

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC WORK SESSION
April 16, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 16, 2025 Work Session Meeting of the Burlington Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Dunham, President, at 6:07 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 Work Session 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	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mrs. Carlye Lamarca	6:07 P.M.	6:28 P.M.
Mr. Melvin Moore	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mr. Minesh Patel	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mrs. Velina Marie Riggi	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mrs. Marguerite Romilus	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mr. James Shedaker	Absent	---
Mrs. Kimberly Smith	Absent	---
Mrs. Marilyn Dunham	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mr. Nicholas Bice, BA/Board Secretary	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mrs. Sherry Knight, Int. Asst. Supt. for C&I	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mr. Christopher Giannotti, Asst. Supt. for Sp. Ed	6:07 P.M.	8:22 P.M.
Mr. David Serlin, Solicitor	Absent	---

V. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Mrs. Dunham reminded Board members regarding upcoming deadlines for the Superintendent evaluation, Governance training, disclosure statements, and nominating petitions for the 2025 election.

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- Mrs. Dunham reported that she attended the NJSBA Equity Expo Conference on April 11th.
- Mrs. Dunham congratulated the district on being awarded the Local Recreation Improvement Grant.

VI. BOARD ACTION

C. MISCELLANEOUS

7. On the motion of Mrs. Hodnett, seconded by Mrs. Lamarca, to recommend approval of school calendar:

-  2024-2025 BTSD Community Calendar

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

D. BUSINESS

13. On the motion of Mrs. Hodnett, seconded by Mrs. Lamarca, to recommend approval to authorize the Qualified Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for food and supplies for the school food service programs for the 2025-2026 school year

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

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION

- The Board of Education reviewed the agenda for the April 30, 2025 meeting.

Dr. Bell left the meeting at 6:17 P.M. and returned at 6:20 P.M.

Mrs. Knight left the meeting at 6:17 P.M. and returned at 6:25 P.M.

Mrs. Dunham left the meeting at 6:19 P.M. and returned at 6:21 P.M.

Mrs. Romilus left the meeting at 6:19 P.M. and returned at 6:21 P.M.

VIII. PRESENTATION

- The Peer Leadership group gave a presentation and explained to the Board the work that they do during the school year.

Mrs. Lamarca left the meeting at 6:28 P.M.

Mrs. Knight left the meeting at 6:32 P.M. and returned at 7:02 P.M.

Dr. Bell left the meeting at 6:37 P.M. and returned at 6:49 P.M.

Mr. Giannotti left the meeting at 6:37 P.M. and returned at 6:40 P.M.

Mrs. Dunham left the meeting at 6:44 P.M. and returned at 7:01 P.M.

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IX. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

- Dr. Bell gave an update on the High School Girls Flag Football team.
- Dr. Bell reported that there is a bid opening for the referendum roof projects tomorrow.
- Dr. Bell reported that spring break is next week and there are many events coming up as we approach the end of the school year such as trips and celebrations.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board Liaison - Mrs. Hodnett reported that the Planning Board met and discussed a Virtua office and the county climate change vulnerability assessment.
- Strategic Planning Committee - [see report](#)
- Finance Committee - [see report](#)

XI. PRESENTATION

-  MS Sports Separate Proposal for November 2025 General Election 2025-04-16

Mr. Giannotti left the meeting at 7:02 P.M. and returned at 7:07 P.M.

Mr. Moore left the meeting at 7:07 P.M. and returned at 7:08 P.M.

Mrs. Knight left the meeting at 7:07 P.M. and returned at 7:09 P.M.

Mrs. Knight left the meeting at 7:12 P.M. and returned at 7:15 P.M.

Mr. Patel left the meeting at 7:24 P.M. and returned at 7:25 P.M.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Daphne Carter (60 Whitford Drive) - Commented that she was part of the committee that discussed Middle School sports and is here to support. She stated that she has a desire for sports to be added to the Middle School.

XIII. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Dr. Bell reported that the Township informed the district that there is an additional cost of approximately \$15,000.00 to reprint revised tax bills if the separate proposal is passed in November 2025.
- Dr. Bell reported that she and Mr. Bice finalized the budget letter, budget presentation, and budget video which will be shared with the community.
- Dr. Bell reported that the district is eligible for additional tax levy due to its underadequacy spending status. However, the Board discussed and decided not to pursue this program.
- Dr. Bell reminded Board members regarding upcoming committee meetings.
- Mrs. Dunham shared that Mrs. Smith will be speaking at 8th Grade Advancement.

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XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Mrs. Riggi, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to recommend to adopt a resolution to move into Executive Session at 7:50 P.M.

6 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
2. Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:
 - a. Three RICE notices for non-renewals of staff members
 - b. One RICE notice for a budget reduction in force of staff member
 - c. One RICE notice for suspension of a staff member

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

On the motion of Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to approve the return to regular session at 8:17 P.M.

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

XV. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Mr. Giannotti reported that the first Preschool Caregiver Conversation will take place tomorrow with the new social worker. The topic of discussion will be colorful plates and healthy eating.
- Mr. Bice reminded Board members regarding the NJSBA Workshop in October and confirmed that registration has been completed and hotel accommodations have been made.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mrs. Hodnett, seconded by Mr. Moore, approval was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 P.M.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Bice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicholas" being more prominent than the last name "Bice".

Nicholas Bice
Business Administrator/Board Secretary