

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Reaves called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 January 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. Boehmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**D. Roll Call**

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**E. Executive Session – 6:32 p.m.**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedminster Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a and b 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 (HIB 2024-1)
- b. Collective bargaining agreements (BEA)
- 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 @ 7:01 p.m.**

**F. Superintendent's Report**

- School closed February 19th and Monday, March 4th for Staff PD day
- Congratulations- boys basketball team making it to playoffs, thank you coaches for both teams
- Thank you - police department for constant protection & walk-throughs
- January highlight: Thank you to Ms. McCoy for the creativity and inclusiveness- Winter Wonderland activity, literacy-based centers for students
- Enrollment, ESSER Academic support am/pm
- Security upgrades, J.1, J.2, and J.14 revisions
- No baseball coach, SHSD agreement - March agenda

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

- J.15 rescind the next two school calendars table until March agenda
- Wellbeing goal: Maschio's winning carrot soup recipe, Grade 5 reps AM announcements, Gr 5 Winter Wellness presentation, Spirit Day, American Heart Awareness Red Day, Chef Day, and Bento Box Day
- Digital Star School - Sustainable Jersey & recertification for Silver [Tech Committee highlights]
- Well/Green Team: Sustainable update: Digital Device Life Cycle Management, Digital Citizenship, Digitally Innovative Classroom, Recertification for Silver Certification
- L Items were discussed with P&P

**Business Administrator's Report**

- Ms. Boehmer reported on several agenda items that the board is being asked to approve including:
  - the contract for the audit calculation for tuition at Bernards High School
  - the Annual Waiver of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative program (SEMI)
  - acceptance of an SDA grant for Emergent and Capital Maintenance projects that will be utilized to repair the ramp and railings
  - four motions required to contract with the state for the ROD grant awards to update the district's HVAC systems
  - Amendments to the ESEA and ARP ESSER grants so that funds may be utilized by the September 30, 2024 expiration date

**G. 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 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.*

- Mr. Reaves noted the attendance at tonight's meeting and asked the BEA representatives to please let the board know in advance if they anticipated many members attending so that the meeting might be moved to the cafetorium to allow for more seating.

**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:

- January 18, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve **Items H.** moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Gomez

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**I. Task Groups**

- Negotiations Committee - Jeff Reaves
  - Mr. Reaves reported that the committee is still at an impasse. The BEA and BoE met with a mediator. A statement from the BoE will be read at the second public session.
- Somerset Hills School District - Sarah Nathans

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

- Ms. Nathans updated the board on the successes of the Bernards athletic teams and highlighted the awards for several of the school's clubs. She noted that scheduling is underway for the 2024/2025 school year. The district is also doing a feasibility study on field lighting. Budget talks include the possible addition of a SLIO. An uptick in HIB cases at the middle school has led to increased intervention to work toward improvement. A High Impact Tutoring grant has also been received.
- Technology Representative - Gabriel Wickizer
  - Mr. Reaves reported for Mr. Wickizer noting that the cell phone booster project had been started with a two week estimated timeline. Ms. Karna Johnsen reported that the Green Team was working on several areas of the Sustainable NJ program and its Digital Initiative. Mr. Reaves also noted that the Genesis online registration was working well.
- Security/Safety Ad Hoc Representative - Suzie Stevinson
  - Ms. Stevinson let the board know that security was being reviewed.
- Child Care - Sarah Nathans
  - Ms. Nathans reminded the board that the committee meets twice per school year.

**Delegate/Representative Appointments**

- New Jersey School Boards Association - Christy Biedron
  - None, Ms. Biedron was absent.
- PTO - Gabriel Wickizer and Gaby Gomez
  - Ms. Gomez reviewed several PTO events including the annual Spring Fling fundraiser. She thanked those involved with the successful Brainwash Assembly and all those who volunteer for PTO activities. Dr. Omega is in the process of planning the 8th Grade trips, several of which are sponsored with PTO fundraisers.

**J. BUSINESS**

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

**Auditing Services**

- J.1 a contract with PKF O'Connor Davies to conduct an audit calculation of the A41, A42 and Resource tuition for the 2022-2023 school year at Bernards High School at the total cost of \$7,640.00 which will be equally split by the Somerset Hills School District and the Bedminster Township School District.

**Approval of Semi Waiver**

- J.2 following resolution:  
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2024-2025 budget year, and  
WHEREAS, the Bedminster Township School District desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having forty (40) or fewer Medicaid-eligible Special Education students for the 2024-2025 budget year, and  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedminster Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Somerset an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

**Submission of the SFY2023 ESSER Performance Report**

J.3 submission of the School Fiscal Year 2023 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Performance Report to the NJ Department of Education.

**Approval of Submission Acceptance/Receipt of Funds**

J.4 the submission of a duly executed Certification to the New Jersey State for Fiscal Year 2024 funding from the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) Emergent Project and Capital Maintenance Program Grant and acceptance of the related funds in the amount of \$10,173.00 as provided by the NJDoE.

**NJDOE Non-Public Program**

J.5 the following non-public allocations from the NJDOE for the 2023-2024 school year:

Chapter	Allocation
192	\$0.00
193	\$16,071.00

**Pay Schedule for Athletic Officials 2023-2024**

J.6 the following:

Sport	Assignor	Rate per game
Soccer	NJSIAA - Raritan Valley Chapter	\$70
Field Hockey	Independent	\$75
Basketball	NJSIAA -basketball	\$75
Baseball/Softball	Independent	\$80
Lacrosse	NJILOA	\$70

\*If officiating the game solo, the rate per game is doubled.

**Technology**

J.7 the following:

Description	Amount
Renewal of AIT Gopher for Chrome Yearly Subscription	\$400.00
Kid-Inspired Classroom, Interactive Online ESL Curriculum Yearly Subscription	\$595.91
Renewal of Symantec Anti-Virus from CDWG	\$3,096.00
Renewal of Educational Training and Research Assoc. HealthSmart Digital	\$4,036.75

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

Cable Project by Eastern Datacomm - Onsite cabling technician to pull 2-Cat 6 cables in Boiler Room	\$1,930.00
---	------------

**ROD Grants**

- J.8 a motion authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Grant Agreement Grant #G5-6955 for the HVAC System Upgrade project scope DOE Project #0240-020-23-R501, SDA Project #0240-202-23-G5VF, Grant number G5-6955.
  
- J.9 a motion authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Grant Agreement Grant #G5-6956 for the HVAC System Upgrade project scope DOE Project #0240-020-23-R502, SDA Project #0240-202-23-G5VG, Grant number G5-6956.
  
- J.10 a motion authorizing Delegation of Authority to the School Business Administrator for supervision of the School Facilities Project for HVAC System Upgrade project scope DOE Project #0240-020-23-R501, SDA Project #0240-202-23-G5VF, Grant number G5-6955.
  
- J.11 a motion authorizing Delegation of Authority to the School Business Administrator for supervision of the School Facilities Project for HVAC System Upgrade project scope DOE Project #0240-020-23-R502, SDA Project #0240-202-23-G5VG, Grant number G5-6956.

**Approval Amend Grants**

- J.12 WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve the submission EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT - TITLE IV grant application and any amendments;  
WHEREAS, the Bedminster Township Schools Board of Education is in need of amending the fiscal and program allocations,  
AMEND ESSA - TITLE IV grant application to redistribute funding for wellness consultants, and supplies to improve conditions for student learning and achievement.  
Funds are available for obligation between July 1, 2023 and must be expended by September 30, 2024.
  
- J.13 WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve the submission AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OF 2021 grant application and any amendments;  
WHEREAS, the Bedminster Township School Board of Education will amend the fiscal and program allocations,  
AMEND 2021-ARP ESSER grant application to address the Federal 20% Learning Loss requirement.  
AMEND 2021 -ARP ESSER: Accelerated Learning Coach and Educator Support for a change in fiscal allocation.  
AMEND 2021 -ARP ESSER: Evidence Based Summer Learning and Enrichment for a change in fiscal and program allocation.  
AMEND 2021 - ARP ESSER: Evidence Based Comprehensive Beyond the School day for a change in fiscal and program allocation.  
Funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2024. Remaining funds may be carried over into the next fiscal year for a complete period of availability through September 30, 2024.

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

**Facilities Use Requests**

J.14 the following facility requests:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Room(s) Requested</b>	<b>Usage date(s) and time(s)</b>
Bedminster Recreation	Lego Engineering & Coding Afterschool Program	Room 262	2/22/2024, 2/29/2024, 3/7/2024, 3/14/2024, 3/21/2024, 4/11/2024, 4/18/2024, 4/25/2024; 3:35pm-5:00pm
	Ms. Gail's Kids Cooking Afterschool Program	Room 262	3/6/2024 - 3/27/2024 Wednesdays; 3:35pm-4:45pm
	World Monuments Afterschool Program	Room 262	3/12/2024; 3:35pm-4:45pm (revised from January 2024 agenda)
	Adult Indoor Volleyball	Gymnasium	3/12/2024, 3/19/2024, 3/26/2024, 4/9/2024, 4/16/2024, 4/23/2024, 4/30/2024, 5/7/2024, 5/14/2024, 5/21/2024; 7:00pm-9:30pm
PTO	Brainwash Assembly (Student Family Engagement)	Cafetorium	2/9/2024; 1:15pm Middle, 2:10pm Elementary, and 6:30pm Family Game Night (revised from January 2024 agenda)
PTO	Bright Star Assembly (Black History Month)	Cafetorium	2/22/2024; 1:15pm Middle, and 2:30pm Elementary
PTO/ Grade 8 Parent Chair	Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game	Gymnasium	3/22/2024; 7:00pm-9:00pm (revised from January 2024 agenda)
PTO/ Grade 8 Parent Chair	Student Practice for Student vs Faculty Basketball Game	Gymnasium	3/18/2024 and 3/20/2024; 7:30pm-9:30pm
Somerset Hills Ball Club	Youth Softball Clinic	Cafetorium	2/3/2024 and 2/24/2024; 9:00am-11:00am

**2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars**

J.15 the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Bedminster Township School District Calendars.

Motion to table **Item J.15** moved by Mr. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Stevinson

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

J. agenda items J.1 through J.14

Motion to approve **Items J.** moved by Mr. Reaves, seconded by Ms.Gomez

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**K. FINANCE**

Finance & Facilities Committee Report - Gabriel Wickizer (absent)

- Mr. Reaves reported that several projects were discussed at the meeting including the repair of the cafetorium ramp and several railing slotted for spring break and the cell phone booster project which was getting underway this week with an estimated timeline of two weeks. After receiving five different quotes from freezer “specialists”, a decision on the cafeteria freezer was made. He noted that quotes that were obtained ranged from \$10,000 to \$70,000 and that each specialist had found a different cause for the problem. He also noted that many dead ash trees had been removed from the property, decreasing the risk of falling trees and limbs and increasing the safety of our children and community. Mr. Reaves also spoke about the budget process and of the committee’s collaboration with administration to prioritize needs and wants to provide for the best education that the community can afford.

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

**2023-2024 Financial Reports**

K.1 the Report of the Secretary for January 2024 submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-16.10(c)(3), I, Robbin Boehmer, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify 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 January 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Treasurer’s Report for January 2024 be accepted and filed.

**2023-2024 Transfers**

K.2 transfers for the 2023-2024 school year totaling \$96,197.00 from January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024 as per the monthly transfer report.

**2023-2024 Invoices-General Agency Account**

K.3 the invoices presented for payment totaling \$1,800,162.93 from the General Agency Account from January 19, 2024 through February 15, 2024.

Fund	Amount
(10) General Fund	\$1,763,057.37

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

(12) Capital Outlay	\$0.00
(20) Special Revenue	\$37,105.56
(30) Capital Projects	\$0.00
(40) Debt Services	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,800,162.93</b>

**2023-2024 Invoices-Student Activities Account**

K.4 the invoices presented for payment totaling \$5,242.64 from the Student Activities Account from January 19, 2024 through February 15, 2024.

**2023-2024 Invoices-Food Service Account**

K.5 the invoices presented for payment totaling \$10,747.14 from the Food Service Account from January 19, 2024 through February 15, 2024.

K. agenda items K.1 through K.5

Motion to approve **Items K.** moved by Ms. Nathans, seconded by Ms. Anderson

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**L. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS**

Programs & Personnel Committee Report - Suzie Stevinson

- Ms. Stevinson reported that Mr. Swan joined the meeting and that it was the 100th day of school. She reported that the district is preparing students for spring testing. Teachers are working with students that will be transitioning to middle school. Programs that are utilized in the classroom were also part of the discussion as well as technology tools that are used in testing. The importance of student attendance was also discussed as was family engagement.

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

**Professional Development/Teacher Training (Title II Funding)**

L.1 approve the following Professional Development for staff:

Name of Event	Grade(s)	Date(s)	Cost
R.E.A.D. Intervention to provide Evidence-Based Reading Instruction	K - 4	9/3/2024 and 9/4/2024	\$7,500.00
The Energy Museum - Climate Change	5 - 8	3/4/2024	\$2,250.00



**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

The Energy Museum - Curriculum Updates & PBLs	5 - 8	3/18/2024, 4/22/2024, 5/13/2024, one more session Spring 2024	\$400.00 per session; \$1,600.00 total
---	-------	---	---

**Maternity Leave Adjustment**

L.2 an adjustment to the previously approved maternity leave of absence for Jessica Carlin, Teacher, under the Family and Medical Leave Act to begin on or before March 4, 2024 through on or about January 2, 2025.

**Lesson Plan Writing**

L.3 the following for the 2023-2024 school year part of the negotiated contract between the Bedminster BoE and the Bedminster BEA in effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023:

Title	Staff	Amount
Middle School Lesson Plan Writing Grade 6	Nicole Mancini	\$42.00 per hour, 5 hours per week, until on or about March 11, 2024
Middle School Lesson Plan Writing Grade 7	Colin White	\$42.00 per hour, 5 hours per week, until on or about March 11, 2024

**Workshops/Site Visits**

L.4 for the following staff for the workshops/site visits listed:

Name	Date	Title	Cost
Klaudia Zdybel	2/23/2024	NJASP Understanding and Using PSW and the Simple View of Reading Frameworks to Foster Collaboration in the Identification of Dyslexia - Virtual Workshop (Title II funding)	\$10.00 Registration
Debbie Nazzaro	3/2/2024	Somerset County School Nurses Association (SCSNA) CPR Renewal Class - Basking Ridge, NJ	\$30.00 Registration
Jennifer Giordano	3/14/2024-3/15/2024	SCASA Annual Meeting/Trainings - Bethlehem Hyatt Place, PA	\$90.99 Mileage
Ashley Isello	3/14/2024	NJCTE + Drew Writing Project Spring Conference 2024 - Drew University, Madison, NJ (Title II funding)	\$50.00 Registration
Lauren Zugale	3/15/2024	NJAPSA 3rd Annual Innovations in Special Education Technology - NJPSA/ FEA Conference Center Monroe, NJ (Title II funding)	\$31.92 Mileage; \$10.00 Tolls
Debbie Nazzaro	3/16/2024	NJSSNA Spring Conference - New Brunswick, NJ	\$199.00 Registration; \$18.52 Mileage; \$20.00 Parking

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

Jennifer Giordano	3/27/2024-3/28/2024	“I Love U Guys Foundation” Regional Exercise (Rex) - Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ	\$0.00 Registration; \$16.82 mileage
Corby Swan	3/27/2024-3/28/2024	“I Love U Guys Foundation” Regional Exercise (Rex) - Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ	\$0.00 Registration; \$16.82 mileage
Elizabeth Omega	4/19/2024	Women’s Leadership Conference: Connection, Balance, and Inspiration - Mercer County College, Princeton Junction, NJ	\$129.00 Registration
Elena Garcia-Albea	5/25/2024-5/27/2024	ABAI 50th Annual Convention - Philadelphia, PA	\$475.00 Registration

**Rescind Conference**

L.5 rescind the following staff for the conference listed:

Lauren Zugale	3/15/2024	NJAPSA 3rd Annual Innovations in Special Education Technology - NJPSA/ FEA Conference Center Monroe, NJ (Title II funding)	\$149.00 Registration; \$31.92 Mileage; \$10.00 Tolls
---------------	-----------	--	---

**Trips**

L.6 the following class/field trips:

Grade	Trip/Location	Date
Grade 3	Great Swamp Environmental Center Field Trip; Basking Ridge, NJ	April 2024
Grade K	Doyle’s Farm Field Trip; Flemington, NJ	May 2024
Grade 5	Liberty Science Center Field Trip; Jersey City, NJ	May 2024
Grade 7	Grounds for Sculpture; Hamilton, NJ	June 2024
Grade 8	Hershey Park Class Trip; Hershey, PA	June 2024
Grade 8	Philadelphia Museums Field Trip; Philadelphia, PA	June 2024
Grade 8	Bedminster, NJ Town Hall, Fire Department, Public Works, Police Department	June 2024

**Events**

L.7 the following school events:

Name of Event	Grade(s)	Date(s) and time(s)
Stella P. Mellas of Mellas Orthodontics, Guest Speaker	K - 4	2/1/2024
Walter Choroszewski, NJ Historian and Photographer - Presentation	4	5/2/2024

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 15, 2024**

**7:01 p.m**

**Donation**

- L.8 donation of student dental hygiene bags from Guest Speaker, Stella P. Mellas of Mellas Orthodontics, with an estimated value of \$250.00.
- L.9 the Bedminster Township Board of Education to go into Executive Session at 6:30 pm at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 14, 2024 (Budget Adoption)\*.
- L. agenda item L.1 through L.9

Motion to approve **Items L.** moved by Ms. Stevinson, seconded by Mr. Reaves

Yes	Ms. Anderson	Yes	Ms. Nathans	Yes	Ms. Stevinson
Absent	Ms. Biedron	Yes	Mr. Reaves	Absent	Mr. Wickizer
Yes	Ms. Gomez	Absent	Ms. Segal		

**M. 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.*

- Mr. Reaves told the public that he would be making a statement at the end of the public comment section. He reminded the public that remarks should be limited to three minutes.
- Trish Wiley, 965 River Road Bedminster, NJ, asked the board for an update on the BEA contract and wanted the board to be aware that children were being impacted. She also asked about the math curriculum that had been a subject of discussion at earlier meetings. Mr. Reaves responded that the teachers were working under a contract, just that it is not a new contract.
- Kevin Shauer, 31 Deer Haven Road Bedminster, NJ, asked a question about homework and whether there was homework being assigned. He urged the board to negotiate with the teachers and that he hoped they would not decide to leave the district. Mr. Reaves responded that homework is included for students and thanked the member for his comment.
- Jennifer Chang, 1 Jordanna Court, Bedminster, NJ, asked for updates on the negotiations and relayed that “talks should be in good faith”. She questioned why updates on the negotiations were never on the board agenda or communicated through the PTO. This was also related to communication about math curriculum and the board’s response to follow the chain of command. Ms. Stevinson responded that it is not fair or accurate to say that this has not been addressed at a public meeting.
- Steve Zacharko, 15 Bedminster Terrace Bedminster, NJ, asked for an update on negotiations and why communication is not being dispersed. Mr. Reaves responded that contracts are not discussed in meetings as they are “confidential and ongoing” that this is the nature of negotiations. Negotiations are confidential and not something that is openly reported at board meetings or to the public until the contract has been settled. Ms. Nathans commented that public comment is addressed to the board president and therefore, only the board president is supposed to respond to public comment.
- Cheryl Mitchell, Teacher and BEA Representative, explained that negotiations were now with a mediator and that the BEA was disappointed that the board had left negotiations prior to having a contract. She asked for a fair and respectful contract.

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2024**  
**7:01 p.m**

- Nicole Mancini, Teacher and BEA Representative, questioned how Mr. Reaves could report that the budget was in good shape if a contract with the teacher's had not been settled, noting that safety and those dealing with students should be a priority. She urged the board to "get down to business."
- Lauren Dimeo, 64 Autumn Ridge Road Bedminster, NJ, asked the board what the next steps would be in the negotiations process and how it would affect students. She stressed that communication needs to be "our strength" and that "we need to thank teachers". Mr. Reaves explained that negotiations on a contract can take a few months or even sometimes years, but noted that Bedminster has always been responsible in dealing with teachers. He said that how this affects students is dependent upon the teachers. The board intends to continue negotiations with the teachers in good faith and values its teaching staff.
- Cheryl Mitchell, Teacher and BEA Representative, noted that several other contracts have been settled and that what is being offered is not county average or what is recommended.
- Jennifer Holzberger, Teacher and BEA Representative, spoke of the consumer price index, social security, and minimum wage increases, noting that the contract has not kept pace with the cost of living. The board was also reminded of the additional skills and requirements necessary with the pandemic that have been incorporated into teaching today's classes without salaries being adjusted. She suggested that excess surplus funds seen in the audit should be used to cover salaries, noting that Bedminster has one of the lowest taxes in NJ.
- Natalia Pizarro, 15 Cambridge Road Bedminster, NJ, remarked that the ongoing negotiations and climate does affect children, especially those in Grade 8. The eighth grade fundraiser basketball game is "a big deal" for students and something that families view as one of the highlights of the year. She noted that this game would not be the same if teachers chose not to participate. Mr. Reaves agreed and noted that the board at tonight's meeting approved the basketball game and that it was not rescheduled.
- Julie Rogers, 101 Riverwood Avenue Bedminster, NJ, questioned why some contracts had been settled and questioned if funds could be "reshuffled". She mentioned having a difficult time finding information about meetings and board agendas. Mr. Reaves responded that the BEA is different as a collective bargaining unit than some of the other contracts that had been settled. He referenced the agreement as lengthy in comparison to the other contracts that had been settled. The NJEA provides a lot of support to drive hard negotiations. He said affordability is a factor and is the relationship with the teaching unit, dozens of items are in place. He also reminded the public that meetings times and agendas are posted on the Bedminster School website.
- Mr. Reaves closed public comment noting that the 30 minute limit had been reached. Mr. Reaves read a statement noting that due to public comments from BEA leadership about the status of contract negotiations, the BoE felt compelled to respond. He noted several public displays of dissatisfaction by the BEA and that the board encourages the BEA to focus their efforts on supporting students rather than making them a casualty of negotiating tactics. The BEA community is looking for the community to pressure the board to meet their demands. Impasse was declared on November 13, 2023 with no communication until February 1, 2024. During four hours of mediation, no communication was forthcoming. The board felt disrespected, having arrived at six o'clock and with no communication for four hours they left at 10:00 pm. Ms. Giordano clarified a statement that had been made, noting that she was the last person to leave the building.
- At this point in the board meeting, there were continuous loud interruptions from members of the public who spoke without authorization, disrupting the proceedings.
- Mr. Reaves, the board president, unable to continue the meeting in an orderly fashion, found it necessary for the meeting to be adjourned.

**BEDMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2024  
7:01 p.m**

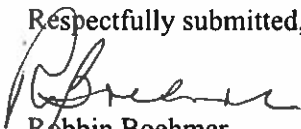
**N. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the Public Session at 8:14 p.m. moved by Mr. Reaves, seconded by Ms. Stevinson  
Yes: (5); No: (0); Abstain: (0); Absent (3)

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

**March 14, 2024 (Budget Adoption)\*  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,



Robbin Boehmer  
Board Secretary