

**GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Reorganization and Regular Meeting**  
**January 2, 2025**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Place: Green Hills School - Library**

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE BOARD SECRETARY TIME 7:00PM**

The Board Secretary chaired the meeting until the Board President was elected.

**A. FLAG SALUTE-Led by the Board Secretary**

**B. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT-Read by the Board Secretary**

“This is reorganization and a regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Education held for the purpose of reorganizing the Board and other board business. In compliance with Chapter 31, Laws of 1975, the notice of this meeting was advertised in the New Jersey Herald. Copies of the agenda of this meeting were appropriately posted and made available for the public.”

**C. OFFICIAL RESULTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Official results of the annual school board election are as follows:

**Three-year seats**

<b>Candidates Name</b>	<b># of Votes</b>	<b>% of Votes</b>
Ann Marie Cooke	1,245	28.75%
Alyssa Eisner	1,015	23.44%
Heather Ellersick	1,028	23.74%
Kristin Blodnik-Post	964	22.26%
<u>Write in Totals:</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>1.81%</u>
<b>Total Votes Cast</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**One-year seat**

<b>Candidates Name</b>	<b># of Votes</b>	<b>% of Votes</b>
Christopher Bilik	1,570	96.50%
<u>Write in Totals</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>3.50%</u>
<b>Total Votes Cast</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### D. OATH OF OFFICE

The Board Secretary administered the oath of office to newly elected Board of Education members. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2.1 and N.J.S.A. 41:1-1 and 1-3.

Ann Marie Cooke

Alyssa Eisner

Heather Ellersick

Christopher Bilik

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.\**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education, and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S. 18A:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of that office according to the best of my ability So help me God.\**

*\*No individual shall be required to swear or affirm that part of the oaths which states "So help me God."*

#### E. ROLL CALL

		Term	Roll Call
Mr.	CJ Bilik	2025	Present
Mrs.	Marie Bilik	2026	Present
Mrs.	Ann Marie Cooke	2027	Present
Ms..	Heather Ellersick	2027	Present
Ms.	Alyssa Eisner	2027	Present
Ms.	Maureen McGuire	2026	Present
Dr.	Melissa Vela	2026	Arrived at 7:16pm
	Vacant Seat	2025	
	Vacant Seat	2025	
Dr.	Jennifer Cenatiempo, Superintendent		Present
Mrs.	Karen Constantino, SBA		Present

## II. REORGANIZATION

### ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

The President shall be elected by a paper ballot vote of a majority of Board members in attendance.

The Vice President shall be elected by the same procedure as the President. All votes shall be recorded by the Secretary.

#### A. ELECTION OF THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Constantino will request nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education. Nominations are now in order for the office of President.

-Mrs. Bilik was nominated by Mrs. Cooke

There were no further nominations. All board members voted for Mrs. Bilik on a paper ballot. The board secretary read all of the votes aloud.

Motion to approve Mrs. Bilik as President of the Board of Education

Motion-Mrs. McGuire Second-Mrs. Cooke

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.
Approve the BOE President		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik
	Yes	X	X	X	X				X	X
	No									
Motion-Mrs. McGuire	Abstain									
Second-Mrs. Cooke	Absent							X		

-Mrs. Bilik thanked the Board Members for the vote of confidence.

**Board President Now Presides Over Meeting.**

#### B. ELECTION OF THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Nominations:

Nominations are now in order for the office of Vice-President.

Mrs. Cooke was nominated by Mr. Bilik

There were no further nominations for Vice-President.

All board members voted for Mrs. Cooke on a paper ballot. The board secretary read all of the votes aloud.

1. Motion to approve Mrs. Cooke as Vice President of the Board of Education.

Motion – Mrs. McGuire Second - Mrs. Ellersick

## Roll Call:

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.
Approve the BOE Vice President		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik
	Yes	X	X	X	X				X	X
	No									
Motion-Mrs. McGuire	Abstain									
Second-Mrs. Ellersick	Absent							X		

Mrs. Cooke thanked the Board of Education members for their support.

### III. BOARD DELEGATE DESIGNATIONS

1. Motion to appoint Dr. Vela as delegate to the Sussex County School Boards Association.
2. Motion to appoint Mrs. Bilik as delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association.
3. Motion to appoint Mrs. Cooke as delegate to the Newton Board of Education.
4. Motion to appoint Alyssa Eisner as New Jersey School Boards Legislative Chairperson.
5. Motion to appoint Mr. Bilik as delegate to the Sussex County Educational Services Commission.
6. Motion to appoint Mrs. Post, Dr. Vela, Mrs. Ellersick and Mrs. Jones on a rotating basis as PTA liaison.
7. Motion to appoint various board members on a rotating basis as representative to the Green Township Committee.

Motion - Mr. Bilik      Second – Mrs. McGuire

## Roll Call:

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.
Approve the Board Delegate Designations		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik
	Yes	X	X	X	X				X	X
	No									
Motion-Mr. Bilik	Abstain									
Second-Mrs. McGuire	Absent							X		

-Dr. Vela arrived at 7:16pm

### IV. ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS AND APPROVALS

#### A. Schedule of Meetings

Approve the Annual Meeting Dates, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of New Jersey, 1975. Meeting dates shall be scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted below:

Meeting Date	Meeting Type
January 15, 2025	Regular Meeting
February 19, 2025	Regular Meeting, Budget Workshop
March 12, 2025	Board of Education Meeting, Adopt Preliminary Budget
April 16, 2025	Regular Meeting
April 30, 2025	Public Hearing & Adoption of Budget, Regular Meeting
May 21, 2025	Regular Meeting
June 11, 2025	Regular Meeting
July 16, 2025	Regular Meeting
August 20, 2025	Regular Meeting
September 17, 2025	Regular Meeting
October 15, 2025	Regular Meeting
November 19, 2025	Regular Meeting
December 10, 2025	Regular Meeting
January 5, 2026 (Monday) ** Makeup date, January 6, 2026 (Tuesday)	Reorganization & Regular Meeting

Motion -Mrs. Ellersick Second -Mrs. McGuire

Roll Call:

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
Schedule of meetings		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
	Yes										X
	No										
Motion-Mrs. Ellersick	Abstain										
Second-Mrs. McGuire	Absent										

## B. Conduct of Meeting

Robert's Rules of Order, Bylaw 0161, shall govern the Board of Education in its deliberations and acts in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, or these bylaws.

## C. Designations of Depositories and Authorization to Execute Warrants

Be it resolved, that TD Bank be designated as depository for the Green Township Board of Education General Account until the Board of Education determines by formal action otherwise. As such, the Treasurer of School Monies is hereby authorized and directed to maintain accounts for and on behalf of the Board of Education in said bank, and further that the Treasurer of School Monies is authorized to endorse for deposit in said bank all warrants and checks received for account of this Board. All warrants for withdrawal of funds from the Board of Education General Account shall be signed jointly by the Board President or Vice President; and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his/her designee; and the Treasurer of School Monies; and

Be it further resolved, that TD Bank be designated as the banking institution depository for the Green Township Board of Education Interest Investment Savings Accounts; and

Be it further resolved, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his/he designee are hereby authorized to transfer funds to and from these accounts and consolidate such as deemed appropriate on behalf of the Board of Education; and

Be it further resolved, that pursuant to the timelines established in the initial paragraph of this resolution, the Office Account of Green Hills School shall be established at TD Bank. All warrants for the withdrawal of funds from these accounts shall require two signatures as designated by the Business Administrator; and

Be it further resolved, that pursuant to the timelines established in the initial paragraph of this resolution, TD Bank be and hereby are designated as the depository for the following accounts:

Operating  
Payroll  
Payroll/Agency  
Petty Cash  
Unemployment  
Escrow Direct

Bond/Construction Account  
Child Care  
FSA Account

Be it further resolved, that the Green Township Board of Education designates Provident Bank as the depository for the following accounts:

Student Activity  
Cafeteria

D. Authorization for Secretary to Make Certain Payments

Be it resolved that the President or Vice President, and/or the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his designee, and the Treasurer of School Monies, are hereby authorized and directed to execute warrants without further action of the part of the Board for payment, when due, including but not limited to the salaries and health benefits of all Board of Education personnel heretofore authorized and approved by the Board of Education, as well as other payments as deemed necessary by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or her designee and to make such line-item transfers as necessary to conduct district business and execute payroll operation; and

Further, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to make principal and interest payments on school bonds.

E. Investment of Funds

Authorize the Business Administrator to invest district funds as governed by appropriate laws.

F. Motion to Adopt the Doctrine of Necessity

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 A03-98 (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 – Dr. Vela      Second – Mrs. Ellersick

Roll Call:

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
Appointments & Approvals		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
B.-F.	Yes										X
	No										
Motion-Dr. Vela	Abstain										
Second-Mrs. Ellersick	Absent										

#### G. Official Newspapers

Motion to approve the New Jersey Herald as the official newspaper of the Board of Education, and the Township Journal as alternate.

#### H. Motion to Approve the Following Locations for Posting All Legal Notices:

Greendell Post Office  
 Tranquility Post Office  
 Green Hills School  
 Green Township Board Office



Green Township Municipal Building

I. Motion to Operate as a Board under the Committee System Comprised of the Following Committees:

Curriculum  
Operations  
Finance  
Personnel  
Policy  
Negotiations  
Ad Hoc (as needed)

J. Motion to Approve a Fee of the Current Postage Rate and Cost per Page Not to Exceed the

Amount as Set by the Open Public Meeting Act 47: A-2 (OPRA).

Motion ..... Second .....  
/Roll Call/

K. Motion to approve Mrs. Karen Constantino as Public Agency Compliance Officer.

The P.A.C.O. is the liaison between the Division and the Public Agency and is the Public Agency point of contact for all matters concerning implementation and administration of the statute. The P.A.C.O. is also responsible for administering contracting procedures pertaining to equal employment opportunity regarding both the Public Agency and the service providers. The service provider shall include but shall not be limited to goods and services vendors, professional service vendors and construction contractors. As such, the P.A.C.O. must have the authority to recommend changes to effectively support the implementation of the statute and its regulations.

Motion - McGuire

Second –Dr. Vela

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
Appointments & Approvals		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
G.through K.	Yes				All except as noted				All except as noted		X
	No				G.				G.		
Motion-Mrs. McGuire	Abstain										
Second-Dr. Vela	Absent										

L. Motion to approve all existing policies and regulations previously adopted by the Green Township Board of Education.

M. Motion to approve the following individuals or firms in their respective positions for the

2024-2025 school year:

- Energy Cooperation ACES
- School Physician Dr. Casella

- c. Insurance Fund School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF)
- d. Parette Somjen Architects LLC (PSA) District Architect
- e. Environmental Consultants RK Occupational & Environmental Analysis, Inc.
- f. Board Attorney Schenck, Price, Smith & King
- g. Bond Attorney McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C.
- h. Board Auditor Nisivoccia & Co., L.L.P.
- i. Accounting Software Provider CDK Systems
- j. Payroll Computer Service Provider R & L Datacenters, Inc.
- k. Insurance Agent of Record The Morville Agency
- l. Medical Insurance Agent of Record Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors

Motion – Dr. Vela      Second - Mr. Bilik

Roll Call:

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.			Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
Appointments & Approvals		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
L, M.	Yes										X
	No										
Motion-Dr. Vela	Abstain										
Second-Mr. Bilik	Absent										

## THE BOARD WILL NOW CONDUCT THE REGULAR MEETING at 7:22pm

### I. MISSION-Read by Mrs. Cooke

Green Township School District educates every student to become a confident and caring life-long learner who communicates effectively and contributes positively to the evolving needs of society. The district, in partnership with the community, promotes academic excellence and equitable opportunities for all students.

### II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS @ 7:23pm

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on this evening's agenda topics. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive it's right thereafter not to respond. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration as timed by the Board of Education Vice President. Comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not 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. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments. No participant may speak more than once during each public comment session. The speaker must address the President and not individual Board Members, the Superintendent or the audience. Please state your first and last name and address for the record.

None, Closed at 7:24pm.

### III. VARIOUS REPORTS

A. NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE - Mrs. Cooke

-Moved to 1/15/25 Meeting  
B. PTA UPDATE -  
-Moved to 1/15/25 Meeting

C. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT -  
-Moved to 1/15/25 Meeting

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Cenatiempo

HIB:	There were 3 HIB Cases to report since the December BOE meeting.	
Drills:	Fire Drill	12/12/24
	Evacuation Drill	12/17/24

### **Meetings Attended**

SAIF Insurance Meeting regarding Facility Use, 12/12/24

Great training. Discussed the need to have your documentation reviewed by your legal counsel. We will send our paperwork and policy to review to legal.

School Safety / Climate Team Committee, 12/16/24

Character Education planning. Thank you to Ms. Stiles and Mr. Bollette for their leadership in this work. We are looking forward to hearing their plans in the upcoming months.

Administrative Assistant Team Meeting, 12/18/24

These meetings are always valuable. One item that came out of the meeting was the challenge associated with end of the day pick ups after events and celebration.

Additionally Ms. Constantino and I met with our Food Service to discuss our cost of the Pizza Lunch. We will be bringing this discussion to our Finance Committee next week and will provide a public update to follow.

### **Special Events / Assemblies**

Harlem Wizards Assembly, 12/13/24

Newton HS Holiday Experience, 12/17/24

Holiday Concert, 12/18/24

Ski Club to begin 1/3/25.

- ☐ 47 students
- ☐ Physicals to be required going forward.
- ☐ 1 Bus
- ☐ Thank you to Ms. Grzymko and Mr. Martin for leading this club.

### **Weather Related Events**

Delayed Opening on 12/16/24

### **Choice Lottery Update**

We held our choice Lottery on 12/13/24. We had 27 applicants for 10 spots. As we have sibling preference, 5 of those spots went to incoming students who have siblings attending Green already. The other 5 spots were pulled in the lottery. We had two sets of twins where 1 twin was selected and the other was not. We requested 2 additional seats for the twins not selected from the state. We were awarded two additional seats from the state! We now have 54 Choice seats!

### **Mid Year Budget Review was completed on 12/13/24.**

This annual review requires a comprehensive overview of all major functions of the district in terms of efficiency standards and mid-year review questions related to enrollment, facilities, budget/fiscal, tax levy, adequacy, surplus, reserve accounts, transportation, charter school, choice program, audit, grant management, preschool expansion, curriculum and instruction, and professional development for staff.

This was a very positive experience. I attribute our collective success with the amazing students, staff, community, and board members that we work alongside. I also have a very supportive network personally which allows me to be successful.

Well wishes for the 2025 year! This is the type of year to move full steam ahead. It is such an exciting time. It is an honor to serve our district!

Committee schedules to be distributed to be held on 1/6/25.

E. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT - Mrs. Constantino  
-Working on 25-26SY Budget, Year-end reporting has begun, business as usual

IV. **BOARD BUSINESS**

- A. Motion to accept minutes of the following meetings:
  - 1. Regular Meeting of December 11, 2024. (Attachment)
  - 2. Executive Session minutes of December 11, 2024.
- B. Motion to accept the HIB Reports from the December 11, 2024 meeting.

Motion – Mrs. Cooke    Second – Dr. Vela  
/Roll Call/

Motion: Board Business		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.	Vacant	Vacant	Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.
A 1., 2.B.		Mcguire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik			Vela	Cooke	Bilik
	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion: Cooke	Abstain									
Second: Vela	Absent									

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Mcguire, Chairperson
  - 1. Motion to approve the following professional development request(s):

Staff Member	Conference Name	Provider/Location	Date	Costs
Jennifer Cenatiempo	Understanding Implicit Bias	NJ DOE Division of Civil Rights	1/15/25	No cost to BOE
Jennifer Cenatiempo	Responding to Bias Incidents	NJ DOE Division of Civil Rights	1/29/25	No cost to BOE

Motion – Mrs. McGuire                      Second – Mrs. Ellersick  
/Roll Call/

Motion: Curriculum		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik
A 1.										
	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion: McGuire	Abstain									
Second: Ellersick	Absent									

**B. FINANCE – Mrs. Cooke, Chairperson**

1. Motion to approve the funding for the Large Gym Speaker system as follows:

<b>Large Gymnasium Speaker System/Upgrade</b>	<b>Funds-Sources</b>
PTA Donation	\$42,000
Capital Reserve (as budgeted)	\$25,000
Capital Reserve (remaining capital funds from other projects in 24/25SY)	\$21,949
Maintenance Reserve	\$36,786
<b>Total Funds Needed</b>	<b>\$125,735</b>
Total Cost as approved (12/10/24 agenda)	\$122,476
Two Year Extended Warranty	\$3,259
<b>Total Cost of Gym Speaker System- Upgrade/Maint./Electrical. including the 2 year Extended Warranty</b>	<b>\$125,735</b>

Motion – Mrs. Cooke      Second – Mrs. McGuire  
/Roll Call/

Motion: Finance		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik
B 1.										
	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion: Cooke	Abstain									
Second: McGuire	Absent									

**C. OPERATIONS - Mr. Bilik, Chairperson**

1. Motion to withdraw from the maintenance reserve for the Large Gym Speaker System Maintenance/Upgrade and Electrical of \$36,786 (as referenced in Finance motion 1. above).

Motion – Mr. Bilik      Second – Dr. Vela  
/Roll Call/

Motion: Operations		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik
C. 1.										
	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion: Bilik	Abstain									
Second: Vela	Absent									

**D. PERSONNEL - \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson**

-No motions on the agenda

**E. POLICY - \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson**

-No motions on the agenda

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NEW BUSINESS TOPICS at 7:42pm**

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration as timed by the Board of Education Vice President. Comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not 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. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments. No participant may speak more than once during each public comment session. The speaker must address the President and not individual Board Members, the Superintendent or the audience. Please state your first and last name and address for the record.

None, Closed at 7:43pm

**VII. CLOSED MEETING**

Closed Meeting Motion was read by President Bilik at 7:43pm.

The Board of Education of the Green Township School District in the County of Sussex will adjourn into closed meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in

- 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 a specific prospective or current employee

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney-client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the

need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing “b” and “g”  
 -Action will be taken when the board comes out of executive session.

Motion - Mr. Bilik      Second – Dr. Vela

Roll Call/

Motion: Executive Session		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.	Vacant	Vacant	Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
VII		Mcguire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik			Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
	Yes										X
	No										
Motion: Bilik	Abstain										
Second: Vela	Absent										

## VIII. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene into public session at 8:15pm.

Motion –Mrs. Ellersick      Second- Mrs. Cooke

/Roll Call/

Motion: Reconvene		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.	Vacant	Vacant	Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
VII.		Mcguire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik			Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
	Yes										X
	No										
Motion: Ellersick	Abstain										
Second: Cooke	Absent										

## INTERVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

-Interviewing four candidates, joint process, the same six questions will be asked to each candidate  
 -Candidates randomly drew numbers for the interview order.

### **Amy Jones (First Candidate), 10 Forest Road**

Why are you seeking an appointment for this vacant seat? Asked by Mr. Bilik

-Would like to be involved in decisions, have impact on students/community, moved to Green when we got married...close to things and out in the country, decided to stay and love it. Two kids here, would like to give back, take part in the community and have a positive impact

If you could change one thing about our District, what would it be and why? Asked by Mrs. Ellersick

-Little things and changes have been made...there was bullying on a bus and now we have attendants...anything comes up, very responsive to needs/concerns. Like the open communication.

What attributes and behaviors are essential for school board members? Asked by Dr. Vela

-caring, apathetic, understanding...have perspective that you can see who you are impacting...students need a safe environment...have a positive impact on the community...

What is your vision for education in this community?

Asked by Mrs. Cooke

-kids to love to learn, feel happy to come to school, would like everyone to feel that way...be able to teach all different levels, even more resources to differentiate, use all senses for kids to learn...kids can find what they love and work together

How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? Asked by Mrs. Eisner

-with every entity, there has to be guidance, the board represents the community with eyes and ears...know the inner workings and make the best decision, and the regulations need to be followed

Is there anything you wish we had asked you about that we didn't? Asked by Mrs. McGuire

-I feel education is very important...my mom instilled that in me and my father in her...love the opportunity that we have, i.e. ski club, be a part of something great.

President Bilik asked if there are any questions for the board? Any topic that's the most difficult to deliberate on? Policy is the biggest challenge, must make sure the "play book" is correct. The Board and the school work together...

### **Jennifer Cinotti –Candidate #2, 2 Highland Ave**

Why are you seeking an appointment for this vacant seat? Asked by Mr. Bilik

-I sat on the board years ago...never easy to fill a seat...wanted to throw my hat in the ring

If you could change one thing about our District, what would it be and why? Asked by Mrs. Ellersick

-More funding to do things that need to be done...I've volunteered...my kids came here...not really change anything...more funds.

What attributes and behaviors are essential for school board members? Asked by Dr. Vela

-time, curiosity, work well with others, show up

What is your vision for education in this community?

Asked by Mrs. Cooke

-no one overlooked or left behind...grow at a good pace

How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? Asked by Mrs. Eisner

-always been a challenge...small town, money has to come from somewhere, lean on community for that, and understand that that's the way it is

Is there anything you wish we had asked you about that we didn't? Asked by Mrs. McGuire

-excited to see that there are three other candidates...wanted to do this to be a part, and would put 100%

-my kids are no longer here, but they got their foundation from Green Hills

-do not want to take the opportunity from a candidate who has students here

-no questions for the board

### **Kristin Blodnik Post, Candidate #3, 24 Fieldview Road**

Why are you seeking an appointment for this vacant seat? Asked by Mr. Bilik

-very fortunate already to have been a part...would like to continue to be a part of the discussions for student success

If you could change one thing about our District, what would it be and why? Asked by Mrs. Ellersick

-limitations to funding formulas, which making it challenging for the board to predict

What attributes and behaviors are essential for school board members? Asked by Dr. Vela

-ability to communicate, collaborate meaningful discussion, active listening, mutual respect, deep passion for students

What is your vision for education in this community? Asked by Mrs. Cooke

-ensure the opportunity to thrive and reach potential and excel in their own being

How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? Asked by Mrs. Eisner



-need a balance to happen, we are all taxpayers...keep students at the forefront of decisions

Is there anything you wish we had asked you about that we didn't? Asked by Mrs. McGuire

-fortunate to have sat on Board...honored to serve the students

-Question for the BOE-Is there a specific quality that is most valuable? President Bilik responded: fill chairs with contributing members, compatibility...not identical people

**Kristen Fried, Candidate #4, 4 Shore Road**

Why are you seeking an appointment for this vacant seat? Asked by Mr. Bilik

-Have two children in Green Hills School, one in the preschool program and one in first grade...I appreciate the teachers, and I would like to invest in our children's education

If you could change one thing about our District, what would it be and why? Asked by Mrs. Ellersick

-strong parent influence, could be even stronger...more parent outreach-letter, day-to-day operations...updates, i.e. like the lot that was paved on the side of the school with 14 extra spots, more notification to parents

What attributes and behaviors are essential for school board members? Asked by Dr. Vela

-collaboration, listen to board members, no judgement, collaborate together to make a decision

What is your vision for education in this community?

Asked by Mrs. Cooke

-Moved here 10 years ago...small class size, community is into the school

-Curriculum, know what is being taught to students

How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? Asked by Mrs. Eisner

-Taxpayers—homes were just reassessed, be cautious if you do a referendum, must hear the voice of the people

Is there anything you wish we had asked you about that we didn't? Asked by Mrs. McGuire

-getting more parents involved, meetings via zoom for the board, giving parents the ability to listen in

President Bilik-any questions for the Board? No

**IX. CLOSED MEETING**

Closed Meeting Motion was read by President Bilik at 8:55pm.

The Board of Education of the Green Township School District in the County of Sussex will adjourn into closed meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in

- 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 a specific prospective or current employee

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney-client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a

specific prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing “b”

Motion – Dr. Vela Second – Mrs. Ellersick

Roll Call/

Motion: Closed Meeting		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik	All in Favor
IX.	Yes										X
	No										
Motion: Vela	Abstain										
Second: Ellersick	Absent										

## X. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene into public session at 9:31pm.

Motion – Mrs. McGuire Second – Dr. Vela

/Roll Call/

Motion: Reconvene		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik	All in Favor
X.	Yes										X
	No										
Motion: McGuire	Abstain										
Second: Vela	Absent										

## XI. APPOINT NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, 9:34 pm.

Motion to appoint Amy Jones for a 1-year term to begin immediately and conclude December 31, 2025.

Motion-Mrs. Cooke Second – Dr. Vela

Motion:		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik
Appoint BOE Candidate Opening #1	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion-Cooke	Abstain									
Second-Vela	Absent									

Motion to appoint Kristin Post for a 1-year term to begin immediately and conclude December 31, 2025.

Motion-Mrs. Cooke Second – Mr. Bilik

Motion:		Mrs. McGuire	Mrs. Ellersick	Mrs. Eisner	Mr. Bilik	Vacant	Vacant	Dr. Vela	Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. Bilik
Appoint BOE Candidate Opening #2	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
	No									
Motion-Cooke	Abstain									
Second-Bilik	Absent									

## OATH OF OFFICE administered to Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Post

The Board Secretary will administer the oath of office to newly elected Board of Education members. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2.1 and N.J.S.A. 41:1-1 and 1-3, the oath of Office will be

administered to the following newly elected Board Members by Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mrs. Constantino:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.\**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education, and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S. 18A:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of that office according to the best of my ability So help me God.\**

*\*No individual shall be required to swear or affirm that part of the oaths which states "So help me God."*

## **XII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Bilik and Mrs. Cooke will review the Committee Lists

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion that the Board of Education shall adjourn at 9:38pm.

Motion – Mrs. Cooke    Second – Dr. Vela  
/Roll Call/

Motion:		Mrs.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Mr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	Dr.	Mrs.	Mrs.	All in
Adjournment		McGuire	Ellersick	Eisner	Bilik	Post	Jones	Vela	Cooke	Bilik	Favor
	Yes										X
	No										
Motion-Cooke	Abstain										
Second-Vela	Absent										

## **Next Meeting Date:**

January 15, 2025

## **Vision**

Empower students and staff to embrace their individual strengths in a safe, supportive environment that fosters a love of learning while pursuing their full potential.  
December