



**BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA
MARCH 12, 2026**

Board Goals
The Board of Education will improve planning and the Committee Structure
The Board of Education will work to improve communication, both internally and externally
The Board of Education will evaluate the CSA in a timely manner
The Board of Education will promote all District Goals by providing the support and resources necessary to achieve the goals
The Board of Education will develop and implement a plan for continuous Board Professional Development with ongoing Board training

District Goals for 2025-2026
Foster a district-wide culture of student-centered learning
Student Achievement K-5: Build capacity for data literacy and instructional decision making
Support the whole child

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. MEETING NOTICE STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and in accordance with the updated regulations.

On January 7, 2026, notice of the Board of Education meeting schedule was posted on the Berkeley Heights Board of Education official website, posted at the Administration Building, provided to all Berkeley Heights Public Schools, PTO Presidents, and the BHEA President, filed with the Municipal Clerk and provided to the Public Library for public inspection.

ROLL CALL

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>
Mrs. Sai Bhargavi Akiri			
Ms. Gale Bradford			
Mr. Bill Dillon			
Dr. Tom Foregger			
Mrs. Natasha Joly			

Mr. Javier Morales			
Mrs. Pamela Stanley			
Mrs. Deborah Terrero			

Also Present:

- _____ Dr. Kim Feltre, Superintendent of Schools
- _____ Dr. Crystal Marr, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- _____ Ms. Jennifer Nicholson, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- _____ Mr. Vijaysinh Sindha, Assistant Business Administrator
- _____ Board Attorney

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education seeks to adjourn to Executive Session in full compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of the meeting at which it discusses matters related to those identified below:

- a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel – employment matters affecting specific prospective or current employees.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to discuss matters related to students, personnel, and legal matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the discussion of any of these items will be disclosed to the public when matters have been determined and confidentiality is no longer applicable.

MOTION to enter into Executive Session.

Voice Vote

Moved _____ Seconded _____ Vote _____ Time _____

V. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION
MOTION to return to Public Session.

Voice Vote
Moved _____ Seconded _____ Vote _____ Time _____

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

-Report of the Student Representatives: Pippa Raaijmakers and Howard Acheson

VII. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

During this portion of the meeting, District residents and staff are invited to address the Board of Education on agenda action items only.

The Board requests that individuals state their name and town of residence (or school of attendance) for the record. Additionally, all in-person public commenters are asked to please sign in. All comments should be directed to the Board President and depending upon the nature and complexity of the question, it may or may not be answered during the meeting by the Administration. If so, the response would occur after this public portion of the meeting has concluded. Although the Board may not respond to all items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding personnel matters are discouraged and cannot be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public.

Please note that if any member of the public becomes disruptive during the meeting the Board President may terminate the participant's statement. Continued disruptions may result in removal from, or adjournment of, the meeting.

Each speaker's statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

IX. MINUTES

Resolution 1: All Board Members.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the School Business Administrator, approves the meeting minutes for the following dates:

Meeting	Date
Executive Session Meeting Minutes	February 26, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes	February 26, 2026

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Ms. Bradford	Mrs. Stanley	Mr. Morales	Mrs. Joly	Mr. Dillon	Mrs. Akiri	Dr. Foregger	Mrs. Terrero
Motion								
Second								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

X. FINANCE

Resolutions 1-8: All Board members. Resolutions 9-10: Berkeley Heights Only

1. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, accepts the revised Treasurer of School Funds Reports for the months ending November 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025, reflecting reconciliation updates, and the Treasurer of School Funds Report for the month ending January 31, 2026.
(Attachment A)

2. APPROVE JOB FAIR PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves potential participation in the following job fairs:

Job Fair	Date	Amount
Montclair State University	3/18/26	\$200.00
Seton Hall University	3/18/26	\$125.00
Kean University	4/16/26	\$200.00
The College of New Jersey	4/17/26	\$150.00

3. APPROVE GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Governor Livingston High School student educational field trips.

Governor Livingston High School

Group	Destination	Date(s)
Grade 11 & Grade 12 DHH Students	Mary Kay McMillin 651 Mountain Avenue Berkeley Height, NJ 07922	3/25/2026

4. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Professional Development Days/Travel Reimbursement. (*Attachment B*)

5. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF FY 2025 IDEA GRANT AMENDMENT

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approves submission of FY 2025 IDEA Grant Amendment to appropriate carryover funds from the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

- IDEA Preschool carryover in the amount of \$464.00.

6. APPROVE DESIGNATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education is required to designate approved depositories for school district funds in accordance with applicable New Jersey statutes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the School District to designate Kearny Bank as an approved depository for district funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves and designates Kearny Bank as an official depository of school district funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to take all necessary actions to open, maintain, and administer accounts with Kearny Bank in accordance with district policies and applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this designation shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by subsequent Board action.

7. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PTO DONATION FOR GLHS HILLTOP PLAYERS

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education is committed to supporting and enhancing educational and extracurricular programs within the district; and

WHEREAS, the Governor Livingston High School Hilltop Players provide valuable theatrical and performing arts opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, the Governor Livingston PTO has received a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Piazza family for the benefit of the GLHS Hilltop Players; and

WHEREAS, the GLPTO has requested that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education formally accept this donation in accordance with district policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts, with appreciation, the donation of \$1,000.00 from the GLPTO, originating from the Piazza family, to support the Governor Livingston High School Hilltop Players; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of this resolution, a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 shall be issued directly to the GLHS Hilltop Players from the GLPTO in accordance with district procedures.

8. APPROVAL OF PARENTAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education is responsible for providing transportation for eligible students in accordance with New Jersey statutes and administrative code; and

WHEREAS, in certain circumstances the Board may enter into a Parental Transportation Contract when it is determined to be the most efficient and appropriate method of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Board has received a Parental Transportation Contract for the transportation of Student #8799538637 to Cornerstone Day School, a special education placement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves a Parental Transportation Contract for the transportation of the student to Cornerstone Day School, Route CS-01, for the period September 4, 2025 through June 26, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$13,211.55.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this contract.

9. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PTO DONATION FOR CMS SPRING MUSICAL

WHEREAS, the Columbia Middle School PTO supports educational enrichment activities and student programs at Columbia Middle School, including performing arts opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia Middle School Spring Musical provides students with valuable opportunities to develop creativity, teamwork, confidence, and performance skills; and

WHEREAS, the Piazza Family has generously offered a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the Columbia Middle School PTO to support the Spring Musical; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbia Middle School PTO gratefully accepts the \$1,000 donation from the Piazza Family in support of the Columbia Middle School Spring Musical; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Columbia Middle School PTO expresses its sincere appreciation to the Piazza Family for their generosity and commitment to supporting the arts and enriching opportunities for Columbia Middle School students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this donation shall be used to support expenses associated with the Columbia Middle School Spring Musical as determined appropriate by the PTO.

10. APPROVE STUDENT EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves student educational field trips.

Mountain Park School

Group	Destination	Date(s)
Grade 5 STEAM Field Day at Patriots Park	Patriots Park 1 Patriots Park Bridgewater, NJ 08807	5/27/2026

Columbia Middle School

Group	Destination	Date(s)
Grade 8 Outreach	Hughes School 446 Snyder Avenue Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922	3/17/2026
Grade 8 Outreach	Lantern Hill Senior Living Community 603 Mountain Avenue New Providence, NJ 07974	3/20/2026

FIRST MOTION BY: _____ **SECOND MOTION BY:** _____

Finance and Facilities Committee Report
Athletics/ Co-Curricular Committee Report
Technology & Communications Committee Report

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Ms. Bradford	Mrs. Stanley	Mr. Morales	Mrs. Joly	Mr. Dillon	Mrs. Akiri	Dr. Foregger	Mrs. Terrero
Motion								
Second								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

XI. PERSONNEL

Resolutions 1-10: All Board members. Resolutions 11-14: Berkeley Heights only.

1. APPROVE SUBSTITUTE/SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves substitute/supplemental personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

Name	Certification	Position	Effective Date
Lauren Choptij	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	3/2/26
Maura Ferrigno	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	3/2/26
Caitlin Hughes	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	3/9/26
Christine Poderezniak	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	3/2/26

Ciaran Pierce	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	3/2/26
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2. AMEND TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the temporary reassignment of the following personnel to account for three snow days:

1-Replacement of a resignation/retirement vacancy 2-New approved position 3-Leave of Absence

Name	Current Assignment/ Location	New Assignment/ Location	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Certification
Jennifer Guidetti ¹	Paraprofessional GL	Teacher of Health & Physical Education Long Term Sub Unfilled Position/ GL	1/5/26 - 3/3/26 3/6/26	\$200.00/day	Substitute

3. AMEND LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the following long-term substitute position to account for three snow days:

Name	Action	Assignment	Location	Effective Dates	Pay Rate	Certification
Michelle Klebaur	Amend	Substitute Paraprofessional/ Employee #4480	GL	1/5/26 - 3/3/26 3/6/26	\$120.00 per day	Substitute

4. APPROVE LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following long-term substitute position:

Name	Action	Assignment	Location	Effective Dates	Pay Rate	Certification
Michael Cassu	Approve	Substitute Teacher / Employee #4754	GL	3/9/26 - 3/29/26	\$140.00 per day	Standard

5. APPROVE LEAVE REPLACEMENT TEACHER

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following leave replacement teacher, pending employment authorization (#):

Name	Assignment	Location	FTE	Effective Date	Degree	Step	Annual Salary	Certification
Scott Gruber	Leave Replacement Teacher of Social Studies (#2301)	GL	1	4/8/26 - 6/30/26 # plus one shadow day	BA	1	\$292.43/day	CE

6. APPROVE LEAVE REPLACEMENT SCHOOL COUNSELOR

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following leave replacement school counselor, pending employment authorization (#):

Name	Assignment	Location	FTE	Effective Date	Degree	Step	Per Diem Rate	Certification
Samantha Mundy	Leave Replacement School Counselor (#4597)	GL	1	4/6/26 - 6/30/26 # plus one shadow day	MA	4	\$328.59 per day	Standard

7. APPROVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves leave of absence requests, as follows:

Employee ID	Leave Action	Type of Leave	Paid Leave Dates	Unpaid Leave with Benefits if Applicable	Unpaid Leave without Benefits	Return Date
3312	Amend	Maternity Leave/FMLA/NJFLA	11/3/25-2/5/26	2/9/26-5/1/26	5/4/26-6/30/26	5/4/26 8/27/26
3724	Amend	Medical Leave/FMLA/NJFLA			1/7/26 - 3/8/26 4/8/26	3/9/26 4/9/26
4140	Approve	Medical Leave/FMLA/NJFLA	4/6/26-5/1/26			5/4/26
5019	Approve	Maternity Leave/FMLA/NJFLA	6/15/26-9/7/26	9/8/26-12/24/26		1/4/27

8. APPROVE WITHHOLDING PAYMENT FOR UNPAID DAY REQUEST(S)

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves withholding payment for the following unpaid day request(s):

Employee ID	Unpaid Days
5037	2/20/26, 3/4/26
4499	3/2/26
4613	3/4/26

9. RESCIND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescinds the following extra-curricular activities for the 2025-2026 school year:

Governor Livingston High School

Activity/Program	Instructor/Supervisor	2025-2026 Stipend
Assistant Boys JV Lacrosse Coach	John DiPasquale	\$6,184.00
Assistant Boys Freshman Lacrosse Coach	Jared Van Oostendorp	\$6,184.00

10. APPROVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves extra-curricular activities for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows, pending employment authorization (#):

Governor Livingston High School

Activity/Program	Instructor/Supervisor	2025-2026 Stipend
Assistant Baseball Coach	Jim Monaghan #	Volunteer

11. AMEND EMPLOYMENT OF PARAPROFESSIONAL

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the employment of the following paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year

1-Replacement of a resignation/retirement vacancy 2-Increased student need 3-Staff Transfer/reassignment

Name	Location	Effective Date	Step	Hours Per Day	Annual Salary
Melissa Capece ¹	MKM	2/10/26 2/9/26 - 6/30/26	4	6.75	\$25,334.98 prorated

12. APPROVE RESIGNATION OF STAFF

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves, with regret, the resignation of staff, as follows:

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date
Nicholas Sblendorio	Custodian	WW	3/13/26
Gina Kirwin	Paraprofessional	MKM	3/20/26

13. APPROVE ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the paid administrative leave of absence for staff member #4768 to the effective dates of March 4, 2026, until April 4, 2026.

14. APPROVE TERMINATION OF STAFF

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the termination of staff, as follows:

Employee ID	Effective Date
4768	4/4/26

FIRST MOTION BY: _____ SECOND MOTION BY: _____

Personnel Committee Report

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Ms. Bradford	Mrs. Stanley	Mr. Morales	Mrs. Joly	Mr. Dillon	Mrs. Akiri	Dr. Foregger	Mrs. Terrero
Motion								
Second								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

XII. EDUCATION

Resolutions 1-2: All Board members.

1. APPROVE REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the recommendations for the following cases of harassment, intimidation and bullying in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.

Case Number	Case Number	Case Number
302417GL	303117GL	303662MPE
303628GL	302498THE	
303941GL	303810MKM	

2. APPROVE ADDITIONAL 1:1 PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an additional 1:1 paraprofessional position for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by Alyssa Rush, District Supervisor of Special Services, as follows:

Location	Reason	Hours Per Day	Days Per Week
GL	Support for a student in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. The sending district will be billed for all costs related to this position.	7	Monday-Friday

FIRST MOTION BY: _____ SECOND MOTION BY: _____

Curriculum Committee Report

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Ms. Bradford	Mrs. Stanley	Mr. Morales	Mrs. Joly	Mr. Dillon	Mrs. Akiri	Dr. Foregger	Mrs. Terrero
Motion								
Second								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

XIII. POLICY

Resolutions 1-3: All Board members.

1. DISTRICT BYLAWS/POLICIES/REGULATIONS - STUDY AND FIRST READING

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following district bylaws/policies/regulations for study and first reading:
(M- Mandated by law)

Policy	Title	Action
P 7230	Gifts, Grants and Donations	Revise
R2510	Adoption of Textbooks	New
R 2520	Instructional Supplies (M)	New

2. DISTRICT BYLAWS/POLICIES/REGULATIONS - SECOND READING AND ADOPTION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following district bylaws/policies/regulations for second reading and adoption: *(M - Mandated by law)*

Policy	Title	Action
P 0142.1	Nepotism (M)	Revise
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)	Revise
P 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff (M)	New
R 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff (M)	New

3. DISTRICT BYLAWS/POLICIES/REGULATIONS - ABOLISH

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, abolish the following district bylaws/policies/regulations:

Policy	Title	Action
P 3362	Sexual Harassment	Abolish
P 4352	Sexual Harassment	Abolish

FIRST MOTION BY: _____ **SECOND MOTION BY:** _____

Policy Committee Report

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Ms. Bradford	Mrs. Stanley	Mr. Morales	Mrs. Joly	Mr. Dillon	Mrs. Akiri	Dr. Foregger	Mrs. Terrero
Motion								
Second								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

XIV. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning Committee Report

XV. NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations Committee Report

XVI. LIAISON REPORTS

XVII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ANY TOPIC

During this portion of the meeting, District residents and staff are invited to address the Board of Education on any item.

The Board requests that individuals state their name and town of residence (or school of attendance) for the record. Additionally, all in-person public commenters are asked to please sign in. All comments should be directed to the Board President and depending upon the nature and complexity of the question, it may or may not be answered during the meeting by the Administration. If so, the response would occur after this public portion of the meeting has concluded. Although the Board may not respond to all items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding personnel matters are discouraged and cannot be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public.

Please note that if any member of the public becomes disruptive during the meeting the Board President may terminate the participant’s statement. Continued disruptions may result in removal from, or adjournment of, the meeting.

Each speaker’s statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIX. OLD BUSINESS

XX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to ADJOURN.

Voice Vote

Moved _____ **Seconded** _____ **Vote** _____ **Time** _____

Additional Information:
Enrollment Report - *not available for this BOE agenda*
Reminder:
The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on
Thursday, March 26, 2026 beginning at **6:00 p.m.**
[Previous Board of Education Meeting Recordings](#)

