



North Hunterdon-Voorhees REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education - Hunterdon County, NJ

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location - District Administration Office

1445 Route 31, Annandale, NJ 08801

Click [NHV BOE Meeting - 05/24/2022](#) to access the live stream/recording of meeting

1. Board President J. Viotto called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and read the Public Meeting Notice.

2. **Roll Call**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Municipalities Represented</u> | <u>Weighted Vote</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Debra Bonomi - present | Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township | 0.8 |
| Bryan Chapman - absent | Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough | 0.9 |
| Shelley Crisologo - present | Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough | 0.9 |
| Glen Farbanish - present | Union Township | 1.4 |
| Tara Marie Hintz - present | High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township | 1.2 |
| M. Rion Hoffmann - present | High Bridge Borough / Lebanon Township | 1.2 |
| Robert Kirchberger - present | Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough | 0.9 |
| John Melick - present | Califon Borough / Tewksbury Township | 0.8 |
| Kimberly Solino - present | Bethlehem Township / Hampton Borough | 1.3 |
| Daniel Spanton - present | Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough | 0.9 |
| Roger Straight - present | Clinton Township / Lebanon Borough | 0.9 |
| Jessica Viotto - present | Town of Clinton / Franklin Township / Glen Gardner Borough | 0.9 |

Also present: J. Bender - Superintendent of Schools, R. Bergacs - Assistant Superintendent, K. Blew - School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, M. Squarcia - Director of School Counseling Services, R. Broan, Director of Curriculum, Articulation and Student Achievement, G. Vargas-Dellacasa - District Technology Coordinator, M. Smagala - District Communications Coordinator, G. Cottrell - Principal of North Hunterdon High School, R. Peterson - Principal of Voorhees High School, J. Comegno - School Board Attorney, Comegno Law Group P.C., Vanessa Moline - NHHS Student Board Representative, Bethany Kaduyu - VHS Student Board Representative.

Statement on Texas Elementary School Shooting –

Before we start the meeting, I want to take a moment to say that our thoughts and prayers are with the families and community of Uvalde, Texas. If you heard the news today, you will know that they experienced a school shooting at their elementary school that so far has taken the lives of 14 children and one teacher. This is an unspeakable tragedy that no parent or community should have to live through. I know we will all hold our children a little closer today and in the days to come. Again, our hearts are with the Uvalde, Texas community.

3. **Flag Salute**
4. **Motion by T. Hintz and second by R. Hoffmann** to approve agenda item 4.1. **Motion carried** on voice vote.
 - 4.1. [Minutes of the April 26, 2022](#) regular school board meeting.
5. **Presentation and Public Hearing** - Dr. Bergacs reviewed the NJ Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, District and School [Grade Report for 2020-2021](#). Dr. Bergacs confirmed the State has now certified the data. Scores: NHHS scored 77 out of 78 and VHS scored a 77 out of 78 and the District Wide total is 77 out of 78.
6. **Board Student Representatives' Report:**
 - 6.1. Vanessa Moline - NHHS Representative spoke about the success of the Relay for Life and the Prom. A thank you to Polytech for providing hair and makeup stylists for the Prom. Vanessa also gave an update on the boys volleyball team, Senior Awards, Graduation, Project Graduation, and thanked the Board of Education and the PTSA for the events this year.
Bethany Kaduyu - VHS spoke about the AP Exams, the NJSLA testing and the blood drive. Bethany also gave an update on the Seniors who volunteered at the High Bridge Elementary School, the senior trips including the dinner cruise, Six Flags, the upcoming Prom, boys and girls track and field and girls golf. Other upcoming events were discussed including Relay for Life, Unified Theater, Senior Awards, graduation and also thanked the Board of Education.
 - 6.2. J. Viotto recognized and thanked the Student Representatives for their service to the Board of Education over the last school year.
7. **J. Bender provided the following Chief School Administrator's Report:**
 - We will continue our COVID-19 protocols through the end of the school year. We did have a slight uptick in cases following spring recess, which is similar to what we've seen following other holidays. We will keep you updated over the summer if we receive any recommendations from the NJ Department of Health for the new school year.
 - Blood Drive will be held at North Hunterdon High School tomorrow from 7:30am-3:00pm in the main gym, one was held at Voorhees today. Please consider donating as New Jersey Blood Services has declared a blood emergency due to an alarming drop in blood donations.
 - We are moving into the last few weeks of the school year with many important events coming up:
 - North Hunterdon held their Senior Prom on May 20th and the Voorhees Junior-Senior Prom is on May 26th.

- Senior Awards Night is on June 1st for North Hunterdon and June 2nd for Voorhees.
 - Final exams are scheduled for June 8, 9, 10 and 13 with makeup exams on June 14th. All final exam days are early dismissals for students.
 - Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2022 will be held on June 15th at 10:00am.
- 7.1. Recognition of Student Achievements:
Dr. Cottrell recognized junior Aasha Page at North Hunterdon High School who was selected for the NJ Governor's School for the Sciences at Drew University. Mr. Peterson recognized senior Thomas Larsen for his academic and extracurricular accomplishments during his high school career.
- 7.2. Report on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying - zero incidents reported
- 7.3. **Motion by S. Crisologo and second by D. Bonomi** to affirm the determinations on the [HIB incidents](#) reported at the April 26, 2022 board meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** on voice vote.
- 7.4. [Monthly Reports](#)
8. **School Board President's Report**
- 8.1. Voorhees High School Graduation Ceremony - June 15, 2022 at 10:00am
- 8.2. North Hunterdon High School Graduation Ceremony - June 15, 2022 at 10:00am
- 8.3. June 28, 2022 - Annual Goal Setting and Board Meeting - **6:00 p.m.** in District Administration Office
- 8.4. Action Needed - Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.3a, and in preparation for the June 28, 2022 Board Goal Setting Meeting, Board members are requested to complete the Board Self-Evaluation and Chief School Administrator Evaluation available online at New Jersey School Boards Association
- 8.5. July 25, 2022, 4:00pm - Deadline to submit [nominating petitions](#) for School Board vacancies to the County Clerk's office.
9. **School Board Committee Reports**
- Community Relations/Student Affairs**
Committee reviewed and approved a brochure from the NJSBA, Guide to BOE meetings in New Jersey, to be posted on the district website and available at each board meeting.
- Curriculum Instruction and Technology Committee**
Items discussed were next year's professional development plan, home instruction, out of district placements, clubs and activities. Summer curriculum hours and student enrollment was reviewed and discussed. The process for final exams and questions regarding the last demographic study were also discussed.
- Facilities, Finance and Transportation Committee**
An update was given on the solar project, summer projects, referendum application, Polytech project, tennis court maintenance, renewal of medical/dental and prescription plans, and the NJSIG Safety Grant.
- Personnel Committee**
Personnel agenda was reviewed as well as proposals for new student clubs.
- Policy Committee and School Security**
Committee discussed policies on agenda for first reading, custodial overtime rates associated with facility rentals, Policy 9130, remote participation for Board members, and the ad hoc committee for regionalization. J. Comegno gave an update regarding the remote participation at Board of Education meetings, which the committee does not recommend.

New Jersey School Boards Association Delegates

T. Hintz gave an update from the last delegates meeting, which included review and approval of bylaws and policies and approval of new NJSBA executive director.

Hunterdon County School Boards Association

R. Hoffmann gave an update on the last HCSBA meeting, which included the role of Board members on curriculum and social-emotional learning competencies. R. Hoffmann attended the VHS No Place for Hate committee meeting, and the NJSBA Equity Conference.

10. **Opportunity for Public Comment** - [Click here for public participation policy](#)
During this portion of the meeting, the public is invited to address the School Board with questions or comments. The public is requested to sign the register provided for this purpose and to state their name, municipality of residence, group affiliation if applicable, and direct their comments to the School Board President. While all comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate, School Board members will not respond to the speakers at the time of their appearance. The public comment period will be a maximum of thirty minutes in length unless there are unusual circumstances. Those appearing will be allocated three minutes to speak and no one will be permitted to speak twice until those that have not yet had an opportunity to speak have had a turn.
 - Four members of the public spoke about library books, gender identity and mental health awareness.
11. **Motion by R. Kirchberger and second by D. Bonomi** to approve agenda items 12.1 to 14.17. **Motion carried** on voice vote with an abstention on item 14.17 by T. Hintz.
12. **Curriculum, Instruction and Technology**
 - 12.1. Approve the proposed North Hunterdon-Voorhees District [Professional Development Plan](#) (PDP) for the 2022-2023 school year
 - 12.2. [Home Instruction](#)
 - 12.3. [Out of District Placement](#) for the 2021-2022 School Year
13. **Policy**
 - 13.1. [Abolish Policy 1648.14](#)
 - 13.2. [First Reading of Policies](#)
14. **Finance, Facilities and Transportation**
 - 14.1. Approve the participation in the ARP HCY II [Consortium](#) for ARP Homeless II funds in the amount of [\\$3.692](#)
 - 14.2. Approve the participation in the [ESSA Title III Consortium](#)
 - 14.3. Resolution [052422-7](#) for the approval of the multi-year contract for the E-Rate Service Agreement for 3 years.
 - 14.4. Resolution [052422-8](#) to appoint Effective School Solutions LLC as the District Mental Health Wrap-Around Program Provider
 - 14.5. Resolution [052422-4](#) for the approval of NHHS tennis court maintenance
 - 14.6. Resolution [052422-3](#) to approve the 2022-2023 NJSIG Safety Grant
 - 14.7. [Requisition of taxes](#) for the 2022-2023 school year
 - 14.8. Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission [rates](#) for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - 14.9. Declare [district property](#) as damaged and/or obsolete and grant authorization for disposal

- 14.10. Resolution [052422-6](#) to renew medical and dental benefits with the Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF)
- 14.11. Resolution [052422-5](#) to renew prescription benefits with Benecard
- 14.12. [Monthly Bills List](#)
- 14.13. [Resolution 052422-1](#) Monthly Financial Reports Certification
- 14.14. [Board Secretary Report](#) for the month ending April 2022
- 14.15. [Treasurer Report](#) for the month ending April 2022
- 14.16. [Transfer of funds](#) within the 2021-2022 school year budget - April 2022
- 14.17. [Staff training and travel requests](#)
15. **Old and New Business**
 - K. Solino discussed revisiting Regulation 1240.
 - T. Hintz asked the Board and Administration to consider changing the date for Board Goal Setting as she is unable to attend the June 28, 2022 meeting due to pre-arranged travel plans.
16. **Motion by K. Solino and second R. Kirchberger** to adopt the resolution [052422-2](#) for executive session to discuss matters falling under category 4 and 8 as reflected in the attached resolution. The Board expects to be in executive session for approximately 1 hour, and upon return to public session, action will be taken. **Motion carried unanimously** on voice vote and the Board adjourned to executive session at 8:09 pm.
17. **Motion by R. Kirchberger and second by S. Crisologo** to reconvene the public session. **Motion carried** on voice vote and public session reconvened at 8:43pm.
18. **New Business - None.**
19. **Motion by S. Crisologo and second by D. Bonomi** to approve agenda items 19.1 and 19.2, including addition to 2021-2024 NHVEA agreement as discussed in executive session. **Motion carried** on roll call vote with an abstention on item 19.2 by R. Straight and abstentions by K. Solino on items N8.3.1 thru N8.3.8 on personnel agenda.
 - 19.1. [Personnel Agenda](#) May 24, 2022
 - 19.2. Executive session minutes April 26, 2022
20. **Motion by R. Straight and second by R. Kirchberger** to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously** on voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Blew

Kathryn Blew, CPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary