

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC WORK SESSION
February 12, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 12, 2025 Work Session Meeting of the Burlington Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Dunham, President, at 5:38 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 February 4, 2025 the Secretary gave notice of this Work Session meeting to be held at 5:30 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	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mrs. Carlye Lamarca	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mr. Melvin Moore	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mr. Minesh Patel	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mrs. Velina Marie Riggi	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mrs. Marguerite Romilus	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mrs. Kimberly Smith	Absent	---
Mrs. Marilyn Dunham	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mr. Nicholas Bice, BA/Board Secretary	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.
Mrs. Sherry Knight, Int. Asst. Supt. for C&I	5:38 P.M.	6:21 P.M.
Mr. Christopher Giannotti, Asst. Supt. for Sp. Ed	5:38 P.M.	6:18 P.M.
Ms. Amy Guern, Solicitor	5:38 P.M.	7:55 P.M.

Mr. Giannotti left the meeting at 5:40 P.M. and returned at 5:43 P.M.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Dr. Bell reported that she attended the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

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(ATAP) Conference last week and she learned a lot of great information that she will be working to implement in the district.

VI. BOARD ACTION

A. PERSONNEL

1. On the motion of Mrs. Riggi, seconded by Mrs. Hodnett, to recommend approval of the following substitutes for the 2024/25 school year, pending meeting employment requirements, as listed:

SUBSTITUTES

Sub Teachers

Najee Manning, Steven Mendez, Irene Reyes

Sub Secretaries - none

Sub Maintenance - none

Sub Nurses

Kristina Leinheiser

Sub Bus Drivers - none

Sub Bus Aides - none

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

Dr. Bell left the meeting at 5:42 P.M. and returned at 5:43 P.M.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Mrs. Lamarca, seconded by Mr. Moore, to recommend to adopt a resolution to move into Executive Session at 5:43 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. Potential HIB hearing on February 26, 2025
 - c. FWS student matter
2. Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:
 - a. Staff member certification issue
 - b. Mid-year personnel review on February 26, 2025
 - c. Leaves of absences

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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. Riggi, seconded by Mrs. Romilus, to approve the return to regular session at 6:07 P.M.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Dr. Bell thanked the Board for the sympathy flowers they sent.
- Dr. Bell provided an update on a communication she received from a Board member regarding Kidz Space at Fountain Woods.
- Dr. Bell reported about a parent inquiry regarding sending tests home which was discussed by the Curriculum Committee.

Mr. Moore left the meeting at 6:13 P.M. and returned at 6:15 P.M.

IX. BOARD DISCUSSION

- The Board scheduled the following committee meetings:
 - Township Liaison - Monday, March 31, 2025 or Monday, April 14, 2025 (holding both dates pending confirmation from Township)
 - Curriculum - Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
 - Policy - TBD, to be scheduled in the month of April
 - Finance - Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Mrs. Dunham left the meeting at 6:18 P.M. and returned at 6:19 P.M.

Mrs. Romulus left the meeting at 6:19 P.M. and returned at 6:22 P.M.

- Mrs. Hodnett asked about the information in the news regarding the US Department of Education and if the district has received any inquiries or impacts. Dr. Bell responded that she has responded to the few parents who reached out but we do not have much information at this time.
- Mrs. Lamarca asked about preparing a report for her NJSBA liaison role. Mrs. Dunham responded that she can use the regular Committee Report template.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Mrs. Hodnett, seconded by Mrs. Riggi, to recommend to adopt a resolution to move into Executive Session at 6:23 P.M.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

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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 Involving Individual Privacy:
 - a. Board of Education Candidate interviews (4 Candidates were interviewed for the position)

Dr. Bell left the meeting at 6:24 P.M. and returned at 6:26 P.M.

Dr. Bell left the meeting at 7:26 P.M. and returned at 7:30 P.M.

2. Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege:
 - b. Negotiations Committee meeting update

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. Hodnett, seconded by Mrs. Riggi, to approve the return to regular session at 7:39 P.M.

6 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

XI. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Dr. Bell reported that there will be a student performance by the High School musical at the February 26, 2025 meeting.
- Dr. Bell and Mr. Bice provided an update on the referendum bond sale that took place on February 11, 2025.
- Dr. Bell reported that the district is working on updates to some related arts curriculum as required for compliance by QSAC.
- Dr. Bell and Mr. Bice reminded Board members about completing the bio template so the bios can be added to the website as requested by the Board.
- Dr. Bell reported that the Middle School is working on submitting an eSports grant.
- Dr. Bell reported on plans for the staff professional development day on March 31, 2025.
- Dr. Bell reported that the district has staff and student attendance concerns for February 14, 2025 due to the Eagles parade.
- Dr. Bell reported that Edgewater Park School District was closed today due to a swatting threat. Lenape and Cherry Hill School District had similar threats previously.
- Dr. Bell and Mr. Bice reported that they met with the Township Administrator today to discuss shared services and PILOTS.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mrs. Lamarca, seconded by Mrs. Riggi, approval was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Bice
Business Administrator/Board Secretary