

BURLINGTON U.S.D. NO. 244 BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2026

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the 2026-2027 Board of Education of Burlington USD 244 was held at the District Administrative Office at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 2026. The following board members were present: James Higgins, Lucas Allen (7:27 p.m.), Johnny Hernandez, Nolan Strawder, Ron Hess, Bob Plummer, and Selena King. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Donalyn Biehler, Clerk of the Board Christy Hess, Technology Director Craig Kuhlmann, BHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director Arianne Seidl, BHS Head Baseball Coach Jonathan Mariani, and Jay Hale.

1. Final Meeting of 2025-2026

1.A. Call to Order - James Higgins called the July 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Any Other Old Business

1.D. Adjournment of the 2025-2026 Board

2. Organizational Meeting for 2026-2027 BOE

2.A. Call to Order

2.B. Additions to the Agenda

3. Consent Agenda

3.A. Approval of the Agenda

3.B. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2026, Linkage Meeting

3.C. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2026, Regular Meeting

3.D. Approval of the June 2026 Bills and Transfers

3.E. Approval of Bills and Financial Reports

3.F. Approval of Personnel Items

3.G. Appoint Christy Hess as Clerk of the Board

3.H. Appoint Craig Kuhlmann as Deputy Clerk of the Board

3.I. Appoint Sheila Gilbert as Board Treasurer

3.J. Approval of Other Appointments

3.K. Approval of Building Level Activity Accounting

3.L. Approval of Participation in the 4-Year-old At-Risk Program

3.M. Approve Fees

3.N. Approval of 2026-2027 School Meal Prices

3.O. District Fee Refund Policy

3.P. Approval of the District Depositories

3.Q. Approval of Investing Idle Funds

3.R. Approval of Petty Cash Limits

3.S. Approval of the Waiver of Generally Accepted Accounting Principals

3.T. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule

3.U. Approval of Hour Plan

3.V. Approval of Designation of Make-Up Day

3.W. Approval of Mileage Rate

3.X. Approval of Substitute Teacher Pay

3.Y. Approval of Substitute Classified Pay

3.Z. Approval of District Rental Fees

3.AA. Approval of Destruction of Records

3.AB. Approval of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

3.AC. Approval of PDC Handbook

3.AD. Approve Home Rule

3.AE. Rescind All Policy Statements

3.AF. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items 3A-3AF. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Bob Plummer, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Absent, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4. Student Recognition

4.A. 2026 Class 3A State Boys Baseball

5. Public Comment

5.A. Concerns of Burlington USD 244 Patrons – During public comment, Jay Hale asked the Board of Education whether the district had identified a teacher for the newly proposed fine arts course. He noted that choir and band are also fine arts programs and encouraged the Board to continue supporting and promoting student participation in those programs as well.

6. Communications

6.A. Written Communications - *None*

7. Administrative Reports

7.A. Superintendent's Report

8. Board Member Items

8.A. Board Reports –

Selena King asked who made the decision to discontinue live streaming of Board meetings. Superintendent Donalyn Biehler responded that it was her decision, based on guidance from KASB advising school districts to discontinue the practice.

Johnny Hernandez requested that the Board review its policies regarding student overnight stays and meal allowances.

9. Ground Rules

9.A. Review Operating Procedures

Motion to establish ground rules as presented for working with the superintendent as discussed and noted in the official minutes of this meeting. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Johnny Hernandez, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Absent, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10. Board Goals

11. Budget Status Report

12. Negotiations

12.A. Ratification of Negotiated Agreement

Motion to ratify the 2026-2027 negotiated agreement with the Burlington Unified Teachers Association. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Johnny Hernandez, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13. Personnel

13.A. Executive Session Regarding Personnel

13.B. Classified Staff Pay Increase

Motion to increase returning classified staff wages by \$ 1.00 per hour for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Selena King and seconded by Nolan Strawder, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.C. Paraprofessional Pay Increase

Motion to increase returning Paraprofessional staff wages by \$ 1.00 per hour for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Ron Hess, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.D. Classified Directors Pay Increase

Motion to increase the returning classified director's salary for Margarito Solano, Courtney Finlayson, Brian Shank, Lacey Johnson by 3.68% for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Bob Plummer, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.E. Licensed Nurses Pay Increase

Motion to increase the returning licensed nurses' salary for Laurie Hermon and Laura Keegan by 3.68% for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Johnny Hernandez, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.F. Special Education Related Services Staff Pay Increase

Motion to allow step, movement, and \$1150 on the base of the special education related services salary schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Selena King and seconded by James Higgins, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.G. Administrators' Pay Increase

Motion to increase the salary of Darla Long, Matt Spring, Lee Baldwin, Arianne Seidl, and Craig Kuhlmann by 3.68% for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Selena King, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13.H. Annual Wage/Salary Review Schedule for 2026-2027

Motion to approve the annual wage/salary review schedule adjustments for 2026-2027. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Nolan Strawder, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

14. Contracts/Approvals/Appointments

14.A. Governmental Relations Network Appointee

Motion to approve Lucas Allen to serve as the Governmental Relations Network Representative for 2026-2027. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Johnny Hernandez, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

14.B. 2026-2027 Handbook Approvals

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 handbooks, with the exception of the BHS Activity Handbook for staff and students as presented. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Johnny Hernandez, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea, Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

14.C. Approval of Introduction to Industrial Design

Motion to approve Introduction to Industrial Design as a course that fulfills the one-credit Fine Arts graduation requirement for Burlington High School students for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Bob Plummer and seconded by Ron Hess, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea,

Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

15. Board Policies

15.A. Annual Agenda Planning

Motion to approve the 2026-27 Annual Agenda Planner with the amended November KASB Convention date. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by Bob Plummer, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea,
Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

15.B. Policy Updates

Motion to approve policy updates as presented. This motion, made by Ron Hess and seconded by James Higgins, Carried.

Lucas Allen: Yea, Johnny Hernandez: Yea, Ron Hess: Yea, James Higgins: Yea, Selena King: Yea,
Bob Plummer: Yea, Nolan Strawder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

16. Student Issue

16.A. Executive Session Regarding a Student Issue - *None*

17. Closing Items

17.A. Debriefing

17.B. Adjournment

James Higgins adjourned the July 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting at 8:27 p.m.

James Higgins, President

Date

Christy Hess, Clerk of the Board

Date