

BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2025
7:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order 7:06 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 February 6, 2025, written notice of this meeting was published in *The Courier News*, *The Bernardsville News*, and to all subscribers. This notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Township Clerk's Office at the Bedminster Township Municipal Building and the School's Main Office and filed with the Township Clerk.*

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Absent
Ms. Anderson	X	
Ms. Gomez	X	
Mr. Mabry	X	
Ms. Nathans	X	
Ms. Segal	X	
Ms. Stevinson		X
Mr. Wickizer	X	

E. BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, 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 - 2 HIB(s)
- 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

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Open Public Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

F. Green Team Presentation by Student Representatives

- Video welcoming new students to Bedminster Township School

Eagle Scout A. Wolkow Recognition

- Spoke about her journey through scouting and how it affected her life

Superintendent's Report

- Hello, and thank you for joining us
- Enrollment, no substantiated HIBs
- Thank you, Lala - annual budget documents for the board
- School Regionalization study application process is on the agenda for approval
- Yearbooks are on sale
- Math criteria - revise disclaimer information allowing the principal's discretion for modifications, based on multiple SHSD meetings this year, students thriving in Math, French & Spanish, among other areas
- MLL testing now, NJSLA begins May 6th
- Reviewing in-house & standard assessment data along with remediation data after benchmark testing - students are making progress across grade levels in ELA & Math
- Remediation session absences are being reviewed, those are the students most in need
- Honored Abigail Wolkow, Eagle Scout recognition (former BTS student), this evening
- The Green Team presented tonight on the new student welcome video. Thank you.
- Class III SLEO: interviews
- NJQSAC results - pending
- County Educator of the Year selection process member feedback from Patty - thank you
- Thank you, Patty Rees, NJSBA BoE ethics and CSA evaluation training in February
- SEPAG mtg 3/27, Staff PD Day 3/3, Spring Break April 18-25
- Annual BoE Retreat, Executive Session & Public Budget Presentation Hearing - May 1

Business Administrator's Report

- Included in tonight's agenda is the preliminary 25/26 school budget for submission to the County for their review and approval.
- Our State Aid was reduced \$37,238, which equates to a 3% decrease for 25- 26 SY
Included in the proposed budget for 25/26sy is a 1.5% increase in the tax levy. This is necessary to continue to provide excellent student services as well as to meet necessary contractual agreements, such as:
 - Contractual Salary Increases, transportation costs, tuition to SHSD and OOD placements, health benefit increases, school building maintenance and improvements, and rising energy costs.
 - Contract Salary increase for 25/26 is 3.2% or approximately 300,000
 - Health Benefit anticipated increase 10-14% or 350,000
 - Transportation Costs estimate of 6-9% or 200,000
 - Out-of-district tuition increases 3-5%
 - Energy cost anticipated increase of 19%
 -

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CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Completion of carpet removal project at BTS. The last 3 areas of carpeting are to be removed from the 2 labs and the Technology office. This completes the project that was started years ago to remove all carpet from the entire school building. Additionally, in the preliminary budget are security additions to install cameras in the parking lot and the rear of the building as well as updating the internal camera system within BTS. Capital Reserve withdrawal will fund these projects.

NEW ADDITIONS

- Also included in the proposed budget is a new ELA K-4 curriculum, a refresh of student Chromebooks, as well as new teacher laptops upgraded with Windows 11. This is about \$210,00, approx. \$37,000 will be offset by the REAP grant.
- The proposed budget is offset somewhat by a decrease in tuition expense of about 300,000 to SHSD due to an enrollment drop of approximately 15 students.
- When preparing the budget, we try to be cognizant of Bedminster taxpayers who fund 93% of the budget through property taxes. By law, we are allowed to raise the tax levy up to 2%, and in the past 2 years have asked for 0% tax increases.
- A 1.5% increase in the tax levy would result in an annual increase on a home assessed at \$568,181 of \$67.36.

G. Public Questions/Comments - 7:40 1st Open Public Comment

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:

- February 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 20, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes

Introduced	Seconded	Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
X		Ms. Anderson	X			
		Ms. Gomez	X			
		Mr. Mabry	X			
		Ms. Nathans	X			
	X	Ms. Segal	X			
		Ms. Stevinson				X
		Mr. Wickizer	X			

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I. Task Groups

- Negotiations Committee - Sarah Nathans, Patricia Segal - no report
- Somerset Hills School District - Gaby Gomez - next week's meeting, the play was wonderful
- Technology Representative - Gabriel Wickizer - no report
- Security/Safety Ad Hoc Representative - Patricia Segal - no report
- Child Care - Laurie Anderson - waiting for the Senior Director of Youth Development to get back to her

Delegate/Representative Appointments

- New Jersey School Boards Association - Marshall Mabry

Training

- School Public Relations
- Equity Expo
- Spring Education Symposium
- County Hybrid Meeting
- Women's Leadership Conference
- PSA Meeting
- Governance II: Finance and Policy
- Governance III
- Governance IV: School Law
- Workshop 2025

Issues

- State Funding
- DEI
- Temporary Relief for Posting Public Notices
- Title IX
- Promised Incentives
- Cell Phone Legislation
- Commissioner
- US Department of Agriculture Funding
- Local Food to School Cafeterias
- Limited Certificate
- NJQSAC
- PTO - Gaby Gomez and Gabriel Wickizer - no update
- April 11, 2025 - Spring Fling
- Buy your raffle tickets
- Spring Fling is sold out - 20 on the waiting list
- Community Sponsorship is going well
- March 21 Basketball - Students vs. Teachers

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BUSINESS

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

Policies

J.1 the second reading of the following policy:

Number	Description	Action
P 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices	R

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

- Mr. Wickizer - limit the use of cell phones. Agrees with the idea of not allowing filming. Not comfortable with some language.
- Code of Conduct: “to also include but not be limited to” is what Mr. Wickizer takes issue with in this regulation
- Questions concerning on school bus or outside-of-school hours, per the Superintendent, are monitored during the school day
- Agreed to change and take out “but is not limited to” during, before, or after school grounds during any co-curricular activity, and on a school bus

School Regionalization Study

J.2 The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), specifically the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) School Regionalization Feasibility Study application between the Somerset Hills School District and Bedminster Township School District.

2ND Public comment - 8:32 p.m.

- Ms. Najeeb - asked about J.5 from last month’s meeting

J. agenda items J.1 through J.2

Introduced	Seconded	Board Members	Aye	Amended J1 / J2	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Ms. Anderson	X	X/X			
	X	Ms. Gomez	X	X/X			
		Mr. Mabry	X	X/X			
		Ms. Nathans	X	X/X			
X		Ms. Segal	X	X/X			
		Ms. Stevinson					X
		Mr. Wickizer	X	X/X			

FINANCE

- Finance & Facilities Committee Report - Gabriel Wickizer - budget discussed

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

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2024-2025 Financial Reports

- K.1 the Report of the Secretary for February 2025 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 February 2025 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 February 2025 be accepted and filed.

2024-2025 Transfers

- K.2 transfers for the 2024-2025 school year totaling \$97,202.15 from February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025.

2024-2025 Invoices-General Agency Account

- K.3 invoices presented for payment totaling \$ 1,101,737.93 from the General Agency Account from February 21, 2025 through March 13, 2025.

Fund	Amount
(10) General Fund	1,087,006.43
(12) Capital Outlay	
(20) Special Revenue	14,731.50
(30) Capital Projects	
(40) Debt Services	
Total	1,101,737.93

2024-2025 Invoices-Student Activities Account

- K.4 invoices presented for payment totaling \$ 581.13 from the Student Activities Account from February 20, 2025 through March 13, 2025.

2024-2025 Invoices-Food Service Account

- K.5 invoices presented for payment totaling \$ 1,592.54 from the Food Service Account from February 21, 2025 through March 13, 2025.

Adoption of Tentative Budget 2025-2026 School Year

- K.6 the 2025-2026 Tentative School Budget using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the School Business

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Administrator/Secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Somerset County Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

FY2026	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Total Appropriations	\$21,442,878	\$232,327	\$0	\$21,675,205
Less: Anticipated Revenue	\$3,115,492	\$232,327	\$0	\$3,347,819
Taxes to be Raised	\$18,327,386	\$0	\$0	\$18,327,386

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in the form recommended by the State Department of Education and according to the Law; and

Be it Further Resolved, that a public hearing be held in the Faculty Lounge Room #251 of the Bedminster Township School, located at 234 Somerville Rd., Bedminster, NJ on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

Maximum Travel Expenditures 2025-2026 School Year

- K.7 Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a Board of Education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,
BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education includes in the 2025-2026 Tentative Budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year is \$15,000, of which \$5,553.10 has been spent and \$1,648.87 is encumbered through March 1, 2025.

Maximum Expenditures for Professional Services 2025-2026 School Year

- K.8 an annual maximum expenditure for professional services for the 2025-2026 school year. As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)1, upon notification if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum amount, the Board of Education may adopt an increase in the dollar amount through formal Board action:
- Legal Services \$45,000.00
 - Accounting/Auditing Services \$40,000.00
 - Architectural/Engineering Services \$6,000.00

Approval to Withdraw from Tuition Reserve - FY26 Budget

- K.9 the withdrawal of \$450,000.00 from the Tuition Reserve Account, which was deposited into the account in the 2023-2024 school year and are now required to be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in the 2024-2025 school year.

Approval to Withdraw from Capital Reserves - FY26 Budget

- K.10 in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620, the withdrawal of \$233,799.00 from the Capital Reserve account to be included in the 2025-2026 Budget. The Bedminster BOE approves the following Capital Reserve withdrawal of \$233,799 for the stated purpose of using these funds for replacement tiling of (2) Technology Labs and the technology office, the installation of a new fire alarm panel, and additional security cameras for the perimeter of the building.

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Approval to Withdraw from Maintenance Reserves - FY26 Budget

- K.11 the withdrawal of \$100,000 from the Maintenance Reserve account to be included in the 2025-2026 Budget. The Bedminster BOE approves the following Maintenance Reserve withdrawal of \$100,000 for the stated purpose for Use of required maintenance activities for the school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5

Tournament Fee

- K.12 The \$225.00 registration fee to Robotics Education & Competition Foundation for Robotics Team 8234B to compete in the NJ Rapid Relay State Championship at NJIT, Newark, NJ, in March 2025.
- Ms. Nathans asked how many students participated = 20

Professional Services

- K.13 Approve Rob McGuire for Activbord and Projector repairs for the 2024-2025 school year.

- K. agenda items K.1 through K.13

Introduced	Seconded	Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
	X	Ms. Anderson	X			
		Ms. Gomez	X			
		Mr. Mabry	X			
		Ms. Nathans	X			
X		Ms. Segal	X			
		Ms. Stevinson				X
		Mr. Wickizer	X			

PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS

Programs & Personnel Committee Report - Suzie Stevinson

- Ms. Nathans summarized what was discussed at P&P meeting. Student performance, 8th grade and move-up PD

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

Workshop(s)/Site Visit(s)

- L.1 the following staff for the workshop(s)/site visit(s) listed:

Name	Date	Title	Cost
Deckhut, Infante, McNamara, Nazzaro, Notte, O'Connell, Oliveri, Swan, Thomas,	3/3/25	NARCAN and Stop the Bleed Training and Certification - Talent Stock, LLC	\$207.00 Title II Funding

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and Zugale			
Alfone, Biletski, Deckhut, Infante, Marton, McNamara, Nazzaro, Notte, O'Connell, Oliveri, Puglia, Rosnell, Schantz, Swan, Thomas, White and Zugale	3/13/25	CPR/AED Training and Certification - Talent Stock, LLC	\$765.00 Title II Funding
Corby Swan	3/10/25	NJDOE Responding to School Bomb Threat and Bomb Threat Drilling (Virtual)	\$0.00 Registration
Erin Sullivan	5/7/2025	Somerset County Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Ceremony, Bridgewater, NJ	\$50.00 Registration
Corby Swan	5/7/2025	Somerset County Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Ceremony, Bridgewater, NJ	\$50.00 Registration
Jennifer Giordano	5/7/2025	Somerset County Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Ceremony, Bridgewater, NJ	\$50.00 Registration
Kelly Gutierrez	5/9/2025	NJPSA Women in Leadership Spring Committee Meeting	\$0.00 Registration
Jennifer Giordano	5/30/2025	NJSBA's Virtual Spring Conference 2025	\$99.00 Registration
Marshall Mabry	5/30/2025	NJSBA's Virtual Spring Conference 2025	\$99.00 Registration
Nicole Mancini	TBD	Google Education Certification Program (Virtual)	\$225.00 Registration
Kathy Smith	Summer 2025	Google Education Certification Program (Virtual)	\$225.00 Registration
Karna Johnsen	Summer 2025	Google Education Certification Program (Virtual)	\$225.00 Registration
Lauren Zugale	Summer 2025	Google Education Certification Program (Virtual)	\$225.00 Registration
Kevin Pickett	Summer 2025	Google Education Certification Program (Virtual)	\$225.00 Registration

- Ms. Segal asked if we keep NARCAN at BTS.

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Science Curriculum

L.2 Approve the Grade 3 Science Curriculum Revisions.

2024-2025 Stipends for Additional Hours

L.3 the following stipends being offered for the 2024-2025 school year 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
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	Biletski	Schedule C #4
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	Gottshalk	Schedule C #4
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	Gurzakovic	Schedule C #4
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	Martoccia	Schedule C #4
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	McNamara	Schedule C #4
NJ School of Conservation/Stokes	White	Schedule C #4
Hershey Park	Cere	Schedule C #4
Hershey Park	Notte	Schedule C #4
Hershey Park	Marton	Schedule C #4
Hershey Park	Rodriguez	Schedule C #4
Hershey Park	White	Schedule C #4
Cooking Club - 1 to 1 aide	Griffin	Schedule C #3 - 2/26/2025, 2/27, 3/5 , 3/6, 3/12, 3/13, 3/19 and 3/20
Cooking Club - 1 to 1 aide	Occhi	Schedule C #3 - 2/19/2025
Cooking Club - 1 to 1 aide	Evans	Schedule C #3 - 2/20/2025

Trips

L.4 the following class/field trips:

Grade	Trip/Location	Date
K	Doyle's Farm, 806 US 202, Neshanic Station, NJ	April, 2025
3	The Great Swamp Environmental Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ	May, 2025
5	Liberty Science Center, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ	June, 2025

Substitute Teacher Hires(s)

L.5 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:

Grace Hoelzel

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Substitute Nurse Hires(s)

- L.6 the following, per the substitute nurse rate for the 2024-2025 school year pursuant to successful clearance of P.L. 2018, c.5 and proof of fingerprinting:

Regina Santos

Rescind Offer of Employment

- L. 7 rescind the offer of employment for Hannah Fay, Leave Replacement Paraprofessional, effective March 6, 2025.

Resignation(s)

- L.8 the following resignation(s):

Name	Position	Reason	Effective Date(s)
Jessica Carlin	Teacher	Resignation	March 6, 2025
Alison Gagliolo	Speech Language Specialist	Resignation	April 27, 2025

Course Approval(s)

- L.9 tuition reimbursement for the following staff:

Name	Course	Credits	Institution	Term	Amount
Lauren Zugale	Dissertation Continuance - Part B	1	Centenary University	3/10/2025-5/1/2025	\$805.00
Sally Ahmadi	Nurse 672 - Fall Practicum Placement	N/A	New Jersey City University	Fall 2025	\$0.00

Leave of Absence

- L.10 extended unpaid leave of absence for #B0001020 from March 4, 2025 - April 13, 2025.
- L.11 medical leave of absence for #B0000325 from April 28, 2025 - June 24, 2025, using paid sick time and then unpaid FMLA.
- L.12 the Bedminster Township Board of Education to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm at the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 1, 2025.

- L. agenda item L.1 through L.12

Introduced	Seconded	Board Members	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Ms. Anderson	L1-12		L2	

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		Ms. Gomez		L2		
	X	Mr. Mabry	YES			
		Ms. Nathans	L1-12	L2		
		Ms. Segal	L1-12	L2		
		Ms. Stevinson				X
X		Mr. Wickizer	L1-12	L2		

- Mr. Wickizer asked about L.2. Would like to see the curriculum. Some want to postpone L.2.

Public Questions/Comments

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M. Adjournment - 8:35 p.m. Motion Ms. Anderson, Ms. Segal - All Ayes

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

**May 1, 2025
ANNUAL RETREAT 5:00 PM
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**