

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION
BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NJ
MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 26, 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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BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
REGULAR SESSION 6:34 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:37 P.M.
GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM 131
REGULAR SESSION 8:23 P.M.
GOVERNOR LIVING HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

- I. **Regular Session - Call to Order - 6:34 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: Mrs. Akiri (arrived at 6:45 p.m/left at 8:52 p.m.), Ms Bradford, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Foregger (arrived at 6:38 p.m.), Mrs. Joly, Mr. Morales (left at 10:24 p.m.), Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Terrero, Superintendent Dr. Feltre, Business Administrator Ms. Nicholson, Assistant Business Administer Mr.Sindha, Board Attorney David Disler

ABSENT: Student Representative Howard Acheson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Crystal Marr

- III. **Flag Salute**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President, Mrs. Terrero.

- IV. **Executive Session - 6:37 p.m. - Governor Livingston High School Conference Room 131**

On motion by Ms. Bradford and seconded by Mr. Morales, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:37 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 Mrs. Joly, and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

Regular Session - Call to Order - 8:23 p.m. - Governor Livingston High School Cafeteria

V. Report of the Superintendent and Student Representative - Pippa Raaijmakers

Ms. Raaijmakers provided Mr. Acheson's report in his absence:

Seniors recently participated in a successful and well-attended formal wear "catwalk" event held in the cafeteria. A video is available on the [GLHS TV YouTube channel](#). Students are currently meeting individually with counselors to finalize schedules for next year, and seniors have begun applying for local scholarships as they prepare for post-graduation plans.

The GL Student Ambassadors are collecting new, unopened clothing items in partnership with the UCSTEP Civic Engagement Project, Operation Warmth, with strong student participation.

Families are reminded that students planning to take AP exams must confirm registration in AP Classroom by March 12 at 2:45 p.m., as no changes can be made after that time. The report concluded with a quote from Victor Hugo emphasizing resilience and hope.

Ms. Raaijmakers shared winter sports updates. The swim team celebrated Senior Night on January 22 and competed in the county championships, where several swimmers achieved personal bests. The boys advanced to the sectional semifinals, and Peter Viragos-Kis qualified for the Meet of Champions in the 100 backstroke, breaking a school record. The girls' team reached its 10th consecutive sectional final. Alexa Windt broke a 40-year-old school record, and two swimmers scored over 100 PowerPoints individually.

The hockey team competed in the UCT final and later tied Summit in an exciting finish. GL recognized National Girls and Women in Sports Day, honoring Kyra Polizzi. The basketball team hosted an inclusion game supporting Shining Stars Network.

Fencing, basketball, and cheer teams celebrated Senior Nights, and the winter season is concluding as teams prepare for the spring season beginning March 9.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre recognized two students, Michael Healy and Eduardo Nascimento, with the Unsung Hero Award. The students will be honored on March 11, 2026, at a Union County event. Unfortunately, neither student was able to attend the Board meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre introduced Jean Cleary from the New Jersey School Boards Association. Ms. Cleary presented the Board Member Training. To view the presentation in its entirety, visit the district's [website](#).

Superintendent Dr. Feltre presented the District Goals 2025-2026. To view the presentation in its entirety, visit the district's [website](#).

On motion by Mrs. Joly and seconded by Mr. Morales, and approved by all present, the Board amended Resolution 1 Approval of Board Meeting Date Change to read as follows:

Resolution 1: All Board Members.

1. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education previously scheduled a regular Board meeting for May 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, notice was provided to the Board that a date change would be forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education previously has meetings scheduled for March 12, 2026 and March 26, 2026, with the preliminary budget presentation scheduled on March 12th, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to move the preliminary budget presentation from March 12, 2026 to March 26, 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves changing the May 7, 2026 Board meeting date to May 6, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the May 6, 2026 meeting shall be held with an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Public Session at 7:30 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board preliminary budget presentation shall be held on March 26, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate notice of this change shall be provided in accordance with applicable policies and open meeting requirements.

On motion by Mrs. Joly seconded by Mr. Morales the foregoing 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 |
| “Absent”- | Mrs. Akiri |

To hear the Board's full discussion on Resolution 1, Approval of the Board Meeting Date Change, please visit the district's [website](#).

VI. Report of the Business Administrator/Board Communications

The Business Administrator, Ms. Nicholson reported that the New Jersey Department of Education revised the 2026 School Election and Budget Procedures Calendar on February 24, 2026, establishing a new budget submission deadline of March 27 for Type II districts. The revised timeline provides additional time for the district to align its financial planning with finalized state aid information.

Budget discussions with administrators and department leaders are ongoing as part of the development of the 2026–2027 budget. Board members continue to receive updates and engage in discussions with the administration throughout the process.

QSAC building walkthroughs were postponed due to weather conditions and will be rescheduled for April.

The district expressed appreciation to Rick Romano and the custodial and maintenance team, including head custodians Johan Marin, Novy Gonzalez, Andrew O'Dowd, Vincent Domingo, Ted Minsky, and Antonio Centurion, for their efforts during the recent blizzard to ensure district buildings remained safe and operational.

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

VII. 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: 9:56 p.m.

- Berkeley Heights resident John Migueis asked for clarification on the district's goals, specifically how strategies will translate into measurable outcomes and how the district will evaluate their effectiveness, including identifying baselines and expected results. He also questioned whether the recently approved budget calendar reduces the amount of time available for public review. Additionally, he expressed concerns about the transparency of the budget development process and encouraged earlier communication with the community regarding budget priorities and alignment with student needs. Mr. Migueis noted his intention to request access to the detailed preliminary budget once it is approved.

Superintendent Dr. Feltre responded that the district goals focus on improving student learning, but short-term changes in standardized assessment scores (NJSLA/NJGPA) are not expected to directly reflect this year's initiatives. Assessments measure standard mastery and comparative data rather than immediate classroom progress, and meaningful gains in achievement typically occur over a longer period. The district continues to use instructional data, interventions, and student supports to drive improvement. She also explained the difference between teaching and learning, students may understand information in the moment but require time and application to fully master it. Regarding the budget timeline change, the state adjusted submission deadlines, and moving the preliminary budget presentation allows additional time to refine numbers and increase accuracy.

Time Out: 10:07 p.m.

VIII. **Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following meeting minutes:
 - January 22, 2026 - Executive Meeting Minutes
 - January 22, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Stanley, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Joly (January 22, 2026 Executive Session Only), Mr. Dillon, Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
 “Noes” - Mrs. Joly (January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes Only)
 “Abstain” - None
 “Absent”- Mrs. Akiri

IX. **Finance**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

| Payroll: | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | 1/30/2026 | \$1,889,826.30 |
| | 2/13/2026 | \$2,689,066.65 |
| Accounts Payable: | | |
| | 1/21/2026 | (\$7,925.28) |
| | 2/8/2026 | \$45,949.80 |
| | 2/11/2026 | \$6,879.00 |
| | 2/26/2026 | \$3,817.12 |
| | 2/26/2026 | \$94,160.00 |
| | 2/26/2026 | \$1,953.00 |
| | 2/26/2026 | \$1,594,520.92 |
| Total: | | \$6,318,247.51 |

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the January 2026 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 January 2026 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 following **field trip destinations** for the 2025-2026 school year:

| School/Group: | Destination: | Date(s): |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Governor Livingston High School Football Team | MetLife Stadium 1 MetLife Stadium Drive East Rutherford, NJ | 2/13/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Model United Nations Club | North Brunswick Township High School 96 Rider Road | 3/21/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Grade 9 Project Connect Students | Pax Amicus Theater 23 Lake Shore Road Budd Lake, NJ | 4/22/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Civil Engineering Club | NJIT Campus Center 150 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ | 3/20/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Highlander Robotics Club | Hillsborough High School 466 Raider Blvd. Hillsborough, NJ | 3/15/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School National Art Honor Society and Art Club | The Color Factory 251 Spring Street New York, NY | 4/13/26 |

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| Governor Livingston High School ASL Students | Kean University 1000 Morris Avenue Union, NJ | 3/24/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School GLissando | Steinert High School 2900 Klockner Road Hamilton Square, NJ | 4/25/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Grade 10, 11, & 12 Physics Students | Six Flags Great Adventure 1 Six Flags Boulevard Jackson, NJ | 5/27/26 |
| Governor Livingston High School Music Dept, Art Dept, Creative Writing, Woodchop, & TV Clubs | Union County College 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ | 3/13/26 |

5) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **home instruction** for student #1771969142 beginning on or about January 20, 2026, until further notice, at a rate of \$100.00 per hour for two (2) hours per day, and authorizes the Business Administrator to approve payment accordingly.

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

| <u>Provider:</u> | <u>Time Period:</u> | <u>Explanation:</u> | <u>Amount:</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|
| Creative Coaching Consultants | Spring 2026 | Provide two (2) half-days of coaching and consulting services for the district Child Study Team on the topic of navigating challenging conversations around inclusive education with families and staff. | \$2,400.00 |

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

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Event:</u> | <u>Dates:</u> | <u>Cost:</u> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Danielle Ayer | Education Resources - Awareness of Self in Space: Gross to Fine Motor Approach | 03/02/26 03/03/26 03/09/26 | \$329.00 |
| Nicole Baker | Pearson - WAIS-5 Interpretation, Instruction, & Intervention Implications | 2/26/26 | \$114.00 |
| Millenni Basumatary | NJPSA - Supervisor Mentoring Program | 01/29/26 03/19/26 06/24/26 | \$0.00 |
| Meg (Margaret) Berry | Capturing Kids - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Carolyn Bowden | Wilson Learning Academy - 2026 Wilson Dyslexia Conference: From Insight to Impact | 2/28/26 | \$99.00 |

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|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------|
| April Burke | Teaching American History - Slavery and the Declaration of Independence | 2/7/26 | \$0.00 |
| April Burke | Teaching American History - The Progressive Critique of the Declaration of Independence | 3/7/26 | \$0.00 |
| April Burke | Teaching American History - Reform Movements and the Declaration: Civil Rights | 5/9/26 | \$0.00 |
| Diana Cavanaugh | NJCSS at Seton Hall University - Tri-State Psychology High School Teacher Workshop | 3/2/26 | \$15.00 |
| Kelly Curtiss | Leadership in Science - Spring Administrator's Workshop: What to Look for in Science Classrooms | 3/10/26 4/29/26 | \$535.00 |
| Kelly Curtiss | State of NJ Department of Education - New Jersey State Assessment Grade 8 Mathematics & Algebra 1 Item Review | 1/15/26 | \$0.00 |
| Dennis Dagounis | MUJC - 425: Hot Issues in School Law | 2/26/26 | \$195.00 |
| Kim Feltre | Capturing Kids Hearts - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Kimberly Fleming | Capturing Kids' Hearts Training - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Christina Froehlich | Capturing Kids' Hearts Training - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Lindsey Gismonde | Jenna Triano - AI Workshop #3 | 3/18/26 | \$0.00 |
| Lindsey Gismonde | Capturing Kids - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Marissa Gold | Caring Contact - Mental Health Assist Training | 3/10/26 4/18/26 4/19/26 | \$0.00 |
| Carlos Hendricks | New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance - Annual Convention | 2/24/26 | \$0.00 |
| Ashley Janosko | Berkeley Heights Public Schools - Monuments, Memory and Meaning | 2/12/26 | \$0.00 |
| Suzanne Kruep | Northeastern University Bouvre College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing | 02/13/26 | \$30.00 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|----------|
| | School Health Academy. - Treating Patient with Eating Disorders: The Decision Tree: Understanding the Complexities. | | |
| Suzanne Kruep | New Jersey State School Nurse Association. - NJ State School Nurse Conference 2026: New Jersey School Nurses at the Heart of Student Success. | 3/28/26 | \$199.00 |
| Brenda Marley | NJPSA - Once Upon a Math Problem: Building Number Sense Through Picture Books | 2/25/26 | \$75.00 |
| Crystal Marr | Capturing Kids Hearts - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Olivia Mazzaferro | Rutgers - "World War II on the Eastern Front: Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and the Fate of the Jews" | 05/01/26 | \$35.00 |
| Lauren McSweeney | MUJC - Strengthening Tier 1 Instruction through Tier 2 and Tier 3 Supports | 1/21/26 | \$90.00 |
| Alyssa Mei | NJDOE/WIDA - Mathematical Meaning Making for ELLs | 2/24/26 3/3/26 | \$0.00 |
| Joe Miceli | Rutgers University: Standards-Based Grading - Assessment in the K-12 Classroom | 03/25/26 | \$199.00 |
| Melissa Mohr | Pearson - WAIS-5 Interpretation, Instruction, & Intervention Implications | 02/26/26 | \$114.00 |
| Michelle Morin | Kean University - NJSCA Spring Conference | 04/17/26 | \$35.00 |
| Suzanne Morley | NJASA & NJPSA/FEA - Women's Leadership Conference | 3/10/26 | \$0.00 |
| Casey Nebus | ASAP-NJ Annual Conference | 3/5/26 | \$275.00 |
| Jennifer Nicholson | NJASBO - 2026 Annual Conference | 6/2/26 - 6/5/26 | \$920.00 |
| Carolyn Quigley | CW Post - LIU Post Career Readiness & AI Summit for High School Counselors | 2/6/26 | \$0.00 |
| Carolyn Quigley | Ramapo College Annual School and College Counselor | 2/27/26 | \$0.00 |

| Luncheon | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------|
| Carolyn Quigley | NJIT Counselor Hour | 3/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Carolyn Quigley | Kings College - 2026 Catholic Colleges of Northeastern Pennsylvania Tour | 04/15/26 04/16/26 04/17/26 | \$0.00 |
| Michael Riley | Capturing Kids' Hearts - Capturing Kids' Hearts Training | 03/10/26 03/11/26 | \$0.00 |
| Richard Romano | ESCNJ - 2026 Vendor Expo | 5/20/26 | \$0.00 |
| Alyssa Rush | NJCEC - Unlocking Student Potential Together / 2026 Spring Conference | 3/16/26 | \$150.00 |
| Michael Santoro | TCNJ - AI & Ethics: Guiding Students Through the Grey Areas | 2/11/26 | \$275.00 |
| Vijaysinh Sindha | NJASBO - 2026 Annual Conference | 6/2/26 - 6/5/26 | \$920.00 |
| Pamela Wilczynski | Morris-Union Jointure Commission - STEAM Subcommittee Meeting | 2/2/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | Bright Ideas Media - S sound solutions: Cracking the Code for /s/ and /s/ clusters | 1/13/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | NJDOE - Speech and Language Professional Learning Community Session 2 Live | 1/29/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | Advanced Brain Technologies - Attention and Auditory Processing | 1/21/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | Bright Ideas Media - Exploring the Spectrum: Identifying Non-Stereotypical Autism Traits | 1/12/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | Bright Ideas Media - From Sound to Sentences: Bridging Speech and Literacy in Everyday sessions | 1/13/26 | \$0.00 |
| Melinda Willson | Bright Ideas Media - When AAC looks random. How to honor intent and spark autonomy | 1/14/26 | \$0.00 |

- 8) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby agree to join/renew membership in the **Pooled Insurance Program of New Jersey** and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.
- 9) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve authorization to the Chief School Administrator and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to prepare and submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools a written request for waiver of the requirement to optimize **SEMI** participation for School Year 2025-2026.
- 10) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve participation in the joint transportation agreement with **Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative** for the coordination of transportation of students to specific destinations upon the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement for School Year 2026-2027.
- 11) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve participation in the coordinated transportation services with **Union County Educational Services Commission** for the School Year 2026-2027.
- 12) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the agreement with **Prevention Specialists Incorporated** to provide DOT drug testing, alcohol testing and Annual Compliance Support for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- 13) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby acknowledge with gratitude, the donation of \$9,322.56 from the **Andrew Adornato Foundation**, provided through the Highlander Booster Club, for non-apparel equipment for the Governor Livingston High School Baseball Program
- 14) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve **Financial Resources Federal Credit Union** as an approved depository for district funds.
- 15) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts the following **PTO donations for Mountain Park Elementary School and Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center**, as detailed in the charts below, for the 2025–2026 school year.

Mountain Park Elementary

| Donation Type: | Amount: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Author Visits | \$1,000.00 |
| Community Service Day | \$100.00 |
| Cultural Arts | \$3,000.00 |
| 5th Grade Field Day | \$1,000.00 |
| 5th Grade Luau | \$1,000.00 |
| Gift to School | \$2,400.00 |
| Teacher Grants | \$2,480.00 |
| Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation | \$1,500.00 |
| In Class Professionals | \$5,500.00 |
| Planners | \$1,330.00 |
| Bike Rodeo | \$50.00 |
| Principals Grant | \$200.00 |
| Executive Committee Discretionary | \$100.00 |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Someone Special Events | \$100.00 |
| Environmental | \$200.00 |
| Beautification | \$200.00 |
| TOTAL: | \$20,160.00 |

Mary Kay McMillin

| Donation Type: | Amount: |
|--|-------------------|
| Cozy Corner in each classroom (rugs, chairs, fidgets) | \$1,210.79 |
| Assembly for K-2-Ball in the House | \$2,000.00 |
| Creature Comfort-Pet Therapy Visits | \$83 |
| Gardening and Beautification of School Grounds (planters, flowers and holiday signage) | \$309.24 |
| Staff Hospitality (In Service Lunches, Stock the Lounge event, Teacher MKM tshirts, Teacher Appreciation Week lunch and events) | \$1,372.47 |
| Misc. Supplies for School (underwear and wipes for nurse's office, megaphone for pickup line, tea lights and bag for kindness event) | \$267.11 |
| Teacher Mini Grants for Classroom needs | \$2,237.14 |
| Writers Workshop Bags | \$269.14 |
| Helmet Safety Workshop for Students | \$75.00 |
| TOTAL: | \$7,823.89 |

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

| School/Group: | Destination: | Date(s): |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Columbia Middle School Golf Club | Hyatt Hills 1300 Raritan Road Clark, NJ | 5/8/26 |
| Columbia Middle School Grade 8 Students | Zimmerli Art Museum & Sophie's Bistro 71 Hamilton Street New Brunswick, NJ & 700 Hamilton Street Somerset, NJ | 4/8/26 |
| Columbia Middle School Outreach Students | GRACE 10 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ | 3/19/26 |
| Columbia Middle School Outreach Students | Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter 194 NJ-10 East Hanover, NJ | 3/25/26 |
| Thomas P. Hughes Grade 3 Students | Turtle Back Zoo 560 Northfield Avenue West Orange, NJ | 4/22/26 |
| Thomas P. Hughes Grade 4 Students | Sterling Hill Mine Museum 30 Plant Street Ogdensburg, NJ | 5/11/26 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Mary Kay McMillin Grade 1 Students | Morristown Performing Arts Center 100 South Street Morristown, NJ | 5/12/26 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|

Finance and Facilities Committee Report:

Mrs. Joly, Finance and Facilities Chair, provided a report from the February 20, 2026 meeting. Representatives from Solutions Architecture, Bond Counsel, and Phoenix Advisors attended for a question-and-answer session. Discussion focused on contingency planning should the referendum fail, including the possibility of a November referendum, which would require a tight timeline and updated project budgets.

The Committee reviewed several items appearing on the Board agenda, including renewal of the Workers' Compensation Joint Insurance Fund (PIP), the SEMI waiver application, acceptance of a donation from the Andrew Adornato Foundation for windscreen and flagpole equipment, and participation in the Joint Transportation Agreement with Hopatcong BOE and UCESC to provide flexibility in securing transportation routes.

The administration also provided a budget update, noting pressures related to projected healthcare increases (approximately 17%), utility increases (approximately 30%), rising special education costs, and uncertainty regarding state aid.

The Committee discussed reserve account adjustments following the audit. Transfers totaling approximately \$1.519 million to Capital Reserve and \$629,000 to Maintenance Reserve were made, including previously approved transfers and unspent funds from capital projects that received ROD grant funding.

Additional topics included investment options for reserve funds, the financial impact of PILOT properties on district enrollment costs, and updates on state reimbursement changes under Chapters 192/193. The Committee also discussed the township's discontinuation of SRO services, resulting in a cost savings to the district, and operational adjustments related to school safety coordination.

The Committee determined it would not move forward with an application for the School Regionalization Efficiency Program at this time.

For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

Athletics/Co-Curricular Committee Report:

While the committee did not meet in person, as there were no action items requiring discussion, Mr. Dillon, Athletics/Co-Curricular Chair, provided updates through the Athletic Director. Winter sports were concluding, with several teams participating in county and state tournaments, and the spring sports season was scheduled to begin on March 9. The Athletic Director also provided updates regarding athletic and co-curricular budget submissions, participation in recent Board member meetings, and facilities improvements, including progress on the press box, installation of a sound system, potential game-streaming cameras, and pending wrestling room repairs. Personnel items related to assistant boys' lacrosse coaches and a volunteer coach for the new Girls Flag Football program were also noted.

Technology and Communications Committee Report:

Dr. Foregger, the Technology and Communications Chair, provided a report from the February 12, 2026 meeting. The committee reviewed the district’s participation in the federal eRate program, which provides a 40% subsidy for eligible internet infrastructure upgrades. The district plans to replace 11 Cisco Catalyst 2950 network switches at the elementary schools with Meraki MS150 switches through vendor Arctiq at a total project cost of \$43,919.89. These upgrades will improve network reliability, security, and compliance with current standards. Additional switch replacements at Columbia Middle School and Governor Livingston High School will be required in the future as existing equipment approaches end-of-life support between 2029 and 2030.

The committee also reviewed new NJDOE guidance related to internet-enabled devices. A statewide bell-to-bell ban on non-academic student cell phone use will take effect in the 2026–2027 school year. District policy and procedures will need to be updated to comply with the legislation, and the matter will be discussed with the Policy Committee due to implications for Policy 5516.

An update on referendum communications was provided. Outreach efforts include banners in schools, bus wraps, lawn signs, flyers sent home with students, upcoming postcards, website updates, social media posts, community presentations, and informational meetings. Additional outreach is planned for senior citizens, local businesses, and potentially eligible student voters at Governor Livingston High School.

For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Finance Resolutions #1-14: All Board members and Resolutions #15-16 Berkeley Heights Only, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Mrs. Joly seconded by Mr. Morales Finance Resolutions #1-14: All Board members and Resolutions #15-16: Berkeley Heights only, were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon (Resolutions #1-14), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None
- “Absent”- Mrs. Akiri and Mr. Morales

X. 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> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kelly Radano | Completion of Master's Degree | Step 12 BA+30 \$69,594.00 | Step 12 MA+30 \$81,479.00 |

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of the hiring of **Danielle Petryk** as a Teacher of Special Education at Governor Livingston High School, full-time (1.0 FTE), effective March 23, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with a prorated annual salary of \$65,718.00. This is to fill a resignation/retirement vacancy.

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> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Maria Barbara Bonetti | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 1/23/26 |
| Patricia Durkin | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 2/9/26 |
| Michael Doran | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 2/4/26 |
| Grace Jackson | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 2/3/26 |
| Chloe Kosinski | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 1/27/26 |
| Olivia Speranza | Substitute | Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional | 1/27/26 |
| Janna Alexandrov | CEAS | Home Instructor - \$50/hr. | 2/19/26 |

4) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of the temporary reassignment of **Kelly McAdam**, Paraprofessional at Governor Livingston High School, to Long-Term Substitute Teacher of Special Education, a leave of absence position at Governor Livingston High School, effective January 29, 2026, through June 17, 2026, at a daily rate of \$292.43.

5) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves **Caroline McAuliffe** as Leave Replacement School Counselor for Employee #4597 at Governor Livingston High School, full-time (1.0 FTE), effective January 5, 2026, through March 27, 2026 and 1 shadow day, at a prorated salary of \$64,803.00, holding a Standard certification.

6) 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> |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3724 | Amend | Medical Leave/FMLA/NJFLA | | | 1/7/26 - 3/8/26 | 3/9/26 |
| 4499 | Amend | Medical Leave/FMLA/NJFLA | 3/13/26 (AM) | 3/13/26(PM)-3/25/26 | | 3/26/26 |
| 2301 | Approve | Medical Leave/FMLA/NJFLA | 4/8/26-6/30/36 | | | 8/27/26 |
| 4205 | Approve | Medical Leave | 2/18/26-3/6/26 | | | 3/9/26 |
| 3436 | Approve | Maternity/FMLA/NJFLA | 5/26/26-10/13/26 | 10/14/26-1/8/27 | | 1/11/27 |

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

| <u>Employee ID:</u> | <u>Unpaid Days:</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4868 | 1/27/26 PM, 2/5/26 PM, 2/18/26 PM |
| 4660 | 2/6/26 |
| 4174 | 2/17/26, 2/18/26 |
| 4613 | 2/6/26, 2/10/26 PM |
| 4926 | 1/23/26 |
| 5037 | 2/11/26, 2/19/26 |

8) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of **Jacqueline Bartlett**, Assistant Principal at Governor Livingston High School, effective April 10, 2026.

9) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education approves extra-curricular activities for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows, pending employment authorization (#):

| <u>Activity/Program</u> | <u>Instructor/Supervisor</u> | <u>2025-2026 Stipend</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Boys Assistant Lacrosse Coach | Kenny Yeager # | \$5,506.00 |
| Boys Assistant Lacrosse Coach | Adam Aklar # | \$5,506.00 |
| Flag Football Coach | Brandon Haynes | Volunteer |

10) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves extra teaching period assignments at Governor Livingston High School for the 2025–2026 school year, with **Matthew Gervasio**, serving as Special Education Teacher, from September 2, 2025 through January 27, 2026. Compensation will be \$10,500 prorated in addition to his regular salary. Dates are subject to change based on coverage needs.

11) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves additional hours for a Faculty Technical Support Person at Governor Livingston High School for the 2025–2026 school year, with **Debera Dwyer** approved for up to 80 additional hours between February 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026, at a rate of \$21.70 per hour. Ms. Dwyer will assist the school counselor with the course selection process and student schedule conflict resolution.

12) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves interpreter services for March 30, 2026, **Tiffany Mosquera** to provide two interpreters for the Hilltop Spring Musical production at Governor Livingston High School, as internal interpreters are not available, at a cost of \$1,840.

13) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the the amended employment of paraprofessional **Melissa Capece** at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center for the 2025–2026 school year, effective February 9, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at Step 4 for 6.75 hours per day, with an annual salary of \$25,334.98 prorated, replacing a resignation/retirement vacancy.

14) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amended employment of HELP personnel **Jaime Pritzlaff** at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center for the 2025–2026 school year, effective February 13, 2026 through June 17, 2026, for 13 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$31.00, replacing a resignation/retirement vacancy.

15) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of **Richard Godfrey** from Night Custodian to Day Custodian at Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School, effective on a date to be determined through June 30, 2026, replacing a resignation/retirement vacancy.

16) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education the employment of **Keylor Obando** as a Night Custodian at Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, full-time (1.0 FTE) at Step 1, with a prorated annual salary of \$50,853.00, effective on a date to be determined through June 30, 2026, in a new approved position, pending employment authorization.

17) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves the amended temporary reassignment of **Jessica Finley** from HELP Teacher at Mountain Park School to Elementary Teacher Long-Term Substitute for Employee #2050 at Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School from November 10, 2025 through April 3, 2026, at a rate of \$292.43 per day with standard certification.

18) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby approves **Diane Appleby** as a leave replacement HELP Teacher at the Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center from February 13, 2026 through April 6, 2026, at a rate of \$31 per hour for 24 hours per week, with standard certification.

19) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Roberta Gutch**, Teacher of Special Education at Columbia Middle School, and **Sharon Stallone**, Paraprofessional at Columbia Middle School, both effective July 1, 2026.

Personnel Committee Report:

Ms. Bradford, the Personnel Committee Chair provided a report from the February 18, 2026 meeting. The committee primarily focused on the administrative staffing needs at Governor Livingston High School, discussing the financial considerations and necessity of maintaining two Assistant Principals to support the new Principal. To encourage internal career growth, the committee recommended providing professional development and mentoring for district staff. For the upcoming March 6th meeting, members requested the presence of the GL Principal and copies of administrator job descriptions to further review these roles.

Additionally, the committee addressed the use of personal electronic devices for school-related recordings. Mr. Dillon raised concerns regarding teachers using personal phones to create Back-To-School Night videos. In response, Dr. Feltre committed to issuing a staff reminder regarding the district policy on personal phone use, specifically emphasizing that parental consent is mandatory for any videos or photos featuring students. The committee will receive further updates on this policy implementation at future meetings.

For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Personnel Resolutions #1-12: All Board Members and Personnel Resolutions #13-19: Berkeley Heights Only, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Ms. Bradford seconded by Mrs. Stanley Personnel Resolutions #1-12: All Board members and Resolutions #13-19: Berkeley Heights only, were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Joly, Mr. Dillon (Resolutions #1-12 Only), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None
- “Absent”- Mrs. Akiri and Mr. Morales

XI. 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> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 300928GL | 300694CMS | 300751MPE |
| 301859GL | 301582TPH | |

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the **semi-annual District Report of Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying** for the period of September 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, as submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education via the School Safety Data System

Curriculum Committee Report:

No report.

To hear the Board’s full discussion on Education Resolutions #1-2: All Board members, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Mrs. Joly seconded by Ms. Bradford, Education Resolutions #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Bradford, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Joly (Abstain Case#301859GL Only)
Mr. Dillon (GL Only), Dr. Foregger and Mrs. Terrero
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - Mrs. Joly (Case #301859GL Only)
- “Absent”- Mrs. Akiri and Mr. Morales

XII. 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> |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 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 |

2) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the following district bylaws/policies/regulations for second reading and adoption:

(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 |

3) The Berkeley Heights Board of Education does hereby approve the abolishment of the following district bylaws/policies/regulations:

| <u>Policy</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Action</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| P 3362 | Sexual Harassment | Abolish |
| P 4352 | Sexual Harassment | Abolish |

Policy Committee Meeting Report:

Mrs. Stanley provided a report from the Policy Committee meeting that was held remotely on February 9, 2026. Topics at the meeting included discussion on the following policies and regulations: P0142.1, P1220, P1552, R1552, P3362, P4352, P7230, P8451, R8451, P9270, P0155 and P2200. For the full committee meeting minutes, click [here](#).

To hear the Board's full discussion on Policy Resolutions #1-3: All Board members, you can visit the district YouTube page [here](#).

On motion by Mrs. Stanley seconded by Ms. Bradford, Finance Resolutions #1-3: All Board members, were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

XII. **Strategic Planning**

Strategic Planning Committee Report:

Mrs. Stanley informed the Board that the Strategic Planning meeting was held on February 5, 2026 to discuss next steps in advancing the district's strategic plan. The group reviewed current challenges, including the referendum and budget considerations. Administrators shared preliminary action plan documentation for the first strategic goal and requested initial feedback to confirm they were moving in the right direction. Detailed discussion has not yet taken place. Two additional meetings are scheduled for April to review the district administration's strategic plan in greater depth, with a formal presentation to the Board anticipated in May. This timeline will allow the Board to prepare district goals over the summer.

XIV. **Negotiations**

Negotiations Committee Report:

BHEA Negotiations Committee:

Mrs. Terrero informed the Board that the committee met with the BHEA on February 12, 2026 for an introductory meet-and-greet session.

Mountainside Negotiations Committee:

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Mountainside Negotiations committee met internally on February 18, 2026 and negotiations continue.

Head Custodian Negotiations Committee:

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Head Custodian's Negotiations Committee met on February 24, 2026. During the meeting, the committee reviewed the previous proposal from October 13, 2025, and examined a new proposal submitted by the Head Custodians. These discussions included a private review by Board of Education and district members followed by a full committee discussion. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion regarding the next meeting date, which is yet to be determined.

XV. **Liaison Reports**

Berkeley Heights Town Council:

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Berkeley Heights Town Council held a meeting on February 17, 2026. It featured a special recognition for Wayne Osborne, a retiring school district crossing guard, who was honored with much gratitude for his service. Additionally, the town's historical architects provided an update concerning the pre-qualifications for the Littel-Lord Historical home in Berkeley Heights.

Special Education Parent Advocacy Group (SEPAG):

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) held a meeting on January 14, 2026, at the CMS Media Center. During the session, administrators Mr. Morra and Ms. Rush provided parents with an update regarding current special education practices within the

district. The meeting also served as a forum for parents to discuss their specific needs and concerns, while also sharing compliments regarding the work of the district staff.

BH Township Veterans Affairs Committee:

Ms. Bradford informed the Board that the Society of Historians and the Mayor's Youth Council hosted an event at Governor Livingston High School on February 26, 2026. During this session, the group began creating the second volume of the *Operation: We Remember* book. The event was attended by 5 veterans and 11 students, and the group expressed hope for increased participation at their next scheduled meeting on March 12, 2026.

XVI. 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: 10:51 p.m.

There were no comments from the public, either online or in person

Time Out: 10:52 p.m.

XVII. New Business

None.

XVII. Old Business

None.

XIX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Joly and seconded by Mr. Dillon and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ms. Jennifer Nicholson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

For the full recording of the February 26, 2026 Board of Education Meeting, visit the district YouTube page [here](#).