

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NJ  
MINUTES INDEX  
JANUARY 22, 2026  
REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:33 P.M.  
GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM 131  
REGULAR SESSION 7:44 P.M.  
GOVERNOR LIVING HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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REGULAR SESSION 7:44 P.M.  
GOVERNOR LIVING HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

- I. **Regular Session - Call to Order - 6:30 p.m. - Governor Livingston High School Cafeteria**
- II. **Meeting Notice and Roll Call**

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.

Present: Ms. Bradford, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Foregger, Mrs. Joly (arrived 6:36 p.m.), Mr. Morales, Mrs. Stanley (arrived 8:33 p.m.), Mrs. Terrero, Superintendent Dr. Feltre, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marr, Business Administrator Ms. Nicholson, Assistant Business Administer Mr.Sindha, Board Attorney Brian Giardina (left 7:45 p.m.), Board Attorney David Disler (arrived 7:38 p.m.)

ABSENT: Mrs. Akiri, Student Representative Pippa Raaijmakers

- III. **Flag Salute**
- IV. **Executive Session - 6:33 p.m. - Governor Livingston High School Conference Room 131**

On motion by Ms. Bradford and seconded by Dr. Foregger, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:33 p.m.

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, legal, and personnel 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.

On motion by Ms. Bradford and seconded by Mr. Dillon, and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

**V. Regular Session - Call to Order - 7:45 p.m. - Governor Livingston High School Cafeteria**

**VI. Report of the Superintendent and Student Representative - Howard Acheson**

GLissando performed for the Board and the public.

Mr. Acheson welcomed members to the first meeting of the new year and introduced the fifth edition of *Happenings on the Hill*. Since the last update, the school community has hosted several successful events, including the second annual *Winterfest* on December 19th and a *Super Saturday Pep Rally* on January 9th to support student athletes.

Students have also achieved notable academic and extracurricular successes. Members of Future Business Leaders of America competed at regionals on December 1st, with results announced December 16th; eleven students qualified for the state competition in March in Atlantic City. The Society of Historians hosted a well-attended movie discussion of *The Last of the Mohicans* in honor of America 250.

Athletically and academically, the GL Science Olympiad team placed 8th out of 29 schools at the Union County competition, qualifying for states for the first time in six years and earning first-place finishes in Rocks and Minerals and Remote Sensing.

The report concluded by noting that the marking period and first semester end this Friday, with testing season approaching as the school year reaches its midpoint.

Mr. Acheson delivered an athletics report on behalf of Ms. Raaijmaker, who was unable to attend due to senior night for GL Swim. Winter sports are well underway, with several teams seeing early success. The boys' basketball team won its season opener against Morristown, while the girls' basketball team also opened the season with a victory against Elizabeth. The hockey team rebounded after holiday losses and, following a 4–1 win over Scotch Plains–Fanwood, advanced to the Union County Championship against Westfield.

The school held a spirit week leading up to the winter sports pep rally, featuring themed days and a successful pep rally with participation from multiple athletic teams in friendly competitions. On *Super Saturday*, both the boys' and girls' basketball teams earned wins against South Amboy and Millburn.

Additional highlights included Coach Roof receiving the National High School Coach of the Year award at the ABCA National Convention, Alec Novotny being named Valarico Heating and Cooling Athlete of the Week, and the GL girls' fencing team earning a top-10 overall finish at the Santinelli Tournament.

The report concluded with enthusiasm for the upcoming winter sports postseason and a brief inspirational reflection.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre acknowledged Board Member Recognition Month.

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Murphy proclaimed January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Berkeley Heights Board of Education is one of 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Berkeley Heights Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's approximately 5,000 local school board members devote countless hours without remuneration for their services acting as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers, and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as School Board Recognition Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Berkeley Heights Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre acknowledged that the community has been asked to support various sports fundraisers through the booster clubs of athletic teams. The Board was informed that all booster club fundraisers are reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director to ensure a clear rationale. Fundraising efforts are intended to enhance the student experience by providing items for student use or retention, such as apparel and similar enhancements, while equipment donations require Board approval.

Fundraising goal amounts listed on fundraising platforms represent general targets and may not reflect actual funding needs. The Athletic Director is working with the booster club to improve clarity regarding fundraising purposes and associated costs.

It was emphasized that participation in fundraisers is voluntary and that all funds raised are managed by the booster club. The Board and the district expressed appreciation for the booster club's continued support of students.

The Board Attorney, Mr. Disler stated that at the previous Board meeting, the Board approved a settlement agreement based on the recommendation of Insurance Counsel. Following further consultation with Insurance Counsel, the Board Attorney noted the need to read and place on the record the recommendations outlined in the settlement agreement before proceeding.

1. The Board should retain an independent expert contractor that specializes in school security to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the school security system.
2. The Board should foster and promote cooperation between county, local law enforcement, and the schools to maximize the procedures used to secure student and faculty safety.
3. The school shall review the requirement of parental notification to ensure that notification is both prompt and accurate when any threat, real or procedure, is directed towards a student.
4. The Board shall review and ensure that private emails and student information is not inappropriately disclosed.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre provided information on the upcoming referendum presentations to be held throughout the district that will be hosted by each PTO, as well as by the township and senior groups. Township and senior presentations will provide a general overview of the referendum, while PTO presentations will focus on projects specific to each school. The MKM PTO hosted a presentation on January 12th, which was well attended both in person and virtually, with strong community engagement and feedback.

Additional referendum presentations are scheduled throughout February, and information is available on the district website. Superintendent Dr. Feltre noted that the presentations are intended to provide information and answer community questions.

## **VII. Report of the Business Administrator/Board Communications**

Business Administrator Ms. Nicholson recognized the Business Office's continued efforts to maintain smooth operations and adhere to best practices. The district is preparing for upcoming QSAC walkthroughs of district buildings scheduled for next week. Budget discussions with administrators and department leaders were held in December, with Board members participating to better understand the district's priorities and needs for the upcoming year. Work is ongoing to assess salary adjustments, monitor benefit changes, and evaluate district needs for the 2026–27 school year. Board members have scheduled individual budget update meetings with the Superintendent and Business Administrator for early February.

The report also recognized Rick Romano and the custodial and maintenance staff for their dedication to maintaining safe and operational buildings and grounds during recent and anticipated weather events.

The full report can be found [here](#).

### 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.

#### **Time In: 8:03 p.m.**

- Berkeley Heights Resident, Mr. Weisfeld made a comment discussing a settlement to which he was a party to.

#### **Time Out: 8:06 p.m.**

### IX. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following meeting minutes:

December 11, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026 - Reorganization Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mrs. Joly seconded by Ms. Bradford the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Joly, Mrs. Terrero, Mr. Morales (January 6, 2026), Mr. Dillon (January 6, 2026) and Dr. Foregger (January 6, 2026)

"Noes" - None

"Abstain" - Mr. Morales (December 11, 2025), Mr. Dillon (December 11, 2025) and Dr. Foregger (December 11, 2025)

X. **Finance**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the Payroll and Bills List as follows:

<b>Payroll:</b>		
	12/15/2025	\$2,746,159.83
	12/23/2025	\$1,904,079.86
	01/15/2026	\$2,687,503.20
<b>Accounts Payable:</b>		
	1/12/2026	\$2,079.00
	1/22/2026	\$1,517,966.65
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$8,857,788.54</b>

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the December 2025 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education after review of the Board Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with 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:23-2.12(b), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

3) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the December 2025 line item transfers in the 2025–2026 school budget, as listed on file in the Board Office.

4) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the financial report of the Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending December 31, 2025.

5) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip destinations** for the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>School/Group:</b>	<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Governor Livingston High School GLissando Club	Northern Highlands Regional High School 298 Hillside Avenue, Allendale, NJ	1/25/26 & 2/25/26
Governor Livingston High School FBLA Club	Harrah's Resort 777 Harrah's Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ	3/9/26-3/11/26
Governor Livingston High School Interact Club	Community Food Bank of NJ 31 Evans Terminal Road #1, Hillside, NJ	3/4/25
Governor Livingston High School Science Olympiad Club	Middlesex College 2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ	3/9/26
Columbia Middle School Grade 6 Students	Medieval Times 149 Polito Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ	5/19/26
Columbia Middle School	Mary Kay McMillin ECC	1/23/26

Grade 7 Students      651 Mountain Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ

- 6) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **Professional Contracted Services** as follows:

<b><u>Provider:</u></b>	<b><u>Time Period:</u></b>	<b><u>Explanation:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>
The College of New Jersey	2/13/26	Provide in-district professional development to all K-2 general education and special education teachers on the topic of 'K-2 Math in the Classroom'	\$2,250.00
Inlingua School of Language / Translation Service	2025-2026 School Year	Provide language/translation services when necessary to the Child Study Team	Per Fee Schedule ( <i>Attachment F</i> )
ARG Educational Services	2025-2026 School Year	Provide Child Study Team evaluations for students whose native language is not English, as required by the NJAC Title 6A Chapter 14	Per Fee Schedule ( <i>Attachment G</i> )

- 7) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Paid Membership Agreement:**

<b><u>Membership Agreement:</u></b>	<b><u>Time Period:</u></b>	<b><u>Description:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>
DAANJ/NIAAA	2025-2026 School Year	Membership for Carlos Hendricks	\$145.00

- 8) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **Professional Development Days/Travel Reimbursement** as follows:

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Event:</u></b>	<b><u>Dates:</u></b>	<b><u>Cost:</u></b>
Gale Bradford	TCNJ - NJSBA Women's Leadership Conference	3/20/26	\$149.00
Joseph Cordero	NJASA - Techspo	1/28/26-1/30/26	\$1,197.00
Kelly Curtiss	Northern NJ Math Supervisors Roundtable Meeting	1/16/26	\$0.00
Kelly Curtiss	NJ Chamber of Commerce Foundation - New AP Courses in Business & Cybersecurity	1/14/26	\$0.00
Kim Feltre	FEA - District Leaders Meetup: New Jersey Advancing Curriculum and Innovation in the Age of AI	2/27/26	\$44.00
James Finley	NJDOE - Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten Updates	11/18/25	\$0.00
Carlos Hendricks	2026 DAANJ Annual Conference	3/11/26-3/13/26	\$1,063.00
Elizabeth Kane	MUJC - 540:Essential Teaching	3/12/26	\$100.00

	Practices for the Modern Classroom		
Elizabeth Kane	Rutgers - Introduction to Design Thinking	2/26/26	\$200.00
Alexander Kuziola	Rutgers - AP Summer Institute: Environmental Science	7/13/26-7/16/26	\$1,212.00
Brenda Marley	NJPSA - Intentional Play: Harnessing the Power of Play to Deepen Learning in the Primary Grades	1/12/26	\$75.00
Sophia Miskulin	NJ Science Teachers Association - OpenSciEd PLC	12/9/25	\$0.00
Sophia Miskulin	MUJC - 540:Essential Teaching Practices for the Modern Classroom	3/12/26	\$100.00
Ashley Morris	MUJC - Case Studies in Intervention and Referral Services	3/4/26	\$115.00
Casey Nebus	Union Country ASAP Networking Event	12/19/25	\$0.00
Andrew O'Dowd	NJ Buildings & Grounds Expo and Conference	3/22/26 - 3/25/26	\$650.00
Richard Romano	NJ Buildings & Grounds Expo and Conference	3/22/26 - 3/25/26	\$650.00
Michael Santoro	NJDOE - NJSLS Learning Lounge: World Language Administrator Forum	2/12/26 3/12/26 4/9/26	\$0.00
Michael Santoro	NJPSA - Equity Education Summit 2026: Advancing Across, Inclusion, and Justice in Leadership and Learning	3/5/26	\$34.00
Pamela Wilczynski	Union County Gifted & Talented Association - Brain Bowl Convocation	1/6/26	\$0.00
Pamela Wilczynski	2026 NJ Association for Gifted Children Conference	4/17/26	\$224.00

9) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **additional expenses for professional development**, as follows:

<u>Employee:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Event Dates:</u>	<u>Original Expenses:</u>	<u>Additional Expenses:</u>
Carina Gonzalez	NJ Library Association	2/17/26-2/18/26	\$713.00	\$158.34

10) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the **Morris-Union Jointure Commission Cooperative Pricing Agreement** for the provision and performance of goods and services relating to technology, professional development and staffing.

11) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts a donation from the **Berkeley Heights Education Foundation** for the 2025–2026 school year totaling \$31,000 for administrative grants, student grants, and literacy-related books and events.

On motion by Mrs. Joly, and seconded by Dr. Foregger, the Board tabled Resolution 12 authorizing the submission of an application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the FY 2026 School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly, Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - Mr. Dillon
- “Abstain” - None

12) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education tabled the authorization to submit an application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the FY **2026 School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant**.

13) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the **Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement** Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (2023 Revisions), as signed by the Union County Acting Prosecutor, the Berkeley Heights Chief of Police, the Union County Executive Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, and the Superintendent of the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.

14) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts the following **PTO donations for William Woodruff Elementary School, Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School, and Columbia Middle School**, as detailed in the charts below, for the 2025–2026 school year.

William Woodruff Elementary

<b>Donation Type:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
Cultural Arts (2)	\$2,500.00
Family Cares	\$1,000.00
Staff Appreciation	\$1,500.00
Author Visit	\$1,000.00
In Class Professionals	\$2,500.00
Teacher Grants	\$2,000.00
Field Day	\$250.00
Welcome Back Picnic	\$1,000.00
Holiday Boutique	\$500.00
Family Fun Night (2)	\$2,000.00
Book Fair	\$200.00
Spring Fling	\$1,500.00
2nd Grade Shirts	\$1,250.00
Bring Child to Work Day	\$250.00
Community Day	\$250.00
End of Year Picnic	\$1,000.00

2nd Grade Concert	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$19,200.00</b>

Thomas P. Hughes Elementary

<b>Donation Type:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
5th Grade Graduation	\$1,300.00
Author Visits	\$1,000.00
Circus	\$4,000.00
Columbia Field Day	\$1,000.00
Cultural Arts	\$5,000.00
3rd Grade In Class Professionals	\$1,500.00
4th Grade In Class Professionals	\$1,500.00
5th Grade In Class Professionals	\$3,500.00
STEAM	\$800.00
Family Cares	\$200.00
Field Day	\$1,600.00
Gift to School	\$4,000.00
Kindness Week Supplies	\$300.00
Parent Events	\$500.00
Playground and Lunch Room	\$300.00
Staff Appreciation	\$1,000.00
Sunshine	\$300.00
Teacher Grants	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$29,800.00</b>

Columbia Middle School

<b>Donation Type:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
Cultural Arts & Enrichment	\$8,000.00
8th Grade Graduation Awards & Events	\$1,500.00
Teacher Grants	\$1,000.00
Gift to School	\$1,000.00
Career Day Activities	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>

15) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **home instruction** for student #4708128031 beginning on or about November 26, 2025, intermittently during the remainder of the 2025-26 school year, at a rate of \$66.59 per hour for up to five (5) hours per week, at an amount not to exceed \$9,656.00, and authorizes the Business Administrator to approve payment accordingly.

**Finance and Facilities Committee Report:**

Mrs. Joly, Finance and Facilities Chair, provided a report from the January 14, 2026 meeting. Topics included insurance presentations, Board agenda finance and facilities action items, an update on the budget, and Mountainside's projected tuition for the 2026–2027 school year. For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

**Athletics/Co-Curricular Committee Report:**

No report.

**Technology and Communications Committee Report:**

No report.

To hear the Board's full discussion on Finance Resolutions #1-15 you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Ms. Bradford seconded by Mrs. Joly Finance Resolutions #1-15, excluding Finance Resolution #12 which was tabled, were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Bradford, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon (Resolutions #1-11 & #13 Only), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero  
 "Noes" - None  
 "Abstain" - None

**XI. Personnel**

1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the salary adjustments listed below for the 2025-2026 school year, based on the professional growth of the employees, effective February 1, 2026.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Guide Movement:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
<b>Zinamaria Forlini</b>	Completion of Bachelors Degree Plus 60 Credits	Step 7 MA \$68,353.00	Step 7 BA+60 \$73,429.00
<b>Jennifer Hanselman</b>	Completion of Master's Degree	Step 21 BA+60 LG \$115,577.00	Step 21 MA+60 LG \$118,527.00
<b>Suzanne Morley</b>	Completion of Bachelors Degree Plus 60 Credits	Step 16 MA \$81,867.00	Step 16 BA+60 \$87,165.00

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the hiring of **Danielle Petryk** as Teacher of Special Education at Governor Livingston High School, full-time (1.0 FTE), effective March 26, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at a prorated salary of \$65,718.00, Step 4, holding an MA degree and Standard/CEAS certification, pending employment authorization.

3) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve substitute/supplemental personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Certification:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
<b>Diane Appleby</b>	Standard	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	12/18/25
<b>Srinivas Balla</b>	CE	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/6/26
<b>Jessica Cronin</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	12/18/25
<b>Nancy Dos Santos</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/20/26
<b>Trina Drayton</b>	N/A	Substitute Administrative Assistant	1/5/26

<b>Sarah Gleeson</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/6/26
<b>David Januzzi</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	12/19/25
<b>Sean Kelly</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/9/26
<b>Anna Maria Matarredona</b>	Standard	Substitute School Counselor	1/9/26
<b>Anna Maria Matarredona</b>	Standard	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/9/26
<b>Jaime Pritzlaff</b>	Standard	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/9/26
<b>Melissa Jensen</b>	N/A	Substitute Paraprofessional	1/12/26
<b>Ryan Sarti</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	12/19/25
<b>Oliva Speranza</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/21/26
<b>Destiny Villarreal</b>	Substitute	Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional	1/6/26

4) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of the temporary reassignment of **Jennifer Guidetti**, Paraprofessional at Governor Livingston High School, to Long-Term Substitute Teacher of Health & Physical Education an unfilled position at Governor Livingston High School, effective January 5, 2026, through March 3, 2026, at a daily rate of \$200.00.

5) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the temporary reassignment of **Kelly McAdam**, Paraprofessional at Governor Livingston High School, to Long-Term Substitute Teacher of Special Education (pending CE certification) for Employee #4589, effective January 29, 2026, through June 17, 2026, at a daily rate of \$205.83.

6) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves **Timothy O'Connor** as Interim Teacher of Health & Physical Education for Employee #4386 at Governor Livingston High School, full-time (1.0 FTE), effective January 5, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at a prorated salary of \$59,441.00, Step 5, holding a BA degree and Standard certification.

7) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves **Ronald Anderson** as Leave Replacement Teacher of Mathematics for Employee #4264 at Governor Livingston High School, full-time (1.0 FTE), effective February 27, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at a prorated salary of \$71,538.00, Step 11, holding an MA degree and Standard certification, pending employment authorization.

8) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves **Jason Siderman** as Long-Term Substitute Teacher of Special Education for an unfilled position at Governor Livingston High School, 0.6 FTE, effective January 26, 2026, through March 26, 2026, at a daily rate of \$175.46, holding Standard certification, pending employment authorization.

9) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of **Michelle Klebaur's** assignment as Substitute Paraprofessional for Employee #4480 at Governor Livingston High School, effective January 5, 2026, through March 3, 2026, at a daily rate of \$120.00, holding Substitute certification.

10) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, the retirement of **Robert Dwyer**, District Bus Driver, effective July 1, 2026, for the purpose of retirement.

11) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education approves leave of absence requests, as follows:

<u>Employee ID:</u>	<u>Leave Action:</u>	<u>Type of Leave:</u>	<u>Paid Leave Dates:</u>	<u>Unpaid Leave with Benefits if Applicable:</u>	<u>Unpaid Leave without Benefits:</u>	<u>Return Date:</u>
3837	Amend	Maternity Leave/ FMLA/NJFLA	9/15/25-12/5/25	12/8/25-3/13/26	3/16/26-6/30/26	26-27 School Year
4170	Amend	Maternity Leave/FMLA/ NJFLA	1/5/26-3/9/26	3/10/26-5/29/26		6/1/26
2050	Amend	Medical Leave	8/27/25-4/3/26			4/6/26
4431	Amend	Medical Leave			12/9/25-3/31/26	4/6/26
3724	Approve	Medical Leave/FMLA/ NJFLA		1/7/26-2/6/26		2/9/26

12) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education approves withholding payment for the following unpaid day request(s):

<u>Employee ID:</u>	<u>Unpaid Days:</u>
4761	12/9/25 (.5)
4431	12/19/25, 12/22/25, 12/23/25
2727	1/8/26, 1/9/26
4613	1/14/26 (.5)
4932	12/8/25, 12/10/25, 12/12/25

13) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of extra-curricular activities at Governor Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year, with **Kelsey Cicchino** serving as Freshman Class Advisor (30%) with a stipend of \$726.00 and as National Honor Society Advisor (60%) with a stipend of \$2,263.80.

14) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves extra-curricular activities at Governor Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year, with **Lindsey Gismonde** serving as Freshman Class Advisor (20%) for a stipend of \$484.00 and **Leanne Cunetta** serving as National Honor Society Advisor (40%) for a stipend of \$1,509.20.

15) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves extra teaching period assignments at Governor Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year, with **Andrea Slattery** serving as Interpreter from December 15, 2025, through June 17, 2026, for a prorated payment of \$7,500.00 in addition to her regular salary, with dates subject to change based on coverage.

16) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of personnel, as follows:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Current Assignment/Location:</u>	<u>New Assignment/Location:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
<b>Helen Fonseca</b>	Paraprofessional / MKM 6.75 hrs. / day	Paraprofessional / GL M-T 7 hrs. / day	1/5/26

	\$24,495.01 prorated	W-F 8 hrs. / day \$27,579.56 prorated	
<b>Winnie Pierre-Louis</b>	Paraprofessional / GL M-T 7 hrs. / day W-F 8 hrs. / day \$29,031.12 prorated	Paraprofessional / MP 6.75 hrs. / day \$24,495.01 prorated	1/5/26

17) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves an **additional paraprofessional position** at MKM for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, to support the needs of a newly enrolled student as per the IEP, working 6.75 hours per day, Monday through Friday, as recommended by Kevin Morra, Director of Special Services.

18) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the employment of the following paraprofessionals for the 2025-2026 school year, pending employment authorization (#) or pending approval of Personnel Resolution 17:

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

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>	<u>Step:</u>	<u>Hours Per Day:</u>	<u>Annual Salary:</u>
<b>Melissa Capece</b> <sup>1</sup>	MKM	2/9/26 - 6/30/26#	4	6.75	\$25,334.98 prorated
<b>Christopher Tempone</b> <sup>2</sup>	TPH	1/23/26 - 6/30/26	1	1 hr. 40 mins	\$5,982.27 prorated
<b>Raquel Montero</b> <sup>2</sup>	MKM	1/12/26-6/30/26@	1	6.75	\$24,075.02 prorated

19) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the employment of HELP personnel to fill a resignation/retirement vacancy for the 2025-2026 school year, pending employment authorization, with **Jaime Pritzlaff** at MKM, effective January 26, 2026, through June 17, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$31.00 for 13 hours per week.

20) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the temporary reassignment of **Antonio Centurion** from Night Supervisor at Governor Livingston High School to Acting Head Custodian at MKM for Employee #3724, effective January 13, 2026, through a to-be-determined date.

21) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, the resignation of **Marie Pellegrini**, Elementary School Teacher at Mountain Park, effective July 1, 2026, for the purpose of retirement.

22) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of Columbia Middle School Lunch 1 supervision for Semester 1, with **Diana Almada** serving at 75% from September 2, 2025, through September 30, 2025, and 100% from October 1, 2025, through January 27, 2026, for a total stipend of \$1,479.29.

23) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the Thomas P. Hughes School Lunch 2 supervision for Semester 2, with **Joseph Reel** serving at 50% (67% of the stipend) for the 2025-2026 school year, for a total stipend of \$524.95.

24) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves an extra teaching period assignment beyond the normal teaching schedule at Mountain Park School for the 2025-2026 school year, with **Josephine Kwan**, Teacher of Special Education, serving from September 30, 2025, through December

15, 2025, for additional compensation of \$10,500.00, prorated, with dates subject to change based on coverage.

25) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of personnel, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment/Location</u>	<u>New Assignment/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
<b>Colleen Manganiello</b>	Paraprofessional / MP 6.75 hrs. / day	Paraprofessional / MKM 6.75 hrs. / day	1/5/26
<b>Mary Louise Harpster</b>	Paraprofessional / MKM 6.75 hrs. / day	Paraprofessional / MP 6.75 hrs. / day	12/22/25

26) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the paid administrative leave of absence for **staff member #3256** to the effective dates of December 18, 2025, until further notice.

**Personnel Committee Report:**

No report.

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Personnel Resolutions #1-16: All Board Members and Personnel Resolutions #17-26: Berkeley Heights Only, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Ms. Bradford seconded by Mrs. Joly Personnel Resolutions #1-16: All Board Members and Personnel Resolutions #17-26: Berkeley Heights Only, were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon (Resolutions #1-16), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

**XII. Education**

1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the recommendations for the following cases of harassment, intimidation and bullying in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>
298885GL	2999297CMS	299357CMS

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the tentative 2025-2026 Spring season schedules for the interscholastic athletics teams representing Governor Livingston High School and Columbia Middle School, copies of which are on file with the Superintendent.

3) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the submission of the School Nursing Services Plans, as approved by the school physician, for the 2024-2025 school year from all six schools in the Berkeley Heights School District to the New Jersey Department of Education. Copies of these plans are on file with the Superintendent of Schools.

4) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve amending the remedial summer school and extended school year programs, conducted at Columbia Middle School, for summer 2026, as follows:

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4-week Remedial & Extended School Year Programs	Monday-Thursday	6/29/26 - 7/23/26
6-week ABA-based Extended School Year Program	Monday-Thursday	6/29/26 - 8/6/26

**Curriculum Committee Report:**

Mrs. Joly read the Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting, in the absence of Mrs. Akiri.

The Curriculum Committee reviewed grading and assessment practices, emphasizing the need for consistent policies and timely grade entry, particularly at the high school, in response to parent concerns. The Committee discussed the Columbia Middle School (CMS) schedule, focusing on increasing instructional minutes, improving support for special education students, and minimizing instructional disruptions to preserve “quality instructional time.”

The Committee reviewed the district’s multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), including its successful implementation for persuasive writing at the elementary level and the importance of flexible small-group support, especially in math. Consultant recommendations related to MTSS were discussed, noting that final decisions rest with district administration.

The Committee also discussed the need for clear and timely criteria for 8th-grade awards and student recognition. Additionally, recent visits to comparable middle schools were reviewed, with plans to compare CMS schedules to identify best practices.

Action items include administrative follow-up on grading concerns, review of gradebook practices, a report comparing CMS with visited schools, continued updates on MTSS consulting work, and use of upcoming professional development time to support grading and assessment alignment.

Assistant Superintendent Marr provided clarification regarding items discussed at the Curriculum Committee meeting. Dr. Marr explained that the discussion of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) used persuasive writing solely as an illustrative example. Tier 1 was described as a universal support provided to all students, Tier 2 as targeted small-group interventions and Tier 3 as intensive support for students with identified learning gaps. These tiers are not content-specific and may be applied across multiple subject areas.

The Committee further noted that consultant recommendations have not yet been issued, as the consultant’s work is expected to conclude in late winter or spring 2026. The district will retain full authority to review, accept, modify, or reject any recommendations when they are presented.

The full committee meeting minutes report was not provided.

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Education Resolutions #1-4, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Ms. Bradford seconded by Mr. Dillon, Education Resolutions #1-4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon (Resolutions #2-4), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - Mr. Dillon (Resolution #1 only)

**XIII. Policy**

1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following district bylaws/policies/regulations for study and first reading:  
(M- Mandated by law)

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
P0155	Board Committees	Revise
P2200	Curriculum Content (M)	Revise
P7230	Gifts, Grants and Donations	Revise
P8451	Control of Communicable Diseases (M)	Revise
R8451	Control of Communicable Diseases (M)	Revise
P9270	Home Schooling and Equivalent Education Outside the Schools (M)	Revise

**Policy Committee Meeting Report:**

Ms. Bradford provided a report from the Policy Committee meeting that was held remotely on January 13, 2026. Topics at the meeting included discussion on the following policies and regulations: P7230, P8451, R8451, P9270, P0155 and P2200. For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Policy Resolution #1, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Ms. Bradford seconded by Mr. Morales, Policy Resolution #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Stanley, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

**XIV. Strategic Planning**

**Strategic Planning Committee Report:**

There was no Strategic Planning Committee Report.

**XV. Negotiations**

**Negotiations Committee Report:**

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that The Mountainside Negotiations Ad-Hoc Committee met internally on Tuesday, January 13th. The committee is preparing to meet in person with the Mountainside Committee in early February as negotiations continue.

**XVI. Liaison Reports**

**Berkeley Heights Town Council:**

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Berkeley Heights Town Council met on January 6, 2026, and January 20, 2026. The Township announced the appointment of Frank Mea, a Berkeley Heights alumnus and resident, as Chief of Police. Ongoing negotiations with Connell regarding zoning ordinances were noted. Upcoming community events include the Mayor's Wellness Committee "Happier You in 2026" retreat on January 31, 2026, and a free community rabies clinic for dogs and cats, with additional details available on the Township website.

**The Berkeley Heights Education Foundation:**

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that The Berkeley Heights Education Foundation met on January 13, 2026, and discussed grant initiatives, student wishes, and future fundraising efforts. The deadline for the Student Wish Program was extended to February 6, 2026, and a fundraising basketball game with the Wizards is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026, with additional details forthcoming.

**Technology Advisory Board:**

Mrs. Terrero provided a summary from the Technology Advisory Board Committee that met on January 7, 2026, and discussed the educational implications of artificial intelligence, including a review of an MIT study on AI use and cognitive impact. The Committee examined the benefits and risks of AI in student learning, with particular attention to potential effects on critical thinking and writing skills. Members reviewed AI-related tools, including School AI, Brisk, and Grammarly, to explore instructional support and AI-detection capabilities. School AI was identified as the most promising tool for further study, and technology staff will pursue trial access to evaluate its effectiveness, impact on student writing, and implications for future use and guidelines.

**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.

**Time In: 8:54 p.m.**

- Berkeley Heights Resident Mr. Weisfeld made comments that included a member who addressed the Board regarding school safety and the importance of transparency, parental notification, Board oversight, and accountability in matters involving student safety. The speaker referenced a prior matter that was resolved through mediation and urged the Board to carefully review safety-related recommendations and to prioritize the safety of students and staff moving forward.
- Berkeley Heights Resident Mr. Migues: Mr. Migues expressed concern regarding the lack of state communication related to recent changes in adaptive testing and accountability standards. The speaker requested clarification in plain language regarding indicator definitions, weighting, cut scores, crosswalks, comparability to prior years' results, changes to chronic absenteeism thresholds, and implementation timelines. The speaker also inquired whether the district or Board is actively communicating with the state or has designated personnel or committees assigned to monitor these changes, and encouraged the district to seek additional guidance from the state.

**Time Out: 9:02 p.m.**

**XVIII. New Business**

- PowerSchool- Mrs. Terrero

Mrs. Terrero informed the Board that she no longer needed to discuss this item.

**XIX. Old Business**

None.

**XX. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Bradford and seconded by Mrs. Joly and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ms. Jennifer Nicholson  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

For the full recording of the January 22, 2026 Board of Education Meeting, visit the district YouTube page [here](#).