

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**  
**May 12, 2021**

*Note regarding Board of Education meetings for the month of May. 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 as a [Virtual Meeting](#)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The May 12, 2021 Work Session of the Burlington Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Minors-Ferguson, President, at 7:02PM in the Board Conference Room, Hopkins Building at 710 Jacksonville Road, 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 14, 2021, the Secretary gave notice of this Work Session meeting to be held at 7:00PM. 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**

<b>IV. <u>ROLL CALL</u> (*Virtual)</b>	<b><u>ARRIVAL</u></b>	<b><u>DEPARTURE</u></b>
Mrs. Lisa Bungarden	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Donna Custard*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Marilyn Dunham*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Susan Eichmann*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Lisa Hodnett	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mr. Edward Leak	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mr. Prabhdeep Pandher*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Velina Marie Riggi	Absent	---
Mrs. Antoinette Minors-Ferguson	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mrs. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mr. Nicholas Bice, BA/Board Secretary	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Ms. Ann Britt, Asst. Supt. for Curr. & Inst.*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mr. Christopher Giannotti, Asst. Supt. for Sp. Ed.*	7:02 PM	8:28 PM
Mr. David Serlin, Solicitor	Absent	---

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

*Members of the public are invited to submit comments pertaining only to the Board agenda during this public comment portion of the meeting. General comments, not necessarily pertaining to the agenda, are invited to be submitted during the public comment portion at the end of this meeting. The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters. This portion of the meeting is not a question and answer session. The Board will not respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Board will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Superintendent of Schools or Administration for resolution. In accordance with Board of Education Bylaw # 0167, each statement made by a participant may be limited to three minutes' duration.*

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

A. **PERSONNEL**

1. Recommend approval of the following substitutes for the 2021/22 school year, pending meeting employment requirements, as listed:

**SUBSTITUTES**

**Sub Teachers none**

**Sub Secretaries none**

**Sub PAC none**

**Sub Maintenance none**

**Sub Nurses none**

**Sub Bus Drivers none**

**Sub Bus Aides none**

2. Recommend accepting the following list of Emergent Hires: **none**
3. On the motion by Mrs. Dunham, seconded by Mrs. Custard to recommend approval to accept with regret, the **retirement/resignation** of:

- A. PERSONNEL (Continued)**
- a. **Colleen Howard**, Media Paraprofessional at Burlington Township High School, effective June 1, 2021. Mrs. Howard is also requesting payment of all accumulated sick, personal, and family illness days. Payment will be based on contract eligibility. Mrs. Howard will have served the district for 17 years & 4 months.  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.
  - 4. Recommend approval of the following **leaves of absence: none**
  - 5. On the motion by Mrs. Dunham, seconded by Mrs. Custard to recommend approval of the following **positions for the 2021-2022 school year:**
    - a. [Personnel Listing for 2021-2022 as of May 12, 2021](#)
    - b. [employment contract](#) for **Nicholas Bice**, Business Administrator, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, as approved by the county.
    - c. [employment contract](#) for **Ann Marie Britt**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, as approved by the county.
    - d. [employment contract](#) for **Christopher Giannotti**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Early Childhood Development, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, as approved by the county.
    - e. [employment contract](#) for **Elizabeth Scott**, Director of Human Resources and Community Relations, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
    - f. individuals to serve as Title III Tutors for the 2020-2021 school year:  
**Fee, Colleen**  
**Ferguson, Roxanne**  
**Hayes, Alicia**  
**Heaney, Margaret**  
**Khanna, Garima**  
**Harris-Jenkins, Charlene**  
**Lee, Rick**  
**Rhea, Tiffany**  
**Sturgis, Merisha**  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.
  - 6. On the motion by Mrs. Dunham, seconded by Mrs. Custard to recommend approval of the following **transfers:**
    - a. **Jennifer Caceres** - from Speech Therapist at Fountain Woods School to Speech Therapist at B. Bernice Young School effective September 1, 2021.

**A. PERSONNEL (Continued)**

- b. **Kimberlee Waitman** - from Speech Therapist at B. Bernice Young School to Speech Therapist at Fountain Woods School effective September 1, 2021.  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.
- 7. On the motion by Mrs. Dunham, seconded by Mrs. Custard to recommend approval of the following rates of pay for the 2021-2022 school year, as listed:
  - a. Paint Team Manager - \$32.00/hour  
Paint Team Sub Manager - \$31.25/hour  
Paint Team Student Lead - \$13.50/hour  
Paint Team Student with Experience - \$ 12.50/hour  
Paint Team Student without Experience - \$ 12.00/hour  
PAC Manager - \$41.00/hour  
PAC Usher - \$16.25/hour  
PAC Assistant - \$16.25/hour  
PAC Assistant Sub - \$16.25/hour  
Substitute Registered Nurse - \$200.00/day  
Substitute Teachers (Substitute Certificate) - \$110.00/day  
Substitute Teachers (Teaching Certificate) - \$130.00/day  
Substitute Secretary - \$13.75/hour  
Substitute Bus Driver - \$22.00/hour  
Substitute Bus Aide - \$13.50/hour  
Substitute Maintenance - \$13.50/hour  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**B. STUDENTS**

- a. **none**

**C. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. Recommend acceptance of the monthly Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report of Incidents per Board of Education Policy #S5512.01 and the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act of 2011. (Report is considered privileged in nature.)
  - a. RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the School Superintendent that the Board of Education affirm, modify or reject the following H.I.B. Incident Reports.

C. **MISCELLANEOUS (Continued)**  
Case Numbers - None

D. **BUSINESS**  
none

VIII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Burlington Township Foundation Liaison - [see report](#)  
Finance Committee - [see report](#)  
Communication Committee - [see report](#)  
Curriculum Committee - [see report](#)  
Strategic Planning - [see report](#)

IX. **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATES**

Ms. Britt said that the "Our Hearts Are With You" program will end on Friday, May 14, 2021.

X. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Mrs. Bell updated the Board on the following items:

- Guidance expected from NJDOE next week regarding fall reopening.
- Bipolar Ionization project for cafeterias and PAC is currently out to bid. Anticipated award in May.
- Staffing update
- Strategic Planning Convocation on June 8, 2021
- Working on policy updates for the Foundation transition
- Counseling Strategic Plan to be presented at the May 26, 2021 Board Meeting.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

[Presentation on Proposed BTHS Start Time Change 2021](#)

XII. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to submit any general comments during this public comment portion of the meeting. The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters. This portion of the meeting is not a question and answer session. The Board will not respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Board will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Superintendent of Schools or Administration for*

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS (Continued)**

*resolution. In accordance with Board of Education Bylaw # 0167, each statement made by a participant may be limited to three minutes' duration.*

Mrs. Sbarro - Regarding the HS schedule, asked if the district considered extending the school day to not lose instructional time. She also asked what the district will do with the money being saved on buses. Mrs. Bell responded.

Mrs. Smith - Had questions regarding the 5 days per week schedule that was originally proposed, but is now not moving forward. Can you elaborate on what the safety concerns and confusion are? Are there Middle School schedule conflicts? Is Young School related arts losing instructional time? Are there contractual issues? If original plans were for 5 days later in the school year (after Spring Break), why are they being abandoned now? Some people are saying this year is a "wash." As a parent and teacher, she disagrees. Our children's education is of utmost importance. Can't we overcome these challenges to go 5 days? Other surrounding districts have switched to 5 full days. We should at least be able to do 5 half days. Mrs. Bell responded.

Mrs. Basantis - Commended Township teachers for their work this year, and she echoes the statements of the last commenter. As a teacher, she was hopeful we would end the year with 5 full days like the district she teaches in. When she realized that was not possible, she was hopeful for 5 half days. Now that's not happening. She is hopeful for a successful fall reopening. When will we know more about this? Mrs. Basantis was also concerned about shared busing between High School and Middle School with the proposed High School schedule change. She believes this opens up issues on the buses. Is there anything that can be done - add aides on buses or contract additional bus routes? She is also concerned about the loss of instructional time with the proposed High School schedule change. It's communicated as 6 minutes, but if you multiply that by the number of school days it adds up to a lot of lost time. Could we consider extending the day not to lose that time? Mrs. Bell responded.

Mrs. Reed-Darby - Said "Thank you" to the administration. She knows we are in an impossible situation and there is no right or wrong answer. This school year of students with 504 plans and IEPs has been extremely difficult. Her child has struggled. As a parent of a Middle School student, she is very concerned about High School and Middle School students on the same bus. Many other parents are not OK with this decision.

**XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Bungarden asked if there could be positives of having combined High School and Middle School buses? Not discrediting concerns raised by parents, but some conversations in the Strategic Planning Committee indicated that High School students could be role models to Middle School students and Middle School students would be less inclined to act up with older students there. Also, would the bus routes be shorter because of routes concentrated in neighborhoods with a larger number of students? Mrs. Bell responded.

Mrs. Eichmann commented that Mrs. Bungarden raised some good points, but parents have also raised concerns. Wondering if we have data on bus discipline to provide reassurance to parents? Mrs. Bell responded.

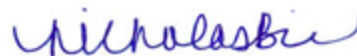
**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mrs. Bungarden, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to recommend approval to adjourn at 8:28PM.

Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bice  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary