

**WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WOOD-RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07075  
ORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

*Call to Order by the Board Secretary*

*Roll Call*

	<b>Mr. Biamonte</b>	<b>Mr. Fallon</b>	<b>Mr. Garvin</b>	<b>Mr. Nieves</b>
<b>Present</b>				
<b>Absent</b>				

**Flag Salute**    Pledge of Allegiance

*Open Public Meeting Statement*

This is a Regularly Schedule Public Session of the Wood-Ridge Board of Education, known as the Organization Meeting and is in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law. This meeting has been approved by resolution adopted at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2023. Notification has been sent to The Record.

Notification has also been posted in the Wood-Ridge Borough Hall, the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library, TAPinto.net and the Wood-Ridge Board of Education website

**Please be advised that all or a portion of this meeting is being live-streamed in real time and will be recorded for re-broadcasting at a future date.**

## **RESULTS OF ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

The Board Secretary presents the official results of the Annual School District Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 for members of the Board of Education:

<b><u>One 3-Year Term:</u></b>	<b><u>Votes:</u></b>
Bonnie Taylor	929
Michelle P. Milano	1315
Personal Choice	6

*Mr. Morelli, Board Secretary, administers the Oath of Office to the successful candidate and certifies that the new member can take their seat.*

### **Statement of Board Composition for Wood-Ridge Board of Education 2024**

<b><u>Wood-Ridge Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expiration Date</u></b>
Mr. Joseph E. Biamonte Jr.	January 2026
Mr. Richard Fallon	January 2025
Mr. Christopher D. Garvin	January 2026
Mrs. Michele P. Milano	January 2027
Mr. Albert C. Nieves	January 2025

### **Roll Call**

	<b>Mr. Biamonte</b>	<b>Mr. Fallon</b>	<b>Mr. Garvin</b>	<b>Mrs. Milano</b>	<b>Mr. Nieves</b>
<b>Present</b>					
<b>Absent</b>					

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Morelli, Board Secretary will seek a motion to open to the public for items listed on the Board Agenda

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_ Vote\_\_\_\_\_ Open

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_ Vote\_\_\_\_\_ Close

## **BOARD OPERATIONS**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS, APPOINTMENTS, SETTINGS OF BOARD PROCEDURES**

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_ Vote\_\_\_\_\_

#### **BO1: Election of Board President 2024**

Mr. Morelli indicates that nominations are in order for the election of Board President for a one-year term:

- Nominations

#### **Roll Call**

	<b>Mr. Biamonte</b>	<b>Mr. Fallon</b>	<b>Mr. Garvin</b>	<b>Mrs. Milano</b>	<b>Mr. Nieves</b>
<b>Yes</b>					
<b>No</b>					
<b>Abstain</b>					

*Mr. Morelli turns the meeting over to the newly elected President*

## BO2: Election of Board Vice President 2024

The President announces that nominations are in order for the office of Vice-President for a one-year term:

- Nominations

### Roll Call

	Mr. Biamonte	Mr. Fallon	Mr. Garvin	Mrs. Milano	Mr. Nieves
Yes					
No					

## BO3: Code of Ethics- Pursuant to 18A: 12-24.1

Recommend the Board approves the following item:

The Board of Education Members had the required Board of Ethics Training session as required under N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.3 And N.J.A.C.6A:30.

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association “Code of Ethics” shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Wood-Ridge Board of Education:

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules, and regulations, of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- I will confine my board action to policy making, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

- E. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- F. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgement to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- G. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- H. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- J. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BO4: President designates Delegate and Alternate to each of the following:**

	Delegate	Alternate
Bergen County School Boards Association	_____	_____
New Jersey School Boards Association	_____	_____

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BO5: Open Public Meeting Act**

Recommend the Board approve the following item:

Open Public Meeting Act- Establish Meeting Dates, Times, and Site

**RESOLVED** that the Wood-Ridge Board of Education, pursuant to Chapter 231, PAL. (Open Public Meeting Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Wood-Ridge High School Auditorium, 258 Hackensack Street, Wood-Ridge, NJ, at 7:00 p.m. as set forth below unless indicated otherwise:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the Board of Education and any other items brought to the Board's attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education does hereby designate the Bergen Record as official newspaper to receive notices of meetings; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the notices of meetings of the Board of Education will be posted on the Wood-Ridge Board of Education's website, the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library, the Wood-Ridge Borough Hall and TAPinto.net.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess the meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and, as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, city of residence, and the group, if any, that is represented.

The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than five (5) minutes per individual.

The Board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education will meet on the following dates:

**WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS-2024**

Regular Public Session	Monday	January 22, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	February 12, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	March 4, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	March 18, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	April 15, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	April 29, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	May 6, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	May 20, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	June 10, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	July 15, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	August 19, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	September 9, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	October 7, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	November 11, 2024
Regular Public Session	Monday	December 9, 2024
Organization Session	Thursday	January 2, 2025

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BO6: Establish Length of Board Meetings**

Recommend the Board approve the following items:

Previous Board members have expressed a desire to adjourn all meetings at a designated hour to avoid losing members who must leave the meeting or to avoid reaching a point of diminishing returns. Therefore, it is recommended that the following resolution be passed as a guide for future board meetings to adhere to during the ensuing year.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board establishes that all Board of Education meetings will end no later than 10:00 PM, including both public, and executive sessions, and further, the Board establish the practice that continuation of Board meetings beyond 10:00 PM will require a majority vote approval of the members present for each 30-minute period.

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BO7: Designation of Regular Business Meeting Day**

Recommend the Board approve the following items:

Commencing at 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified.  
Public Meetings- As per the attached schedule  
Special Meetings- As called by the Board President  
Committee of the Whole- As called by the Board President

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_



## **BO8: Order of Business at Regular Meetings**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Open Public Meeting Statement
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Resolution for Executive Session
- V. Call to Order (reopen of public meeting at 7:00 PM)
- VI. Open Public Meeting Statement
- VII. Roll Call
- VIII. Recognition and Award Presentation
- IX. Student Board Representative Report
- X. Board Administrator's Report
- XI. Superintendent's Report
- XII. Approval of Minutes
- XIII. Committee Reports
- XIV. Hearing of Citizens on Resolutions
- XV. Consent Agenda
- XVI. New Business
- XVII. Communications
- XVIII. Unfinished Business
- XIX. Hearing of Citizens
- XX. Adjournment

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said order shall be followed unless a majority of the Board of Education shall consent to change the same.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BO9: Cover Page of Committee of the Whole/Regular Meetings**

Recommend the Board approves the following items: Cover page for the Committee of the Whole/Regular Meetings.

<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIR</u></b>	<b><u>CO-CHAIR</u></b>
FINANCE	C. Garvin	A. Nieves
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	J. Biamonte	R. Fallon
PERSONNEL	J. Biamonte	A. Nieves
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	C. Garvin	M. Milano
POLICY	R. Fallon	M. Milano
<b><u>LIAISON POSITIONS</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIR</u></b>	<b><u>CO-CHAIR</u></b>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	A. Nieves	J. Biamonte
MAYOR & COUNCIL	A. Nieves	J. Biamonte
PTA	J. Biamonte	M. Milano
POLICE	J. Biamonte	R. Fallon
MUNICIPAL DRUG ALLIANCE	J. Biamonte	C. Garvin
LIBRARY BOARD	R. Fallon	M. Milano
CLUB/FUNDRAISING	M. Milano	A. Nieves
TECHNOLOGY	R. Fallon	A. Nieves
ARTICULATION/MOONACHIE	C. Garvin	R. Fallon
PARENT ADVISORY NETWORK	A. Nieves	R. Fallon
WR DISTRICT ATHLETICS	A. Nieves	J. Biamonte

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO10: Adoption of Official Media**

Recommend the Board approve the following item:

To authorize the Bergen Record be adopted as the official newspaper and TapInto.net as the official Digital Source, to be used for the advertisement of meetings, legal ads, and all other necessary public notifications for the 2023-2024 and 2024 – 2025 school years.

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO11: Parliamentary Procedures**

Recommend the Board approve the following item:

To adopt Robert’s Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the board secretary and board attorney to act as the parliamentarians for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO12. Board Policies/Regulations**

Recommend the Board approve the following time:

The adoption of all existing Board Policies and Regulations.

Motion by\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO13. Doctrine of Necessity**

Recommend the Board approve the following item

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18AA:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A3-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

**WHEREAS**, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the opinion further provided that if the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity not just to vote, but also to form a negotiations committee because it is without even three members to serve as a committee, then the Board must determine whether to act as a committee of the whole or to choose a smaller negotiations committee from among its members after stating publicly its reason for doing so as set forth above; and

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set for the in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for 30 days and provide the Commission with a copy;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts and charter schools, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BO14. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2023 - 2024**

Recommend the Board approve the following item:

**WHEREAS**, the Wood-Ridge Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

**WHEREAS**, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C.:23-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$1,500 for all staff and board members.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO15. Readopt Written Board Bylaws and Policies**

Recommend the Board approve the following item:

It has been the recommendation of our Attorney: Kenny, Gross, Kovats and Parton, that we readopt the Bylaws and Policies that are in effect now in order to have them remain in force. This adoption does not preclude the newly organized Board from amending old or adopting new policies should the need arise.

The Board approve the Wood-Ridge Board of Education, recognizing that it is responsible for providing a thorough and efficient free public education for the children of this school district, and recognizing that this Board is a non-continuous body subject to annual renewal, adopt the written By laws and Policies of the predecessor Board for its operation and the operation of the school district. It is understood that this Board, during its own life, may amend or repeal such Bylaws and Policies and adopt new Policies as it deems necessary.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BO16. Report on Authorized “Permitted: Pupil Records**

Our attorney specified that the Board must report annually at a public meeting exactly what types of permitted pupil records have been authorized in the Wood-Ridge School District as noted in Policy #8330.

Upon the recommendation of the CSA, the Board approves the following "permitted" pupil records to be maintained in files:

1. Information obtained from professionally acceptable standard instruments of measurement such as intelligence, aptitude and achievement tests, State Assessment Profiles, etc.
2. Data relevant to sequential acquisition of basic skills such as cumulative reading records, math flow charts, etc.

3. Data relevant to sequential acquisition of skills in specialized areas such as speech treatment, instrumental music, summer school reports, etc.
4. Records from other schools.
5. Duplicate report cards.
6. Additional personal data on cumulative record cards not mandated or prohibited, provided however, that such data shall be based upon the personal observation or knowledge of the author thereof.
7. Check list of personality profiles presently provided for on cumulative record cards.
8. Notation of special interests, aptitudes and activities of pupils provided for on cumulative record cards.
9. Child Study Team Reports - LDT/C, social worker, psychologist, supplementary teaching, other concerned professionals and/or agencies within or out of the school system.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PERSONNEL - Mr. Joseph Biamonte, Chairman**

#### **P1: Approval of Personnel Appointment**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following personnel appointment:

Name	Location	New Hire Replacement Transfer	Position	Compensation	Start Date	End Date
Natalie Alonso*	Central Office/Business	New Hire	Business Office Clerk/Accounts Receivable	\$47,500 prorated	1/2/24	6/30/24

\* pending completion of paperwork

MOTION \_\_\_\_\_, SECOND \_\_\_\_\_

		In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
ROLL CALL:	Mr. Fallon			
	Mr. Garvin			
	Mrs. Milano			
	Mr. Biamonte			
	Mr. Nieves			

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS**

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Open

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Close

***Correspondence:***

***New Business:***

***Unfinished Business:***

MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC MEETING

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Scheduled Public Board Meeting: Monday January 22, 2024**

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***Organization Meeting Public Session Agenda***

***January 2, 2024***

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