WANAQUE BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Wanaque Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm, in the Haskell School Gymnasium, 973 Ringwood Avenue, Haskell, NJ 07420.

Minutes

I. Call To Order/Sunshine Statement

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, P.L. 1975, c.231, s.1; amended 2006, c.70, s.2, the Wanaque Board of Education has provided adequate notice of this meeting by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to Suburban Trends on January 9, 2025 via email and the Herald News on January 9, 2025 via email. Copies of this notice have also been placed in the Borough Hall and in the Main Office of both Wanaque and Haskell Schools and filed with the Wanaque Borough Clerk on January 9, 2025.

Flag Salute/Public Participation Statement/Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X	
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X	
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X	
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X	
Ms. Johannemann (Tina)		X
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X	
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X	
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X	
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X	

Attendance
Dr. Murphy, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Di Bartolo, Business Administrator
Mr. Adam Weiss, Board Attorney
Mr. Brett Biggins, Haskell School Principal
Ms. Molly Rieth, Confidential Secretary
Public 6

II. Statement to the Public

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases by unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. The members of the board work with the administration and Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting. In rare instances, matters are presented to the Board of Education for discussion at the same meeting that final action may be taken.

Ms. Demetriou thanked Ms. Reid and Mr. Velante for their six years of service and presented each of them with a plaque.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Murphy thanked Ms. Reid and Mr. Velante, noting that serving in this capacity is one of the most selfless things a parent can do.

Dr. Murphy announced that an email regarding the Superintendent Search will be distributed tomorrow.

Belen Gaibur, a Haskell School student, read a positive statement sharing her perspective on her experience at Haskell School.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum and Instruction – Ms. Reid – The Curriculum and Instruction Committee met with Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Di Bartolo and discussed workshops and the donation of coats. The committee supports all agenda items.

B. Finance, Facilities, and Operations – Mr. Barnhardt – The Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee met with Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Di Bartolo and discussed the final cost for the Haskell Main Office Project, Health Benefits, and several contracts. We also started the conversation regarding next years budget. The committee supports all agenda items.

C. Personnel and Policy – Mr. Velante – The Personnel and Policy Committee met with Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Di Bartolo and discussed new employees, movement on the guide, a resignation, leaves, substitutes, student teachers, sidebar agreement and a job description. The committee supports all agenda items.

D. Negotiations/Employee Relations – N/A

E. Communications/Public Relations – N/A

F. Tri-District – N/A

V. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. Di Bartolo explained that the district is transitioning to a new insurance plan that was selected through a competitive bidding process. The new plan is Horizon NJ Solutions. She further stated that the audit will be approved in January and that the facilities walkthrough will take place in February.

VI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education approves the Minutes of the following meetings, as submitted:

November 18, 2025 Executive & Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Bastean	SECOND: Mr. Barnhardt		
BOARD MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X		

Ms. Johannemann (Tina)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

VII. Correspondence

A. November 2025 – School Digest

VIII. Public Comment – Agenda items only

Claudia Reid – Wanaque – Read a statement regarding resolution B13.

IX. Resolutions

A. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following curriculum and instruction resolutions:

1. Approve reimbursement of expenses for the attached **workshops**, as they are directly related to and within the scope of the participant's duties and are critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or further the efficient operation of the district.

Curriculum and Instruction #1

MOTION: Ms. Reid	SECOND: Mr. Hain		
BOARD MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X		
Ms. Johannemann (Tina)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

B. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approves the following finance, facilities, and operations resolutions:

1. **Financial Reports:**
   Secretary's (A148) Report - Ms. Nancy DiBartolo
   For November 2025 Business Administrator/Board Secretary
   Cash Reconciliation (A149) Report - Dr. Matthew Murphy
   For November 2025 Interim Superintendent of Schools

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, move that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6:23A-16.10(c)*4, we certify that as of November 2025 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the 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:23A-16.10(b)* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3. Approve the revised payment of bills and claims for the month of November 2025:

10/11	General Current Expense	$2,118,659.02
20	Special Revenues	$ 180,337.54
30	Capital Project	$
40	Debt Service	$
90	Agency	$ 532,145.90
	Total	**$2,831,142.46**

4. Approve the payment of bills and claims for the month of December 2025:

10/11	General Current Expense	$ 253,515.60
20	Special Revenues	$ 43,112.00
30	Capital Project	$
40	Debt Service	$
	Total	**$ 296,627.60**

5. Approve the necessary transfers for the month of November 2025 to achieve the thoroughness standards of the State of New Jersey and of the district for the current year.

6. **WHEREAS,** the final costs for the Interior Renovations at Haskell Elementary School Project #5440-050-24-1000 were less than the budgeted costs and

   THEREFORE, the amount budgeted in Capital Projects for this project exceeded the amount required to complete the project, the Wanaque Board of Education resolves to cancel the balance of $94,464.18 in the capital project account and requests that the Business Administrator transfer the funds back to the Capital Reserve Account.

7. Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 the Wanaque Board of Education approves the 2025/2026 Services Agreement with **Northern Region Educational Services Commission** for the following routes, at a total cost of $11,766.53:

Route	School	Cost	Surcharge	Dates
4182	Wanaque School	$11,100.50	$666.03	10/27/25-6/23/25

8. **MOTION TO AUTHORIZE** the Business Administrator to notify the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits - NJDPB, that the Board of Education will terminate participation in the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) health plans, effective February 28, 2026, at 11:59 pm.

9. **MOTION TO APPROVE,** that the Board of Education accepts the 16-month proposal for Health Benefits from the NJ Solutions Joint Health Insurance Fund as the Health Insurance carrier, effective March 1, 2026, at 12:00 am.

10. **MOTION TO APPROVE,** that the Board of Education appoints Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors as the District's Broker of Record for Health Benefits, effective March 1, 2026, at 12:00 am.

11. Approve the revised agreement with **PediatriCare Associates** as our school physician for the 2025/2026 School Year, effective July 1, 2025 through **December 31, 2025**.

12. Approve the agreement with **ProCare Medical Associates, LLC, Michael Kelly**, DO, as our school physician for the 2025/2026 School Year, effective **January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026**, at a rate of $5,000 pending required documents.

13. Pursuant to PL 2016, Chapter 47, the Wanaque Board of Education approves the **Shared Services Agreement with the County of Passaic for Hi-Speed Internet Services** for a 5-year term, taking effect **April 1, 2026**, and terminating **March 31, 2031**, at a monthly rate of $500, for a total yearly cost of $6,000.

14. Approve **Let's Talk Speech** to provide Speech Language Services for the 2025/2026 School Year as follows:

Monolingual Direct and Indirect Services	$110/hr.
Bilingual Direct and Indirect Services	$130/hr.
Monolingual Evaluations	$450/hr.
Specialized Evaluations	$700/hr.

15. Accept the proposal from **Edvocate School Support Solutions** for Consulting Services for the RFP Process Management of the District's Custodial and Management Services Operations at a cost not to exceed $9,600.00.

Finance, Facilities, and Operations #1-15

MOTION: Mr. Barnhardt	SECOND: Mr. Bastean		
BOARD MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**

Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X		
Ms. Johannemann (Tina)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

C. PERSONNEL AND POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following personnel and policy resolutions:

1. Approve **Allison Saraceni**, Guidance Counselor, Haskell School, effective December 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, MA Step 1 of the WBEA guide at an annual salary of $67,955 prorated.

2. Approve **Jayne Rymut**, Speech & Language Pathologist, Wanaque School, effective January 5, 2026, through June 30, 2026, MA Step 6 of the WBEA guide at an annual salary of $74,400 prorated, pending required documents.

3. Approve **Milana Shindelman**, In-class Support Teacher, Wanaque School, effective February 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, BA Step 1 of the WBEA guide at an annual salary of $61,455 prorated, pending required documents.

4. Approve, **Jacqueline Morsello**, Wanaque School Secretary, effective on or about January 5, 2026, through June 30, 2026, Step 5, of the WBEA guide for an annual salary of $47,370, prorated, pending required documents.

5. Approve the movement of employee **#4371** from Step 14 Teacher MA +30 to Step 14 Teacher MA +45, effective January 1, 2026.

6. Approve the movement of employee **#4793** from Step 5 Teacher BA to Step 5 Teacher MA, effective January 1, 2026.

7. Approve, with regret, the resignation of **Danielle Cierech**, Secretary, Wanaque School, effective January 15, 2026.

8. Approve FLA leave for employee **#4120** as follows, with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2026:

March 18, 2026, through April 2, 2026	Sick Days
April 13, 2026, through June 23, 2026	Unpaid FLA Leave

9. Approve FMLA/FLA leave for employee **#4989** as follows, with an anticipated return date of October 19, 2026:

May 4, 2026, through May 22, 2026	Sick Days
May 25, 2026, through June 23, 2026	Unpaid FMLA/FLA Leave
September 1, 2026, through October 16, 2026	Unpaid FLA Leave

10. Approve FMLA/FLA leave for employee **#4787** as follows, with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2026:

February 18, 2026, through March 20, 2026	Sick Days
March 23, 2026, through June 12, 2026	Unpaid FMLA/FLA
June 15, 2026, through June 23, 2026	Unpaid Extended Leave

11. Approve medical leave for employee **#4077** as follows, with an anticipated return date of January 20, 2026:

December 9, 2025, through January 20, 2026	Sick Days

12. Approve **Jessica Tozzi**, William Paterson University student teacher, with Stephanie Dale, Gr. 3 teacher, Haskell School, effective January 5, 2026, through May 13, 2026, pending required documents.

13. Approve the following substitute teachers, effective December 17, 2025, pending required documents:
    Jo Ciaburri
    Molly Murphy
    Maddie Ralicki

14. Approve the following Job Description:
    Academic Support Teachers (After-School ELA/Math) for 2025/2026 School Year)

Personnel and Policy #1-14

MOTION: Mr. Velante	SECOND: Mr. Bastean		
BOARD MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X		
Ms. Johannemann (Tina)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

D. NEGOTIATIONS/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
E. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS
F. TRI-DISTRICT
G. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following old/new business resolutions:

1. Wanaque Board of Education acknowledges the donation from Maria Gilbey-Hall of winter coats for the students at Haskell and Wanaque Schools.

   The Wanaque Board of Education accepts the above donation and wishes to express gratitude for it.

Old/New Business #1

MOTION: Ms. Tully	SECOND: Mr. McFarlane		
BOARD MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Mr. Bastean (Nicholas	X		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	X		
Ms. Johannemann (Tina)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Ms. Tully (Leane)	X		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	X		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

X. **Public Comment** – Any item

Claudia Reid – Wanaque – handed out an article to the board members regarding hypersensitivity.

XI. **Executive Session**

The board did not retire into Executive Session this evening.

Mr. Velante thanked the Superintendent, Board members, parents, and students for the opportunity to serve. He stated that his family had scheduled much of the past six years around committee and Board meetings and that it is now time for him to focus on his family.

Ms. Demetriou wished everyone a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:54 pm by Mr. Velante and seconded by Ms. Tully. All in Favour.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Di Bartolo
Board Secretary