

**TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE BUSINESS OF ORGANIZATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2020 - 6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- (1) Call Meeting to Order Board Secretary A. Schauer
● Ms. Schauer called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

- (2) Open Public Meetings Act Statements Board Secretary A. Schauer
● Ms. Schauer 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 November 28, 2019 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 to all subscribers, and filed with the Township Clerk.

- (3) Pledge of Allegiance Scouts Pack 1749
● Scouts Pack 1749 led the Pledge of Allegiance

- (4) Appoint Board Secretary as Temporary Chair Board Secretary A. Schauer
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education appoint Alicia M. Schauer, Board Secretary, as the temporary chair of the 2020 Reorganization Meeting.
Voice vote: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain

- (5) Election Results 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Board of Education certified the results of the Annual School Board Election held on November 5, 2019, including absentee ballots, for membership to the Board of Education of three (3) persons for three (3) year terms and one (1) person for one (1) one year term as follows:

- Ms. Schauer read the following election results:

3-Three Year Terms

Suzie Stevinson	1026 Votes Cast
Sarah Nathans	633 Votes Cast
Tom Casey	622 Votes Cast

1-One Year Term Unexpired

Brian Haggerty	2 Votes Cast (Write In)
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- (6) Oath of Office to New Board Members Board Secretary A. Schauer
● Ms. Schauer administered the Oath to Ms. Stevinson, Ms. Nathans, Mr. Casey and Mr. Haggerty

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Ms. Johansson arrived at 6:12pm

(7) Roll Call Board Secretary A. Schauer

Yes	Mr. Casey	Yes	Ms. Lamiera	Yes	Mr. Reaves
Yes	Mr. Haggerty	Yes	Ms. Marto	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Johansson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Mr. Wolkow

(8) Election of Board President (1st attempt) Board Secretary A. Schauer

- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Marto
- (b) Nominations for President
 - Mr. Wolkow nominated Ms. Stevinson
 - Mr. Reaves nominated Mr. Reaves
- (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Johansson
- (d) Roll Call Vote

voted for:		voted for:		voted for:	
abstain	Mr. Casey	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Lamiera	Mr. Reaves	Mr. Reaves
Mr. Reaves	Mr. Haggerty	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Marto	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Stevinson
Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Johansson	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Nathans	Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Wolkow

The Board failed to elect a President by majority on its first attempt. Board Secretary moved on to the election of Vice-President.

(9) Election of Board Vice President (1st attempt) Board Secretary A. Schauer

- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
- (b) Nominations for Vice President
 - Ms. Johansson nominated Mr. Reaves
 - Mr. Reaves nominated Ms. Stevinson
- (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
- (d) Roll Call Vote

voted for:		voted for:		voted for:	
abstain	Mr. Casey	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Lamiera	Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Reaves
Mr. Reaves	Mr. Haggerty	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Marto	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Stevinson
Mr. Reaves	Ms. Johansson	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Nathans	abstain	Mr. Wolkow

Mr. Reaves elected to Vice President by majority. Mr. Reaves declined nomination.

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Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Board Management at 6:25pm moved by Ms. Johansson, seconded by Mr. Haggerty
Voice vote: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain

Motion to go into Open Meeting at 6:41 p.m. moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
Voice vote: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain

- (8A) Election of Board President (2nd attempt) Board Secretary A. Schauer
- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
 - (b) Nominations for President
 - Mr. Haggerty nominated Ms. Stevinson
 - Mr. Wolkow nominated Mr. Reaves
 - (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Nathans
 - (d) Roll Call Vote

Voted for:		voted for:		voted for:	
Mr. Reaves	Mr. Casey	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Lamiera	Mr. Reaves	Mr. Reaves
Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Haggerty	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Marto	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Stevinson
Mr. Reaves	Ms. Johansson	Mr. Reaves	Ms. Nathans	Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Reaves

Mr. Reaves elected to President by majority. Mr. Reaves accepted the nomination.

- (8B) Election of Board Vice President (2nd attempt) 2020 Board President
- (a) Motion to Open the Nominations by Board moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
 - (b) Nominations for Vice President
 - Mr. Haggerty nominated Ms. Stevinson
 - (c) Motion to Close the Nominations moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Nathans
 - (d) Roll Call Vote

voted for:		voted for:		voted for:	
Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Casey	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Lamiera	Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Reaves
Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Haggerty	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Marto	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Stevinson
Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Johansson	Ms. Stevinson	Ms. Nathans	Ms. Stevinson	Mr. Wolkow

Ms. Stevinson elected to Vice-President by majority. Ms. Stevinson accepted the nomination.

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- (10) Public Comments 2020 Board President
Members of the Public
Limited to 3 Minutes
- None
- (11) BOE Comments
- Mr. Reaves - BOE President
 - A very interesting Board that works hard together on different matters despite some tension and discord
 - District is in a better place than 5 years ago
 - We have improved our financial condition from the dire situation of three years ago but we are still being challenged by state spending caps based on declining enrollment
 - Will most likely step down at the end of the school year to make way for new leadership
 - Jennifer Giordano - Superintendent
 - January 23rd Robotics presentation, welcome and congratulations BoE members Mr. Casey, Mr. Haggerty, Mrs. Nathans, Mrs. Stevinson
 - marking period extended 1/17 to 1/24, SHSD Grade 8 Curriculum Night 1/15
 - school closed 1/20, Spelling Bee 1/21, Geography Bee 1/22
 - Sustainability - Recycling assembly thanks Somerset County, PTO & Wellness committee, custodial created bins and signs for cafe
 - District Goals - Math growth and SEL: SEL St E's SCCI data analysis meeting, CAP Grade 8 Th/F 2/6-2/7, Grade 7 M/Tues 2/10-2/11, parent CAP meeting 1/14 6pm
 - Student CAP workshops for Grade K-8th will sensitize young people to the problems & consequences of bullying to all members of the community
 - Staff highlights - thanks Mrs. Ragoza and Mrs. Carlin for work with PTO and county on recycling assembly
 - Student highlight - thanks to the students for a great job on the recycling bulletin board
 - Thanks SHSD for extending SS articulation time 1/27
 - BTS/SHSD discussing 2020-2021 calendar, review of survey results, recommendation to approve calendars 2-3 years at a time moving forward
 - Welcome back, happy new year
 - Message of condolence on the loss of Mrs. Suzanne Ahlers

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(12) Action Items

Policies

- (a) Move to continue in effect all present regulations, bylaws and policies of the Bedminster Township Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year.

The following Code of Ethics was read by all Board members and appropriate paperwork filed with the Board Secretary:

Code of Ethics

- (b) 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 for 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.

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2020 Contract – Lead Attorney of Record

- (c) Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education approve **Douglas Silvestro** of the Busch Law Group, LLC, 450 Main Street, Metuchen, New Jersey, as attorney of record from January 1, 2020 through the January 2021 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$172 for general legal services, special education and construction matters. Work performed by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated December 13, 2019.

2020 Contract – Special Education Attorney of Record

- (d) Move that the Bedminster Township Board of Education approve **Nathanya G. Simon** of the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey as the special education attorney of record from January 1, 2020 through the January 2021 reorganization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175 for special education legal matters. Work performed by Associates shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$165. Work performed by paralegals and law clerks shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$100, as per their Legal Counsel Retainer Agreement dated December 11, 2019.

agenda items 12(a) through 12(d):

Motion to approve **Item 12**, moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Marto
Motion carried as follows: Yes: (7); No: (0); Abstain: (2)

Abstain	Mr. Casey	Yes	Ms. Lamiera	Yes	Mr. Reaves
Abstain on a,c,d; Yes on b	Mr. Haggerty	Yes	Ms. Marto	Yes	Ms. Stevenson
Yes	Ms. Johansson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Mr. Wolkow

(13) Public Questions/Comments

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 and non-agenda items. 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.

- None

(14) Approval of Minutes

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

- December 12, 2019 Executive Session Minutes
- December 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

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Motion to approve **Item 14.** moved by Ms. Johansson, seconded by Ms. Nathans
Motion carried as follows: Yes: (6); No: (0); Abstain: (3)

Abstain	Mr. Casey	Yes	Ms. Lamiera	Yes	Mr. Reaves
Abstain	Mr. Haggerty	Yes	Ms. Marto	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Abstain	Ms. Johansson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Mr. Wolkow

(15) **FINANCE**

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

- Mr. Wolkow (F&F Chair) - preliminary budget discussions underway including potential upcoming capital projects

2019-2020 Financial Reports

- (a) the Report of the Secretary for December 2019 submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-16.10(c)(3), the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certifies that no line item account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations this fiscal year.

The recommendation that the Secretary's Report for December 2019 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 2019-2020 fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for December 2019 be accepted and filed.

2019-2020 Invoices-General Agency Account

- (b) invoices presented for payment totaling \$1,387,553.47 from the General Agency Account from December 13, 2019 through January 6, 2020.

Fund	Amount
(10) General Fund	\$ 1,367,096.97
(12) Capital Outlay	\$ 0
(20) Special Revenue	\$ 20,456.50
Total	\$ 1,387,553.47

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2019-2020 Invoices-Student Activities Account

- (c) invoices presented for payment totaling \$5,550.35 from the Student Activities Account from December 7, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

2019-2020 Invoices-Food Service Account

- (d)i invoices presented for payment totaling \$13,076.69 from the Food Service Account from December 7, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

2019-2020 Transfers

- (e) transfers for the 2019-2020 school year totaling \$7,600.00 from December 7, 2019 through December 31, 2019 as per the monthly transfer report.

- (15) agenda items 15(a) through 15(e):

Motion to approve **Item 15**. moved by Ms. Johansson, seconded by Ms. Stevinson
Motion carried as follows: Yes: (7); No: (0); Abstain: (2)

Abstain	Mr. Casey	Yes	Ms. Lamiera	Yes	Mr. Reaves
Abstain	Mr. Haggerty	Yes	Ms. Marto	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Johansson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Mr. Wolkow

(16) **PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS**

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

Grade 6 Field Trip

- (a) the following field trips, at no cost to the board:

Action	Trip/Location	Date
rescind	NJ School of Conservation; Branchville, NJ	12/2/19-12/4/19
new date	NJ School of Conservation; Branchville, NJ	3/16/20-3/17/20

Course Approval

- (b) tuition reimbursement for the following staff per the terms and conditions of the Bedminster Education Association contract in effect from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019:

Name	Course	Credits	School	Term	Estimated Amount
Carmen Rodriguez	Advance Spanish Grammar & Syntax	3	La Salle University	Spring 2020	\$2,490.00
	Professional Uses of Spanish	3	La Salle University	Spring 2020	\$2,490.00

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- (c) tuition reimbursement for the following staff per the terms and conditions of the Superintendent's contract in effect from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020:

Name	Course	Credits	School	Term	Estimated Amount
Jennifer Giordano	Research Methods in Education Technology Implementation & Evaluation of Curriculum	3	NJCU	Spring 2020	\$3,470.40
		3	NJCU	Spring 2020	\$3,470.40

New Hires

- (d) Megan Donnelly as a one to one aide for after school activities for student #249369 at the hourly rate of \$17.60 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

- (16) agenda items 16(a) through 16(d):

Motion to approve **Item 16**, moved by Ms. Stevinson, seconded by Ms. Nathans
Motion carried as follows: Yes: (7); No: (0); Abstain: (2)

abstain	Mr. Casey	Yes	Ms. Lamiera	Yes	Mr. Reaves
abstain	Mr. Haggerty	Yes	Ms. Marto	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Yes	Ms. Johansson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Mr. Wolkow

(17) Public Questions/Comments

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- None

(18) Adjournment: Special Meeting For The Business of Organization/ Board of Education Meeting

Motion to adjourn the Public Session at 7:27 p.m. moved by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Ms. Lamiera

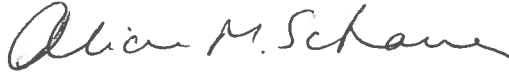
Voice vote: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain

NEXT MEETING(S) SCHEDULED FOR:

**January 23, 2020
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

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Respectfully submitted,



Alicia M. Schauer
Board Secretary