

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
August 12, 2020**

***Note regarding Board of Education meetings for the month of August 2020:** Due to ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19 and recommendations from federal, state, and local authorities regarding limiting gatherings of more than 10 people, the Board of Education Work Session will be presented in person and a **Virtual Meeting**.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 12, 2020 Work Session Meeting of the Burlington Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Maryann McMahon-Nester, President, at 6:14PM in the High School Cafeteria, located at 610 Fountain Avenue Burlington, NJ. The meeting was also available to the public as a virtual meeting.

**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 10, 2020, the Secretary gave notice of this Work Session meeting to be held at 6:00PM. in the Board Conference Room, Hopkins Building. **However, notice of format change was advertised on August 11, 2020** 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 \*(Virtual)**

	<u>ARRIVAL</u>	<u>DEPARTURE</u>
Mrs. Lisa Bungarden	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Donna Custard	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Marilyn Dunham*	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Susan Eichmann	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Lisa Hodnett	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mr. Christopher Holmes*	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Antoinette Minors-Ferguson	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Velina Marie Riggi	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Maryann McMahon-Nester	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mrs. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mr. Nicholas Bice, BA/Board Secretary	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Ms. Ann Britt, Asst. Supt. for Curr. & Inst.*	6:14 PM	8:38 PM
Mr. Christopher Giannotti, Asst. Supt. for Sp. Ed.	Absent	---
Mr. David Serlin, Solicitor	Absent	---

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
August 12, 2020**

**V.. OVERVIEW OF MEETING**

The location of the meeting was changed to the high school cafeteria due to HVAC issues in the Hopkins Building.

Seven out of nine Board Members present in person; Mrs. Bell and Mr. Bice were also at the meeting in person. One member of the public was present.

There will be three items (A5.b., D5 and D6) on the agenda for the August Board Meeting which require Board action tonight. Mr. Bice gave an overview of item D6 and Board Members asked questions to which Mr. Bice responded.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Mrs. Bell gave a review on the information regarding re-opening of the schools.  
[The Road Back & The Path Forward Fall 2020-For Community 2020-08-12](#)

**VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION**

Several Board Members asked questions regarding the re-opening to which Mrs. Bell responded to their concerns.

**IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (Agenda Items Only)**

Tish Davis is concerned about the grading system since she has a High School Student that will be looking at colleges. Mrs. Davis wants to be sure we are consistent with students from other states. She also asked if the district can reschedule fall sports if they are cancelled to give the students an opportunity to participate at another time. She appreciates all the work of the administration. Mrs. Bell responded to her concerns.

Patrick Wilfong asked if the in-person days would start in November? He commented that it was extremely difficult to get work done in the spring at home with younger children and he anticipates it will be more difficult with synchronous learning. He also asked if Before and After Care would be offered to assist? If Before and After Care is open, wouldn't that pose the same risk as opening school? He suggested students be considered for testing for antibodies and then the district could make an exception for those that test positive for antibodies. Mrs. Bell responded.

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
August 12, 2020**

**IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (Agenda Items Only) (Continued)**

Andrea Haney commented that there is not a lot of inconsistency with antibody testing so that may not be a viable option. She also asked that with fall sports not moving to Phase I, will practices stop if students are not brought in person? Mrs. Haney thinks sports should be consistent across the area. She appreciates the thoughtful consideration that is being given to this decision. Mrs. Bell responded.

Jennifer Allan was wondering what the survey results were regarding families that picked all virtual vs hybrid? She also asked if curriculum will be consistent across grade levels regardless of what learning model is decided on. Mrs. Allan had a 3rd grader last year and felt the 3rd grade students were learning different things in different classes. This was difficult on parents who work full-time and who need to help their students with school during the day. Mrs. Bell responded.

**X. BOARD AGENDA REVIEW**

The Board Members reviewed the agenda items for the meeting on August 26, 2020.

**XI. SUPERINTENDENT BELL'S REPORT FOR BOARD ACTION**

**A. PERSONNEL**

5. b. On the motion of Mrs. Custard, seconded by Mrs. Minors-Ferguson to recommend approval of Ethan Caldwell as Mathematics Teacher at Burlington Township High School, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at the BA level, step "A", salary as negotiated, pending meeting employment requirements.  
Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**D. BUSINESS**

5. On the motion of Mrs. Custard, seconded by Mrs. Minors-Ferguson to recommend approval of the following regarding the replacement of the chiller that services the Performing Arts Center at the Burlington Township High School.
- a. rejecting the bid from **Kisby Lees Mechanical LLC** due to the deficiency (per legal counsel) of failure to comply with the bidding specifications and N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2.
  - b. awarding a contract to **Falasca Mechanical, Inc.** in the amount of \$232,600.00.
  - c. approval of the transfer of funds from the district's Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$232,600.00. *The balance of the Capital Reserve account prior to this withdrawal is approximately \$1.6 million.*  
Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
August 12, 2020**

**D. BUSINESS (Continued)**

6. On the motion by Mrs. Custard, seconded by Mrs. Minors-Ferguson, to recommend approval to decrease the 2020-2021 budget due to a state aid reduction of \$856,181.00 received on July 10, 2020. The budget reductions will be addressed according to the district's [Revised State Aid Plan](#).

**XII. BOARD ACTION**

On the motion by Mrs. Minors-Ferguson, seconded by Mrs. Eichmann to recommend approval of the revised re-opening plan as follows:

- a. in September, all students will be remote with the exception of some small groups that may be brought into the buildings as needed. Safety plans will continue to be finalized. As of now, remote learning would last for approximately the first marking period. However, switching to the hybrid model could occur earlier if safety plans allow. Plans will be revisited in the coming weeks and an update will be provided to the Board and the community.

Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mrs. Minors-Ferguson, seconded by Mrs. Eichmann, approval was made to adjourn at 8:38pm. Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bice  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary