

**LEBANON BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES
Regular Business Meeting
October 15, 2024 at 6:45 pm**

CALL TO ORDER: D. Elwell called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

**PUBLICATION
OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through the public notice on September 16, 2024.

- a. Faxing to two newspapers designated by the Board – Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times
- b. Posting on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Office and in Lebanon Borough School
- c. Filing with the Clerk of Lebanon Borough

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Board Members:

Daniel Elwell, Board President
David Abeles, Vice President
Jacklyn Carruthers
Danielle Nugent
Benedict Valliere

District Administrators:

Dr. Bruce Arcurio, Chief School Administrator
Mrs. Patricia Duell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE: D. Elwell led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Elwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and looks forward to seeing the presentation on the Preschool expansion opportunity.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Action 25-CSA-03:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the School Safety and HIB report for the months of September 2024.

Motion by B. Valliere, Second by J. Carruthers

The Board adopts the resolution on a roll call vote as follows: 5 ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

CSA Discussion:

Discussion on AI tools.

Report of the School Business Administrator:

Policy Review-Second Reading:

2nd Reading:

Policy #	Name	Regulation #	Name
P 0141	Board Member Number and Term		
P 0141.1	Board Member Number and Term-Sending District		
P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M) - Abolished		
P 2200	Curriculum Content (M)		
P 3160	Physical Examination (M)	R 3160	Physical Examination (M)
P 4160	Physical Examination (M)	R 4160	Physical Examination (M)
		R 5200	Attendance (M)
P 5337	Service Animals		
P 5350	Student Suicide Program (M)		
P 7231	Gifts from Vendors (M) Abolished		
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M)		
P8467	Firearms and Weapons (M)	R 8467	Firearms and Weapons (M)
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants		

Informational: Next Meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

Building & Grounds: Security camera server was replaced due to failure of the original system. We had planned to upgrade it this year, but the old server died before we could do anything. We were able to get a new server up and running within a week. We installed an additional camera to be pointed at the roof where we have had bad actors in the past.

Stage curtains have been cleaned and re-treated, we see a noticeable difference in them.

ACTION ITEMS 25-BA-07 through 25-BA-11:

Action 25-BA-07:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby **approves the following Board Meeting Minutes for:**

Minutes: Regular Session
September 3, 2024

Action 25-BA-08

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby **approves the Board Secretary Reports for the period ending:**

August 31, 2024
September 30, 2024

Action 25-BA-09:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby **approves the Treasurer's Reports for the period ending:**

August 31, 2024
September 30, 2024

Action 25-BA-10:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby **approves the Line item Transfers for the period ending:**

August 31, 2024
September 30, 2024

Action 25-BA-11:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education does hereby certify that as of the date of these reports, no line item account has encumbrances and/or expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10 c 3&4

AND BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief School Administrator recommends that the Lebanon Borough Board of Education **accept the monthly financial reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the following periods:**

August 31, 2024
September 30, 2024

AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS, that the Board of Education certify that no major account has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10 and that as of this report date, sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year.

Motion for ACTION ITEMS 25-BA-07 through 25-BA-11:

Motion by D. Abeles, Second by D. Nugent

The Board adopts the resolution on a roll call vote as follows: 5 ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

BA Discussion:

Discussion on policy concerning remote meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Preschool Expansion Grant Presentation – Dr. Arcurio gave a thorough presentation on early childhood learning and financial opportunities for the district.

Preschool Expansion Discussion:

Discussion on special education students and our responsibility to educate them.

Discussion on moving 6th grade over to Clinton Public School

Discussion on changes to our current personnel if change is made.

Discussion on community surveys and engagement concerning changes.

Discussion on possible risk to our operating budget if the state funding is dissolved.

Discussion on pitfalls that have been seen in other districts currently running the program.

FACILITY/FINANCE/POLICY:

Action Items 25-FFP-23 through 25-FFP-28:

Action item 25-FFP-23:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the **payment of bills** for the period ending **October 15, 2024 in the amount of \$ 488,758.39**

Action item 25-FFP-24:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby **approves the second reading of the following policies and regulations:**

<i>Policy #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Regulation #</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>P 0141</i>	<i>Board Member Number and Term</i>		
<i>P 0141.1</i>	<i>Board Member Number and Term-Sending District</i>		

P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M) - Abolished		
P 2200	Curriculum Content (M)		
P 3160	Physical Examination (M)	R 3160	Physical Examination (M)
P 4160	Physical Examination (M)	R 4160	Physical Examination (M)
		R 5200	Attendance (M)
P 5337	Service Animals		
P 5350	Student Suicide Program (M)		
P 7231	Gifts from Vendors (M) Abolished		
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M)		
P8467	Firearms and Weapons (M)	R 8467	Firearms and Weapons (M)
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants		

Action item 25-FFP-25:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Nursing Services Plan for the 2024/2025 School year as attached.

Action item 25-FFP-26:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following facility use requests for the 2024/2025 school year:

Group	Date	Building Use:
Lebanon Borough Recreation Department	10/26/2024	Multi-purpose room Halloween Party

Action item 25-FFP-27:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following travel requests for the 2024/2025 school year:

Employee	Program/Place	Date	Reimbursement
Duell, Tricia	Dept. of Labor Update Workshop Whippany, NJ	10/17/2024	OMB
Duell, Tricia	Sustainability/Green Worskhop Whippany, NJ	11/12/2024	OMB

<i>Arcurio, Bruce</i>	<i>Hunterdon County Special Ed Administator Meetings</i>	<i>Second Tuesday of each month</i>	<i>OMB</i>
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Action item 25-FFP-28:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the submission of the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2023/2024 school year as attached.

Motion for Action Items 25-FFP-23 through 25-FFP-28:

Motion by D. Nugent, Second by B. Valliere

The Board adopts the resolution on a roll call vote as follows: 5 ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

FFP Discussion:

None

PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS/CURRICULUM/COMMUNICATIONS:

Action Items 25-PNCC-08:

Action Item 25-PNCC-08:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following advisors for the 24/25 school year

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Advisor</i>
<i>Safety Patrol</i>	<i>Tammi Sarnoski</i>
<i>Student Council</i>	<i>Michael Pepe</i>
<i>Yearbook</i>	<i>Amy Adamaitis</i>
<i>I&RS</i>	<i>Joyce Petty</i>
<i>HIB Coordinator</i>	<i>Kelly Heller</i>
<i>HIB Specialist</i>	<i>Lila Kosciolek</i>
<i>Child Study Team Coordinator</i>	<i>Kelly Heller</i>

Motion for Action Items 25-PNCC-08:

Motion by J. Carruthers, Second by B. Valliere

The Board adopts the resolution on a roll call vote as follows: 5 ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

PNCC Discussion:

Discussion on budget impact of stipend positions.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC:

District's Policy 0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings. *The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide for a period of public comments at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:*

1. *A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his or her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.*
2. *Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to a reasonable time as determined by the presiding officer.*
3. *No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.*
4. *All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.*
5. *The presiding officer may*
 - (a) *Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant to the district;*
 - (b) *Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;*
 - (c) *Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;*
 - (d) *Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.*

Public Comments:

Joyce Petty, 6th grade Teacher spoke about the benefits of expanding preschool as well as sending the 6th grade to a formal middle school environment. She feels that we are doing a disservice to the 6th grade students if we do not give them the opportunities that Clinton Public School can provide.

Heather Berg – As a middle school teacher, Ms. Berg commented on the benefits of the students having the middle school experience sooner. She feels that this is a huge impact on the kids and they will benefit greatly if they go to CPS sooner. She would like to hear what the community has to say about this option.

Mike Pepe, 5th grade teacher – Thanks the board for the opportunity to be the advisor for Student Council and mentioned some projects that have already begun.

Marlene Baldinger – Commented on how great of a teacher Mrs. Petty is and would hate to lose her at this school. She also feels that the students would benefit from joining the middle school sooner. She would be happy to assist in getting the message out to the community and inviting them to future meetings for more discussion. She also questioned the costs associated with Go Guardian and test results from the spring NJSLA tests. Finally she mentioned that there is a proposal to have the voting age for certain elections, including school board elections, to be allowed for 16 and 17 year old students. This is a district by district decision and she would like us to look into it for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the driveway lease.
Discussion on the cell phone policy.
Discussion on using IXL as a learning tool.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

WHEREAS, while Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act requires all meetings of the Lebanon Borough Board of Education to be held in public, NJSA 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in Executive Session, without the public being permitted to attend, and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon Borough Board of Education has determined that the following issue(s) are permitted by NJSA 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance shall be discussed during an Executive Session; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the following matters, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality are:

Student Residency

The length of the Executive Session is estimated to be thirty (30) minutes after which the meeting shall reconvene in public session.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lebanon Borough Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above state reasons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lebanon Borough Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject will be revealed once a conclusion has been reached as to the matter subject to the discussion.

Formal action will not be taken.

Motion to enter Executive Session:

Motion by B. Valliere, Second by J. Carruthers. The motion is adopted by the full membership of the board at 8:36 pm.

Motion to exit Executive Session:

Motion by B. Valliere, Second by D. Abeles. The motion is adopted by the full membership of the board at 9:07 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Action Item 25-AD-03:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourns this meeting.

Motion by D. Nugent, Second by J. Carruthers. The motion is adopted by the full membership of the board at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Duell
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Minutes prepared October 16, 2024

Minutes remain unofficial until formally adopted by the Board.

Daniel Elwell
Board President

Date