



Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The regular meeting of the Allamuchy Township Board of Education held on January 4, 2022 was called to order at 8:50 p.m. by Lisa Strutin.
- B. Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act
 - 1. The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, The Allamuchy Township Board of Education has caused adequate and electronic notice of this meeting and, to the extent known at the time of advance publication, the agenda items to be considered. Written advance notification of the time, date and location was sent on February 1, 2022 to the New Jersey Herald, Express Times, and Township Clerk. Notices were prominently posted on the bulletin board of the offices of each school, on the district website and on the district marquee. Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded; the recording will be made available on the District website as soon as possible, but no later than one week after the meeting has concluded.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
Stephen Bienko	x	
Abigail Christmann	x	
Giovanni Cusmano	x	
Harriett Gaddy	x	
Craig Green	x	
Lisa Moyer	x	
Venita Prudenti	x	
Mary Renaud	x	
Lisa Strutin	x	

Also Present: Dr. Melissa Sabol, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Jim Minkewicz, School Business Administrator
 Mr. Ari Schneider, Board Attorney

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Mrs. Strutin

IV. MISSION AND VISION - read by Mrs. Strutin

- A. To Promote the Allamuchy Learner
- B. The vision of the Allamuchy educational program is to develop young people who are curious, well rounded, knowledgeable, caring, respectful and responsible so that they can evolve into self-sufficient and confident citizens and members of a diverse society.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - none

VI. CORRESPONDENCE - none

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - none

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - none

IX. PRESENTATIONS - none

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Strutin noted that January is Board Member Recognition Month and thanked the board members for all of their time and effort.
- Mrs. Strutin also thanked the teachers, paras, secretaries, custodians, bus-drivers, substitutes and all those at the school for moving through this difficult time together and pitching-in.
- Mrs. Strutin thanked the Board for electing her President and ensured that we will continue to move forward.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Operations - Ms. Renaud highlighted agenda item XV.A.5 and stated that the creation of a behavioral disabilities class is necessary for the district.
- B. Human Resources - none
- C. Education - none
- D. Governance - none
- E. Rutherford Hall - Ms. Christmann reported that the committee will meet with the Foundation next week.
- F. Town Council Liaison - The Town Council held their reorganization meeting yesterday.
- G. Rutherford Hall Liaison - none
- H. Hackettstown Board of Education Representative - Mrs. Moyer reported that Hackettstown approved twenty four field trips at their last meeting.
- I. PTO Liaison - Mr. Green reported that the PTO had a successful holiday decorating contest, the annual coupon book is going out soon and if anyone needs assistance with books, the PTO can help.

XII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - Dr. Sabol

- A. HIB Report: 1 investigation, 1 confirmed
- B. Suspensions: 1 in-school, 2 out-of-school
- C. Enrollment By Grade

Student Enrolment for Allamuchy Township School District										
	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
PK	35	36	37	37						
K	36	37	37	37						
1	47	47	47	47						
2	29	29	28	28						
3	46	46	45	45						
4	54	54	55	55						
5	44	44	43	43						
6	54	53	53	53						
7	32	33	34	33						
8	43	43	44	44						
Total	420	422	423	422						
9th	39	40	40	42						
10th	38	39	39	40						
11th	42	42	40	41						
12th	41	42	42	42						
Total	160	163	161	165						
GT	580	585	584	587						

D. Other Items - Dr. Sabol discussed virtual learning options, Livestream and Google Classroom. Dr. Sabol thanked the teachers for their extraordinary efforts as they have been working very hard to assist students.

XIII. REVISIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Statement by the Board President: *This is now the time where a motion can be made for revisions, additions, and/or deletions to the agenda. This includes making a motion to table an item in a group of motions, making a motion to add or delete an item from a group of motions and making a motion to bring up a brand new agenda item. If there are no revisions to the agenda, we shall proceed as written.*

Dr. Sabol noted that the bills list has been revised and updated.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

This meeting is being broadcasted and recorded.

Public comment shall be governed by the Board of Education Bylaw 0167. There are two public comment opportunities. The first public comment is reserved for Action Items only, those items on the agenda the Board is voting on this evening. The second public comment is set aside for public comment on any school or school district issue that the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district. The first public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. The second public comment length is determined by the board as per policy.

Before making a public comment, participants are to state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns. Please understand that public comment portions of our agenda are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. The Board may or may not respond to public comments. However, all comments are considered and will be investigated and addressed as appropriate. The Board may respond to comments tonight, or at subsequent meetings under “Old Business”.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse your comments nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments you make about a staff member or other person which the staff member or other person may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

Mr. Gavin noted that today’s agenda includes the Anti-bullying Bill of Rights and asked for further clarification.

XV. BOARD COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

A. Operations

On Behalf of the Operations Committee, I hereby move resolutions 1-5

Moved by: Ms. Renault

Seconded by: Ms. Christmann

1. Budget Adjustments (Appendix 2)
approve budget adjustments for October 2021 from funds 10 and 20
2. Bills List (Appendix 3)
 - a) approve for payment the general account bills list check from 12/7/21 to 1/4/22 in the amount of \$537,252.53 .
 - b) accepts the payroll registers for the month of November 2021.
3. Monthly Certification of Budget (Appendix 4a - 4b)
 - a) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allamuchy Board of Education accepts the Board Secretary’s monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c) 3 that as of October 31, 2021 no line item account has encumbrances and Expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (a).
 - b) BE IT RESOLVED, that Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12 (c) 4, the Allamuchy Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial reports certify that as of October 31,2021 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
 - c) BE IT RESOLVED, that the motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending October 31, 2021 with a total Governmental Funds Account cash balance of \$1,040,271.92

4. Student Activity Account (Appendix 5)
approve the Student Activity Account in the amount of \$50,396.07 at Investor's Bank as of 10/31/21
5. Creation of a Behavioral Disabilities Class
approve the creation of a behavioral disabilities class to be hosted in the Allamuchy Township School

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Bienko	x		
Ms. Christmann	x		
Dr. Cusmano	5	1-4	
Dr. Gaddy	x		
Mr. Green	x		
Mrs. Moyer	x		
Mrs. Prudenti	x		
Ms. Renaud	x		
Mrs. Strutin, President	x		

MOTION CARRIED

B. Human Resources

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and on behalf of the of the Human Resources Committee, I hereby move the following resolutions 1a-1f

Moved by: Mrs. Moyer
Seconded by: Dr. Gaddy

1. Personnel
approve/accept the following appointments as recommended by the superintendent:

Full Time Custodian	Vali Hunsicker	Terminated Contract	
Full Time Custodian	Jose Irby (Move from part time)	Contract	\$38,362 prorated
Part Time Custodian	Scott Demary	Hourly	\$17/hour

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Bienko	X		
Ms. Christmann	X		
Dr. Cusmano	X		
Dr. Gaddy	X		
Mr. Green	X		
Mrs. Moyer	X - FT positions	X - PT position	
Mrs. Prudenti	X		
Ms. Renaud	X		
Mrs. Strutin, President	X		

MOTION CARRIED

C. Education

On Behalf of The Education Committee I hereby move resolutions 1-4

Moved by: Mr. Green

Seconded by: Ms. Renaud

- Mr. Green thanked the staff for all of their hard work.
- Mrs. Moyer asked about anti-bullying and public comment on self assessment.
- Dr. Sabol discussed the item and suggested postponing the item.

On Behalf of The Education Committee I hereby make a motion to table item #3.

Moved by: Mrs. Strutin

Seconded by: Mr. Bienko

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Bienko	X		
Ms. Christmann	X		
Dr. Cusmano	X		
Dr. Gaddy	X		
Mr. Green	X		
Mrs. Moyer	X		
Mrs. Prudenti	X		
Ms. Renaud	X		

Mrs. Strutin, President	x		
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MOTION CARRIED

1. Workshops
approve the attendance at the following workshops

Vicki Patterson	3/18/2022	on-line	Google Classroom Training	0	\$279
Sarah Price	1/24/2022	Virtual	Professional Training in ABA Teaching Strategies	0	\$250
Deb Deangelis	2/1/2022	Morris-Union Jointure Commission, New Providence	Annual Review Can Your IEP Sustain Due Process Hearing	78 miles	\$150

2. Field Trips
approve the following requests for field trips

Mariah Adams	3/9/2022	7th and 8th Grade Band members	Hackettstown High School 701 Warren Street Hackettstown, NJ	0
Stiner	5/17/2022	6th Grade Stiner homeroom	Sterling Hill Mining Museum 30 Plant Street Ogdensburg NJ	28/student
Stiner	5/18/2022	6th grade Greco Homeroom	Sterling Hill Museum 30 Plant Street Ogdensburg, NJ	28/student

3. Anti-bullying Bill of Rights Act (Appendix 6a-6b) - TABLED
approve the anti-bullying bill of rights self assessment to determine grade for Allamuchy Township School and Mountain Villa School
4. Green Team
approve the following members for the 2022 Green Team:
Nick Serraino, District Sustainability Coordinator, MVS Teacher Representative, appointed by AEA union leadership
Christine Rodriguez, District Assistant Sustainability Coordinator, ATS Teacher Representative, appointed by AEA union leadership
Jennifer Sauter, Teacher
Melissa Sabol, Superintendent, MVS Principal
Abby Christmann, Board of Education Representative
Clairanne Arcaro, Allamuchy Township Green Team Representative
Royal Nadeau, Allamuchy Environmental Commission Representative
Julie LaBar, Director of Centenary University Center for Sustainability
Amanda Wehmeyer, Parent

Cara Durso, Parent
 Mariam Andalibi, Parent
 Syndie Marseille and Family, Parent and Students

VOTE ON ITEMS C.1,2,4

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Bienko	x		
Ms. Christmann	x		
Dr. Cusmano	x		
Dr. Gaddy	x		
Mr. Green	x		
Mrs. Moyer	x		
Mrs. Prudenti	x		
Ms. Renaud	x		
Mrs. Strutin, President	x		

MOTION CARRIED

D. Governance - did not meet

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

- Mrs. Moyer asked about the school survey.
- Dr. Sabol said that the survey has been started and will be discussed going forward.

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENTS GENERAL

- Mr. Varga thanked the Board for their service. Mr. Varga asked the Board to consider virtual learning for those on the quarantine list.
- Mr. Green stated that, according to the Governor, we are not allowed to provide a virtual option.
- Ms. Oskamp asked how to find the minutes from the last meeting and suggested providing Covid numbers for the community.
- Dr. Sabol said that the meetings are posted on the website after being approved by the Board.
- Ms. Muhlenbruch stated that in May 2021, Governor Murphy rescinded the order regarding virtual options.
- Mr. Varga stated that the Warren County Superintendent of Schools stated that a virtual option rests with the local school.
- Mrs. Strutin stated that the County Superintendent needs to support our district with the correct information so that conflicting information does not get reported to the public.

- Mrs. McGovern discussed a notification from Hackettstown stating that 22% of the staff is out.
- Dr. Sabol stated that approximately thirteen out of ninety staff members are out. We have been fortunate to utilize qualified substitute teachers.
- Mrs. McGovern noted that Montclair is allowing virtual instruction.

XVIII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Mr. Green asked Dr. Sabol if are able to go virtual if necessary.
- Dr. Sabol stated that we are ready to go virtual if necessary and that it can happen quickly if needed.
- Mr. Green stated that, going forward, he would like to look into regionalization.
- Mrs. Strutin reported that the Board is meeting virtually tonight because of concern regarding a quorum for the reorganization meeting.

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning legal, personnel, and negotiation issues

- Negotiations
- Attorney-Client Privilege
- Legal Matters and Update
- HIB

and WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in public meeting; and WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions pursuant to P.L.1975 Chapter 231, it is; therefore, RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in private session by this board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exists.

Moved by: Mr. Green

Seconded by: Mr. Bienko

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote

Executive Session

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has been in executive session for the past 55 minutes. The matters discussed will only be disclosed to the public once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

1. Be it resolved to uphold the findings of the HIB investigations.

Moved by: Ms. Christmann

Seconded by: Mr. Bienko

Board Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Bienko	x		
Mr. Christmann	x		

Dr. Cusmano			x
Dr. Gaddy			
Mr. Green	x		
Mrs. Moyer			
Mrs. Prudenti			
Ms. Renaud	x		
Mrs. Strutin, President	x		

MOTION CARRIED

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 10:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by: Dr. Cusmano
 Seconded by: Mr. Green

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote