

**HIGH BRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday, February 5, 2024**

1. OPENING OF MEETING - 6:30 PM

Required Notice of Open Public Meeting

Being duly posted at the following locations: High Bridge Middle School and Elementary School main offices, High Bridge Borough Hall Office; and advertised, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, in the following newspaper: Hunterdon County Democrat, this meeting will convene in the Library of the High Bridge Elementary School, 40 Fairview Avenue, High Bridge, NJ 08829, alternatively the meeting will be available for listening purposes only on Google Meet. The Board will only accept public participation from those who are physically in attendance, as per Policy 0168. Please notify the board if you intend to record this meeting.

Date: Monday, February 5, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Formal action will be taken.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL by Karolina Cywa, SBA / Board Secretary

Benjamin Bolger

Erin Delgado

Robert Imhoff

Michael McCasland

Colleen Poles

Cynthia Sharkey

Karyn Gove

Additional Members Present: Dr. Gregory Hobaugh, Superintendent
Karolina Cywa, SBA / Board Secretary

4. PRESENTATION & RECOGNITION ITEMS

4.1.1. Superintendent Update

4.1.1.1. District Goal Update

5. REVIEW OF OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Qumareldeen Family	2/2/24	Request to Remain in District
<i>(Qumareldeen Correspondence 2 2 24)</i>		

6. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

6.1. Board President’s Report

6.1.1. Policy Audit (*Attachment: Policy Audit 2000 Programs and Regulation Audit 2000 Programs*)

- 6.1.1.1.** Policy 2414 - Programs & Services for Students in High Poverty and in High Need School Districts (M)
- 6.1.1.2.** Policy 2416 - Programs for Pregnant Students (M)
- 6.1.1.3.** Policy 2416.01 - Postnatal Accommodations for Students
- 6.1.1.4.** Policy 2421 - Career & Technical Education
- 6.1.1.5.** Policy 2422 - Comprehensive Health & Physical Education (M)
- 6.1.1.6.** Policy 2431.3 Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety (M)
- 6.1.1.7.** Policy 2440 - Summer Session
- 6.1.1.8.** Policy 2631 - NJ Quality Single Account Continuum
- 6.1.1.9.** Policy 2700 - Services to Nonpublic School Students (M)
- 6.1.1.10.** Regulation 2415 - Title I Services (M)
- 6.1.1.11.** Regulation 2431.1 - Medical Examination Prior to Participation
- 6.1.1.12.** Regulation 2460.1 - Special Education Location, Identification & Referral (M)
- 6.1.1.13.** Regulation 2460.5 - Special Education Exemption From Statewide Testing - ABOLISH
- 6.1.1.14.** Regulation 2460.10 - Special Education Maintenance, Access To & Confidentiality of Student Records - ABOLISH
- 6.1.1.15.** Regulation 2461.14 - Special Education In Service Training - ABOLISH
- 6.1.1.16.** Regulation 2481 - Home or Out of School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other Than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition (M)
- 6.1.1.17.** Regulation 2622 - Student Assessment (M)

6.1.2. Student Achievement

6.1.3. Shared Services Committee Update - Karyn Gove

6.1.4. Negotiations Committee Update

6.1.5. School Security Committee Update

6.1.6. Hunterdon County School Boards Association Meeting Update - Robert Imhoff

7. ACTION ITEM

7.1. Motion to approve the following resolution.

Resolved, having carefully considered the information presented in the closed session Level IV hearing on January 8, 2024, the Grievance is denied and the Board Secretary is directed to inform the grievant of the decision of the Board.

Board President calls for a motion and a second to approve 7.1.:

Motion:		Second:		
Name:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Benjamin Bolger				
Erin Delgado				

Motion:		Second:		
Name:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Imhoff				
Michael McCasland				
Colleen Poles				
Cynthia Sharkey				
Karyn Gove				

8. HIB REPORTS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(e) requires that at the next board of education meeting following its receipt of a HIB report, the board shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent’s decision.

The Superintendent shall inform the parties of the Board’s determination in writing, as well as their right to appeal the determination to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the procedures set forth in law and regulation, no later than 90 days after the issuance of the board’s decision; or to file a complaint with the Division on Civil Rights within 180 days of the occurrence of any incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on membership in a protected group as enumerated in the “Law Against Discrimination,” P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).

8.1. HIB Report 2023-24 MS04 (*Attachment: 22-23 MS04 Redacted*).

8.2. HIB Report 2023-24 ES01 (*Attachment: 22-23 ES01 Redacted*).

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1. Student Achievement - Curriculum, Instruction, Technology & Policy

9.1.1. Resolution Questioning and Opposing New Jersey State School Funding Cuts (*Attachment: Funding Resolution 2024*)

WHEREAS High Bridge is a quaint residential bedroom community located in Hunterdon County and is home to just over 3,500 residents with minimal businesses, industry and other ratables to offset the residential property tax; and the majority of the tax burden in High Bridge falls upon the residents of this small community; and

WHEREAS the State Aid numbers to local school districts are currently scheduled to be released in late February or early March 2024, and whereas, this is the fifth and final year of the full implementation of S2 (also known as Chapter Law 67), and the High Bridge School district has now realized significant cuts in State-Aid since the implementation of S2, despite New Jersey being legally obligated to provide adequate funding for all school districts; and

WHEREAS since the implementation of S2 the High Bridge School District State Aid cuts have amounted to over 50% of our State Aid. High Bridge School District has been one of the largest

percentages of State-Aid reduction since the implementation of S2 and we expect that upon full implementation of S2, High Bridge School District will have lost over 75% of its State Aid.

WHEREAS, the loss of the State Aid to High Bridge School District is significantly impacting our ability to provide an adequate education to our students; and coupled with the State imposed 2% cap on budget increases, unfunded State mandates and several State decisions that significantly impact the local School Boards, make it nearly impossible to maintain any levels of standardized learning.

WHEREAS, the High Bridge Board of Education believes that the State of New Jersey is responsible for providing Adequate Funding for all School Districts under the S2; and whereas S2 was supposed to help correct funding distribution and High Bridge, with its mostly residential base, was not overfunded, yet we have lost the majority of our aid and the continual loss of funding continues; and whereas we believe that the State of New Jersey is not meeting its responsibilities related to providing adequate funding to the children or residents of High Bridge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the High Bridge Board of Education urges the Governor’s Office, District 23 New Jersey State Senator Douglas Steinhardt, New Jersey Assemblyman John DiMaio and Assemblyman Erik Peterson for immediate review and action on the funding mechanisms under S2 for High Bridge and provide financial relief to High Bridge in the amount of \$657,764. to compensate for an unprecedented cut of nearly 50% of our State funding over the last two fiscal years; and another anticipated loss of over \$300,000.00 to be determined this year and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy and our Legislative Representatives; and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

9.1.2. Class trips and transportation:

Location	Grade	Cost	Cost Incurred By
Clinton Township Middle School	8	\$144.00 for transportation	High Bridge Board of Education
High Bridge Post Office	PK	N/A	N/A

9.2. Human Resources - Personnel, Management & Community Relations

- 9.2.1.** Emma Alparone, Jana Brown, Heidi Johnston, and Nicole Locorotondo to co-assist with students in the drama club, in accordance with student IEPs at the contracted hourly rate of \$32.00 for up to thirty (30) hours total, not to exceed \$960.00. Total compensation will be shared between the positions.
- 9.2.2.** Maryanne Laffert and Soma Das as 1:1 paraprofessionals, in accordance with student IEPs, for the Unified Club at the contracted hourly rate of \$19.00 for up to eight (8) hours each, not to exceed \$152.00 each.
- 9.2.3.** Brooke McAlister as substitute 1:1 paraprofessional, in accordance with student IEPs, for the Unified Club at the contracted hourly rate of \$19.00 on an as needed basis.

- 9.2.4. Katie Franks as a mentor to Kristin Weiland. Mentoring fee to be paid by the mentee as per the New Jersey Teacher Mentoring Regulations
- 9.2.5. Michael Doerwang as substitute Middle School Girls Basketball Coach at the contracted hourly rate of \$32.00, for a maximum of six (6) hours, not to exceed \$192.00.
- 9.2.6. Valerie Palmer as substitute Administrative Assistant to the Elementary School Principal/Superintendent and Elementary School Vice Principal at an hourly rate of \$19.00, on an as needed basis.
- 9.2.7. Raritan Valley Community College student, Emma Lankin, for up to fifty (50) observation hours with Occupational Therapist Bradley Cox for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.
- 9.2.8. The College of New Jersey student, Faith Melick, for up to six (6) observation hours with Speech Pathologist, Joan Murray during the week of March 11, 2024.
- 9.2.9. The resignation of Brett Leister, Elementary School Physical Education Teacher, effective March 26, 2024.
- 9.2.10. Rescind course reimbursement for:

Staff	Course	College/University	Semester	Tuition
Courtney Bursztn	EDTC 33531 Coding & Logical Thinking to Support Learning	Rowan University	Jan - Mar, 2024	\$2,352.72

9.3. Educational Resources - Finance and Facilities

9.3.1. Travel Expenditures for Workshops:

Staff/Bd Member	Workshop	Date	Registration Fee	Mileage	Other	Total
Erin Delgado	NJSBA Women in Leadership Conference: Balancing It All	April 19, 2024	\$99.00	\$48.79	N/A	\$147.79
Heidi Johnston	Handle With Care Recertification Training	April 12, 2024	\$525.00	N/A	\$32.00	\$557.00
Marisa Monaco	Handle With Care Recertification Training	April 12, 2024	\$525.00	\$47.38	\$32.00	\$604.38

- 9.3.2. Payment of Bills
- 9.3.3. Financial Reports
- 9.3.4. Line Item Transfers
- 9.3.5. Extended School Year (ESY) to begin July 1, 2024, through August 8, 2024 (Monday - Thursday).
- 9.3.6. **Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program Waiver**

The following resolution waives participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program.

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2024 -2025 school year, and

Whereas, the High Bridge Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid-eligible classified students.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the High Bridge Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Hunterdon an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

9.3.7. Use of Facilities

Organization	Dates	Day / Times	Location
Catherine Terribile, High Bridge Resident	May 4, 2024	Saturday, 8am - 10pm	ES Parking Lot. Use of space for parking only (Engagement party at resident's home).
Cub Scout Pack 149 Arrow of Light Ceremony (pending Cert of Liability)	3/24/24	Sunday, 12pm - 6pm	ES Outdoor Classroom
High Bridge PTO Special Ed Parents Advisory Group	2/15, 3/14, 4/11, 5/16, & 6/06/24	Thurs, 6pm - 7:30pm	ES Library

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This period of time provides an opportunity for the public to comment on any topic related to the High Bridge Public Schools. It is the policy of the Board of Education (Policy #0164) that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject. 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 during the public comment portion of the meeting. Speakers with questions are encouraged to contact the Superintendent directly before or after the meeting.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

12. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

Board President calls for a motion _____ and a second _____, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 321, P.L. 1975, to discuss:

- Executive Session Minutes
- Personnel

The matters discussed will be made public if and when the circumstances requiring confidentiality no longer exist; however, it is not presently known when such circumstances will exist.

13. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Board President calls for a motion _____ and a second _____ to reconvene public session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board President calls for a motion _____ **and a second** _____ **to adjourn**
the meeting.