

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION  
March 5, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The March 5, 2025 Budget Work Session Meeting of the Burlington Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Dunham, President, at 6:11 P.M. in the Board Conference Room of the Hopkins Building at 710 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ.

**II. STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE**

Notice is hereby given that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and that adequate notice has been provided as follows:

On January 14, 2025 the Secretary gave notice of this Executive meeting to be held at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Conference Room, Hopkins Building in the following manner:

- (a) Posted notice on the entranceway; Door #18 of the BTHS Hopkins Building;
- (b) Notices were sent to the Township Clerk, the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times.

**III. FLAG SALUTE**

**IV. ROLL CALL**

|                                                    | <u>ARRIVAL</u> | <u>DEPARTURE</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Lisa Hodnett                                  | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mrs. Carlye Lamarca                                | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mr. Melvin Moore                                   | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mr. Minesh Patel                                   | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mrs. Velina Marie Riggi                            | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mrs. Marguerite Romilus                            | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mrs. Kimberly Smith                                | Absent         | ---              |
| Mrs. Marilyn Dunham                                | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent                  | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mr. Nicholas Bice, BA/Board Secretary              | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mrs. Sherry Knight, Int. Asst. Supt. for C&I       | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mr. Christopher Giannotti, Asst. Supt. for Sp. Ed. | 6:11 P.M.      | 9:05 P.M.        |
| Mr. David Serlin, Solicitor                        | Absent         | ---              |

*Mrs. Riggi left the meeting at 6:12 P.M. and returned at 6:13 P.M.*

**V. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO UNEXPIRED TERM**

On the motion by Mrs. Riggi, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to recommend approval to appoint **James Shedaker** to serve a one-year unexpired term on the Board of Education, effective

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION  
March 5, 2025**

March 5, 2025 through December 31, 2025, pending criminal background check clearance.  
Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**VI. BOARD DISCUSSION**

- Mrs. Dunham reviewed bylaw 9010 with the Board and reminded the members regarding the provision pertaining to confidential information contained in this bylaw.
- Mr. Bice advised the Board that the New Jersey School Boards Association has announced dates for their 2025 Workshop. It will take place from October 20, 2025 through October 23, 2025.

**VII. PRESENTATION**

- Mr. Bice gave a presentation regarding the status of the 2025-2026 budget. The administration is responsible for presenting a balanced budget to the Board of Education based on the constraints and resources provided by the state. As of this evening, the administration has identified various increases and reductions based on the goals that were established by the Board of Education for the 2025-2026 budget. The totality of these changes, along with other changes based on contractual obligations, have been combined into the overall budget. At this time, the administration is finalizing their recommendations of the particular items to be included and reduced as part of the balanced budget and will present these at the second budget meeting. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide some background information and an overview of the documents available thus far and to ascertain what additional information, beyond what the Administration is working on, will be requested by the Board. The administration is prepared to answer questions from the Board regarding the proposed budget and how it supports the district goals. If additional information is requested, this data will be presented during the next budget meeting. The following documents were reviewed:
  - [Budget Overview 2025 Presentation](#)
  - [Review of Board Budget Goals, Challenges, and Calendar](#)
  - [Enrollment Projections 2025-2026](#)
  - [Proposed Budget 2025-2026](#)
  - [Impact of Budget Changes 2024-2025](#)

*Mrs. Riggi left the meeting at 6:35 P.M. and returned at 6:36 P.M.*

*Mrs. Dunham left the meeting at 6:54 P.M. and returned at 6:56 P.M.*

*Mr. Moore left the meeting at 7:08 P.M. and returned at 7:09 P.M.*

*Mr. Patel left the meeting at 7:09 P.M. and returned at 7:10 P.M.*

*Mrs. Romilus left the meeting at 7:10 P.M. and returned at 7:12 P.M.*

*Dr. Bell left the meeting at 7:10 P.M. and returned at 7:13 P.M.*

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION  
March 5, 2025**

**VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION**

- The Board briefly discussed Middle School sports and the possibility of including this a second question to the community in the November 2025 election. Dr. Bell and Mr. Bice advised they will obtain more information from the county on the process for this.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT - none**

**X. RECESS - *The Board took a brief recess at 8:33 P.M. and reconvened at 8:44 P.M.***

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On the motion of Mrs. Riggi, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to recommend to adopt a resolution to move into Executive Session at 8:45 P.M.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, THAT PURSUANT to Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from this portion of the meeting involving the discussion of:

1. Matters Required by Law to be Confidential:
  - a. HIB report review
  - b. Two extended out of school suspensions and hearings on March 19, 2025

*Mrs. Knight left the meeting at 8:46 P.M. and returned at 8:53 P.M.*

2. Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege:
  - a. Lawsuit from former employee and family

FURTHER RESOLVED, that discussion of such subjects in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public at some later time.

On the motion of Mrs. Lamarca, seconded by Mrs. Riggi, to approve the return to regular session at 8:55 P.M.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Moore asked, with regard to the lead water testing results that were presented at

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION  
March 5, 2025**

last meeting, if it is possible to replace the faucets at the two outlets that tested high to see if that resolves the issue. Mr. Bice advised that he will look into it with the Facilities Manager and our environmental consultant.

- Dr. Bell shared that a fight occurred at the High School yesterday and it is being handled by the administration.
- Mrs. Dunham shared that the Field Service Representative from New Jersey School Boards Association has been scheduled to present to the Board on March 26, 2025 regarding the Superintendent evaluation process.
- Dr. Bell reported that she had a question from a Board member regarding the military wall of honor at the High School. She shared that the JROTC would like to take this over since the student who started it has since graduated and the staff member who was handling it has left our district.
- Mr. Moore asked if it is possible to have Peer Leadership do another presentation to the Board since we have some new members who haven't seen them present. Dr. Bell said she will inquire about this.
- Mrs. Dunham stated that the Board will schedule a New Board Member Orientation session for Mr. Patel and Mr. Shedaker once Mr. Shedaker is sworn in to the Board.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, approval was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bice  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary