

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

March 26, 2024

I. OPENING

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 7:32 p.m. in the IMC at Memorial Junior School, 61 Highland Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

In accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this meeting was provided to the newspaper of record, appropriately posted and sent to the Township Clerk on January 5, 2024.

Mrs. Bomengo led the flag salute.

Present: Board Members	Mr. Jeffrey Basile (Remote Participation) Mr. Marc Amoresano, Vice President Mrs. Christine Egbert Mrs. Gina Johnston Mr. Christopher Mattessich Mr. William McCabe Mr. Gregory Skiff Mrs. Michelle Stricchiola Mrs. Lisa Bomengo, President
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Superintendent	Mr. Michael J. Wasko
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Mrs. Vanessa M. Wolsky

Board Attorney	Mr. Matthew Giacobbe
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II. MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Morris County Superintendents' Middle School Leadership Award – Danny Ventura, Eighth Grade Student, was recognized for being selected to receive the 23-24 Morris County Superintendents' Middle School Leadership Award.

TREPS Club – Advisors Katharine Keyser and Carolyn Koch gave an overview of this club for student entrepreneurs that culminated in a marketplace event to showcase and sell the products and services they developed and marketed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Public Meeting 2/27/24

Special Public Meeting 3/12/24

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Approved:** Unanimous

V. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

Mrs. Wolsky reported that the cash balance as of February 29, 2024 was 5,244,332.34. The interest in the General Fund to date is \$389.13 and the interest in the HTSACC Fund is \$49.22.

Mrs. Wolsky also reminded the Board to complete their ethics disclosure statements prior to the April 30 deadline.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Wasko gave the following report:

Welcome everyone, I would like to begin my report tonight by bringing your attention to Item #3 on the Curriculum & Instruction portion of tonight's agenda, which is a resolution to accept and approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System’s District Report of Violence, Vandalism, and Substance Abuse for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Jersey Statute requires school superintendents to publicly report, (twice a year), all acts of violence, vandalism, substance abuse, and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) that occur in our schools. For the purpose of tonight's report, I will be summarizing the data compiled during Reporting Period 1, September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

During this reporting period there were a total of 7 incidents recorded and investigated district wide. 1 Incident occurred at SDS and 6 incidents occurred at MJS:

- SDS:
 - Alleged act of HIB student was swinging their arms accidentally hitting another student, at the conclusion of the investigating it was determined not to be an act of HIB
- MJS:
 - All 6 incidents at MJS were classified as “Other Incidents Leading to Removal of Students”
 - Inappropriate use of cell phones, physical contact, inappropriate use of social media

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I am pleased to report, there were no incidents of violence, vandalism, HIB, or substance abuse reported at Bee Meadow School, or Mountview Road School during reporting period 1.

As we move forward through the remainder of the school year, the district will:

- Continue to fully investigate ALL alleged incidents of HIB
- Continue with our district-wide anti-bullying initiatives and school based character education programs
- Continue our partnerships with community organizations in sponsoring various HIB Assemblies and Programs
- Actively train staff, and provide professional development for school climate and school safety teams
- And we will continue to provide various activities and supports to both our students and staff that focus on mindfulness, social and emotional health and wellness.....that promote a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment in which ALL staff and students can work and learn.

Just a few updates regarding a few items of interest:

QSAC Monitoring Process: Last month on Wednesday, February 28th, members of the NJDOE County Office met with the District QSAC Committee for the site visit portion of the QSAC Process. Based on the initial "unofficial" feedback provided by the County Office Staff, we did very well. I want to thank the members of the District QSAC Committee as well as other district staff for their time and effort that was put into the site visit portion of the monitoring process. It was a true team effort and I thank you for participating in this very important process. Office scores will be received by from the NJDOE in early May. As I always say, it is the people not the programs that make Hanover Township such a great place to work and learn.

As many of you are aware, on Monday, April 8th, the day we return from our Spring Break, New Jersey will experience a solar eclipse, beginning at approximately 2:09 PM and ending at approximately 4:37 PM. This will be a regular "full" day of school for our students and staff....and due to our previously scheduled Grade Level/Subject Area Department Meetings that will take place that afternoon.....NO afterschool activities are scheduled.

The district has also purchased ISO-certified solar eclipse viewing glasses for all students and staff that will be distributed on Monday afternoon, April 8th.

Additional information regarding school specific activities will be communicated tomorrow afternoon via a SwiftK12 email notification from your child's respective building principal.

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As my report comes to a close, I would like to congratulate the cast and crew of the MJS Spring Musical, Mean Girls. Over 80 students were involved in this year's production and it was truly outstanding. Congratulations to the spring musical advisors, Dan Diaz, Matt Pomel, Shana Tracy, and Tyler Air Heart, for bringing out the best in our students...and special thanks to all of the parent volunteers who took part in many of the behind the scenes tasks that pulled everything together.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and relaxing spring break.

VII. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Wasserman gave the following report:

As we return from our Spring Break, students within grades 3 through 8 will be gearing up to take the NJSLA Assessments. The Testing window begins on April 29th and ends on May 9th. Both the elementary and middle school schedules are posted on the district website and on the district calendar. The MJS window will begin on April 29th and end on May 3rd. The elementary schools will test from May 1st through May 7th. The Science Assessment will be administered to grade 5 on May 8th and 9th and grade 8 on May 5th and 7th. Technology infrastructure tests are currently taking place in each building to ensure our systems working well.

I want to continue by sharing some information about our process for vetting grades 3-5 ELA materials for the 25-26 school year. As you may remember, our Journeys program will be retired at the conclusion of the 24-25 school year. The Ad-Hoc Grades 3-5 Steering Committee has been actively engaged with samples and will be receiving presentations from two publishers while piloting the materials. Our next meeting will be on April 8th with another meeting an additional meeting on May 6th.

Finally, Leveled Literacy Intervention in-district professional development for K-5 Special Education and English Language Learner teachers has been scheduled during May. The professional development will provide the teachers with direct and explicit reading strategies to strengthen the comprehension skills of struggling readers. Providing the teachers with this instruction will surely benefit our students and lay the foundation for using this Response to Intervention in the Fall.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee – Mr. McCabe said the Committee met on 3/19 and those present included Mr. McCabe, Mrs. Bomengo, Mr. Amoresano, Mrs. Johnston and Mr. Wasko. Items discussed included current and projected enrollment, with current having no significant changes and projected a work in progress with property redevelopment and hotel residents a factor, Kindergarten and Integrated Preschool pre-registration, 3 resignations including an MJS custodian and 2 lunch/recess aides, 1 additional and 1

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amended leave of absence, recommendations for hire including 2 bus drivers, 2 additions to the substitute list, 3 tuition reimbursements and 2 student teaching assignments. The Committee also discussed extra compensation assignments, current openings, student suspensions, alleged acts of HIB, QSAC Summary Conference and the job descriptions for Principal and Assistant Principal.

Curriculum, Technology and Student Achievement Committee – Mrs. Johnston said the Committee met on 3/19 and those present included Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Stricchiola, Mrs. Bomengo, Mr. Margolis, Mr. Wasko and Mr. Wasserman. Items discussed included approval of fire/safety drills, acceptance of the SSDS Report, additional field trip approval, QSAC update, High Impact Tutoring Grant application denial, climate surveys, Leveled Literacy Intervention for Special Education and ELL students, guided reading bookrooms for K-2, Grades 3-5 ELA publisher presentations, professional development for Link It and LLI and for the good of the order questions were asked regarding FERPA and data collected on students and a request was made for a data presentation of IXL progress report.

Finance/Transportation/Physical Plant Committee – Mr. Mattessich said the Committee met virtually on 3/21 and those present included Mr. Mattessich, Mr. Basile, Mrs. Bomengo, Mrs. Wolsky, Mr. Gaveglio and Mr. Raucci. Mr. Raucci updated the Committee on 2 candidates for the open bus driver positions who will be on the agenda and discussed bus inspections and maintenance. Mr. Gaveglio discussed facilities updates including the outdoor classroom at Bee Meadow, ROD grants, playground resurfacing at Mountview, districtwide pot hole repairs with the assistance of the Township and IPM compliance. Monthly approvals of Finance agenda items as well as a 24-25 budget update were also discussed.

Public Relations Committee – Mrs. Egbert said the Committee met virtually on 3/21 and those present included Mrs. Egbert, Mrs. Bomengo, Mr. Basile, Mr. Wasko and Mr. Mattessich. Items discussed included accepting the donation of lacrosse sticks, special presentations of the Treps club and Middle School Leadership Award recipient in March and the Unsung Hero Award recipient in April, plans for the 4/8 solar eclipse to keep to a regular dismissal and distribute glasses to students, shortening the climate survey, renewal of the CCM Emergency Evacuation Agreement, MJS Spring Musical dress rehearsal and luncheon for seniors, freshman seminar, creating a spring newsletter and QSAC summary Conference updates. For the good of the order, installing an electric sign in front of NJS was brought up by some members of the Committee.

Policy Committee – Mr. Skiff said the Committee met 3/19 and those present included Mr. Skiff, Mrs. Bomengo, Mrs. Stricchiola, Mr. Amoresano and Mr. Wasko. Items discussed included QSAC review and no feedback related to Board policies, second reading of Policy 2530, abolishing Policy 5755 due to redundancy and items for the good of the order included Guidance Counselor consent forms, a policy “wellness check” by NJSBA at no additional cost, contacting Strauss Esmay to discuss policy coding and BOE access to their website and a potential upcoming meeting with Administration and PTA Leadership.

Negotiations Committee – None

Travel/Delegate Report – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items - None

X. BOARD ACTIONS

A. PERSONNEL

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

- 1. Approve appointment to tenure for the following staff member:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Mark Juliano	Teacher of Music	2/24/2024

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

- 2. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Luz Katerine Roman Calderon, Custodian, Memorial Junior School, effective 3/14/24, for personal reasons.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

- 3. Amend a leave of absence for Employee ID# 4370, previously approved effective 2/20/24 to 3/8/24, to be effective 2/20/24 to 3/1/24.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

- 4. Approve a leave of absence for Employee ID# 4370, effective 3/26/24 to 4/8/24.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

- 5. Authorize the following tuition reimbursement applications for the **2023-2024** school year, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Credits</u>
George Dakak	3
Laurie Monacelli	6
Sandra Wylie	12

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Motion: Mr. McCabe

Second: Mrs. Egbert

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no
(Abstain: Basile)

6. Authorize the following tuition reimbursement applications for the **2024-2025** school year, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Nora Czarnomski	24

Motion: Mr. McCabe

Second: Mrs. Egbert

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no
(Abstain: Basile)

7. Approve the additional hours to the **2023-2024** extra-compensation assignment(s) as **Advisor(s)** at **Mountview Road School**, with payments in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA, as follows:

<u>Club/Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Math Club	Heather Rizzo	not to exceed 18 hours
	Caitlin Vassoler	not to exceed 18 hours
Tutoring Club	Dillion Titus	
	Liz Reynolds	

Motion: Mr. McCabe

Second: Mrs. Egbert

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no
(Abstain: Basile)

8. Approve **2023-2024** extra-compensation assignments at **Salem Drive School** with payments in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA as follows.

<u>Club/Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Tutoring Club	Sarah Rittershofer

Motion: Mr. McCabe

Second: Mrs. Egbert

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no
(Abstain: Basile)

9. Approve **2023-2024** extra-compensation assignments at **Memorial Junior School** with payments in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA as follows.

<u>Club/Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Tutoring Club	Lyle Owens

Motion: Mr. McCabe

Second: Mrs. Egbert

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no
(Abstain: Basile)

10. Approve the following **2023-2024** extra-compensation assignment(s) as **Coache(s)** at **Memorial Junior School**, with payments in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA.:

Boys Baseball Coach	Evan Davis	Step 1
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Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

11. Approve the following job descriptions:
- Principal
 - Assistant Principal

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

12. Approve the following addition(s) to the substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.

Teacher: Evan Davis
 Nicole Amaducci

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

13. Approve the following **2024-2025** student teaching assignment(s):

<u>Student/College</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Co-op Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Anthony Cuzzocrea/ Fairleigh Dickinson University	Student Teaching	Lara Rouillard/ BMS	9/5/24-12/20/24 (2 days per week)
		Vicki Cobane/ BMS	1/20/25-5/2/25 (5 days per week)
Ashley Briggs/ Montclair State University	Counseling Practicum	Deja Desai/ MTV	Fall 2024
	Counseling Internship	Deja Desai/ MTV	Spring 2025

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

14. Approve the following **2025-2026** student teaching assignment(s):

<u>Student/College</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Co-op Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ashley Briggs/ Montclair State University	Counseling Internship	Deja Desai/ MTV	Fall 2025

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

15. Acknowledge the student suspensions as reported by the school principals for the month of February 2024, **Attachment "A"**.

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Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

16. Accept the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying report and affirm the Superintendent's decisions for the period ending March 22, 2024, **Attachments "B"**.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

17. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Anna Maria Bellomo, Lunch Recess Aide, Salem Drive School, effective 3/25/24, for personal reasons.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

18. Appoint Roxanne Rossi to the position of full time (1.0 FTE) Bus Driver, at a salary of Step 17, \$35,580, prorated, effective 4/15/24 to 6/30/24, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board of Education and the HTEA. Continued employment will be subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the results of a criminal history check as required by applicable law.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

19. Appoint Marlene Milford to the position of full time (1.0 FTE) Bus Driver, at a salary of Step 7, \$29,855, prorated, effective 4/15/24 to 6/30/24, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board of Education and the HTEA. Continued employment will be subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the results of a criminal history check as required by applicable law.

Motion: Mr. McCabe **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no**
(Abstain: Basile)

Discussion: Mr. Basile stated that he needed more time to review the Committee meeting notes and that some were not shared until late today. Mr. Skiff said reports are done as a courtesy and any discourse can happen at the meeting for the public. A discussion followed.

Mr. McCabe and Mr. Wasko congratulated Mark Juliano on his tenure recommendation.

B. CURRICULUM, TECHNOLOGY & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

1. Acknowledge the following fire drills, as reported by the school

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principals, for the month of February 2024:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>
Memorial Junior School	2/9/24
Bee Meadow School	2/8/24
Mountview Road School	2/12/24
Salem Drive School	2/25/24

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Skiff **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

2. Acknowledge that crisis management drills were conducted at the following schools, as reported by the school principals, for the month of February 2024:

<u>School</u>
Memorial Junior School
Bee Meadow School
Mountview Road School
Salem Drive School

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Skiff **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

3. Accept the Student Safety Data System’s District Report of Violence, Vandalism, and Substance Abuse for Period 1 (9/1/23-12/31/23) of the 2023-2024 school year, and approve its submission and the submission of the SSDS (Student Safety Data System) for Period 1 to the State Department of Education.

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Skiff **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

4. Approve the following additions to the list of approved field trips:
International House of Pancakes (IHOP) in Cedar Knolls
Ridgedale Middle School, Florham Park

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Skiff **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

C. FINANCE, TRANSPORTATION, PHYSICAL PLANT

I. FINANCE

Upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, move to;

1. Approve transfers in the 2023-24 Budget, Attachment “C”.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

2. Authorize the following payments:

<u>Bills List Dated</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payroll 2/29/24	\$ 938,197.86
Payroll 3/15/24	\$1,000,954.30

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Bills & claims 2/28/24 - 3/26/24 \$1,041,613.60

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

3. Accept the certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that as of 2/29/24 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, no budgetary line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

4. Certify that as of 2/29/24 after reviewing the Business Administrator/Board Secretary's financial reports, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

5. Accept the report of the Secretary A-148 and the reconciliation report A-149, for the month ended 2/29/24.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

6. Approve the attendance of staff members and board members at workshops and travel expenses that are in accordance with the allowable room rate and meal reimbursement rate as outlined in the NJ OMB Circular 602B and mileage **at the state approved rate**, as per **Attachment(s) "D"**, and **"E"**.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

7. Accept additional funding on Chapters 192/193 as follows:

E.S.L. Funding Amount \$458.00

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

8. Approve the attendance of staff members and board members at workshops and travel expenses that are in accordance with the allowable room rate and meal reimbursement rate as outlined in the NJ OMB Circular 602B and mileage **at the state approved rate**, as per **Attachment(s) "F"**.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

II. TRANSPORTATION

No Items for Board Consideration

III. PHYSICAL PLANT

No Items for Board Consideration

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

1. Accept with appreciation the donation of 19 lacrosse sticks, valued at \$600, from an anonymous donor, for use in the Mountview Road School Physical Education program.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

2. Approve contracting with Strategic Educational Advantage (SEA) to conduct a search for the position of Superintendent of Schools for a total cost of \$16,900.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 9 yes, 0 no

E. POLICY

1. Conduct the second reading of Policy # 2530 Resource Materials, and if approved, adopt:

Motion: Mr. Skiff **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 1 no

2. Abolish Policy # 5755 Equity in Educational Programs and Services.

Motion: Mr. Skiff **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 1 no

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gloria Fulman-Lateiner donated, on behalf of the BMS PTA, the outdoor classroom at Bee Meadow School. She also invited the Board to a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 2 at 2:00 p.m. She noted that 4 benches were also recently installed by the swings on the playground. Mrs. Bomengo said they appreciate all the contributions from the PTA.

XII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mrs. Egbert **Approved:** Unanimous

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Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa M. Wolsky

Vanessa M. Wolsky
Business Administrator/Board Secretary