 the Bedminster Township Board of Education is to enter an open public session for annual NJSBA training at 5:00 pm, followed by Executive Session at 6:30 pm, and the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 pm on February 20, 2025.

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

Motion to approve **Item N.1** moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Segal

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**Public Questions/Comments** - 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Hickey congratulated the new Board Members as well as the new President and Vice President of the Board.

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**O. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the Public Session at 8:51 p.m. moved by Mr. Wickizer, seconded by Ms. Anderson

**NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:**

**February 20, 2025  
ANNUAL OPEN PUBLIC NJSBA TRAINING 5:00  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**