HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, August 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement

The Harding Township School provides a strong educational foundation which inspires students to achieve academic excellence. Our dedicated faculty stimulates intellectual growth using a challenging curriculum within a supportive learning environment. We encourage students to become self-directed, lifelong learners who are well prepared for the academic and social challenges of the future.

The 2025-2026 Harding Township School District goals are inspired by and connected to the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan that was developed by key stakeholders. The 2019-2024 Strategic Plan was developed in conjunction with the New Jersey School boards Association and with participation from all major stakeholder groups. The District Goals were discussed by the Board of Education at their June 25, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

District Goal 1: Strategic Plan Goal Area: Identify Needs/Personalized Learning

To identify learning gaps and measure the academic progress of our students through the administration of pre- and post-grade-level assessments in Reading, Math, and Writing that correlate with the NJSLS standards and Reader's/Writer's Workshop. Instruction will be differentiated to support the growth of all learners, including those requiring additional support, as well as including opportunities for students to engage in advanced learning when they are ready to go beyond grade-level expectations.

1) Reading progress will be measured by a DRA reading assessment administered to all K-2 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all K-2 students will be reading at grade level or will move up a grade level in the post-assessment results All grade 3-8 students will be assessed using the LinkIT! assessment. Ninety percent (90%) of all students will achieve grade level performance or improve by at least one grade level from their baseline assessment.

2) Math progress will be assessed using the LinkIt! assessment which will be administered to all grade 3-8 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all grade 3-8 students shall achieve grade level performance or improve by at least one grade level from their baseline assessment.

3) Writing progress will be measured by a district developed writing assessment administered to all K-8 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all K-8 students shall improve one point (one quintile) on the grade-level District Writing Assessment in the post-assessment results.

District Goal 2: Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Facilities and Safety To develop a draft of a Long-Range Facilities Plan for 2025-30, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, and subject to Board of Education approval.

District Goal 3: Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Community Input and Involvement

To prepare a draft plan for celebration of HTS' centennial to be held in 2026/27, pending Superintendent final recommendation, and Board of Education review and approval.

I. Call to Order – The regular session of the Harding Board of Education is called to order by _____ at ____ p.m. in the Library of the Harding Township Middle School, 34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

II. Presiding Officers Statement/Sunshine Statement:
In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided to the Daily Record, Observer Tribune and posted on the bulletin boards of the New Vernon Post Office, Green Village Post Office, Harding Township Municipal Building, Harding Township Elementary School and Harding Township Middle School on January 8, 2026.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **Roll call vote:**
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

Present: *Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Magno, Business Administrator, Mr. John Jennings*

V. PRESENTATION

Semi-Annual School Safety Data System, Dr. Chris Magno - Superintendent

Roll call vote:

Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

VI. HEARING OF PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS (Policy 0167)

Motion presented by _____ and seconded by_____, to hold a public hearing regarding Agenda Items only at _____.

Motion presented by _____ and seconded by _____to close public hearing regarding Agenda Items only at _____.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

VII. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

a. Superintendent
b. Business Administrator
c. Madison Board of Education
d. Personnel Committee, 8/19/26
e. Facilities and Finance, 8/19/26
f. Policy Committee, 8/19/26
g. Curriculum Committee, 8/19/26

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

IX. BOARD BUSINESS

BB-001 Approve Regular & Executive Session Minutes
BB-002 Approve District Goals and Action Plans, 2026-27
BB-003 Approve First Reading of Policies/Regulations, Policy Alert 237

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve:

BB-001 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education approve the following minutes:

- Regular Session Annual Planning Retreat, June 22, 2026
- Executive Session June 22, 2026

BB-002 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education approves the District Goals and Action Plans for 2026-27.

BB-003 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education approves the First Reading of the

following Policies/Regulations:

P 1230 Superintendent's Duties
P 2200 Curriculum
P2422 Career Education and Academic Counseling
P 0162 Notice of board Meetings
P 0162.01 Legal Notices
P 1643 Family Leave
P 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices
P/R 5111.13 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students –Choice School District
P 5561 Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities
P6112 Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
R 6115.01 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Allowable Costs
P6115.02 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Mandatory Disclosures
P 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

FACILITIES AND FINANCE
FF-001 Approve Bills Lists
FF-002 Approve June Financial Reports
FF-003 Approve Banking Services
FF-004 Approve Summit Speech School
FF-005 Approve Facility Use Application
FF-006 Approve Non-Resident Tuition 2026-2027
FF-007 Approve Non-Resident Tuition 2026-2027
FF-008 Approve Non-Resident Tuition 2026-2027
FF-009 Approve Tuition Contract with Morris County Vo-Tech
FF-010 Approve Submission of School Lead Filters Grant Application
FF-011 Approve IDEA award and submission
FF-012 Approve ESEA award and submission
FF-013 Approve School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner
FF-014 Approve Bid Threshold
FF-015 Approve Maschio's Food Service Agreement
FF-016 Approve School Lunch Prices
FF-017 Approve Parental Transportation Contract
FF-018 Approve Bus Routes 2026-2027
FF-019 Approve June Transfer Report
FF-020 Approve Non-Resident Tuition 2026-2027

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve:

FF-001 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached bills list dated June 30, 2026 in the amount of $150,953.60 and August 24, 2026 in the amount of $1,345,156.93.

FF-002 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the June 2026 Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports certifying that no major appropriation or account or fund has been over-extended and the sufficient funds are

available to meet the districts obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

FF-003 RESOLVED that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following;

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34 requires that the Board of Education designate a bank or trust company organized under the laws of the United States or the State of New Jersey as the official depositary for school district funds; **and**
WHEREAS, Toronto Dominion (TD Bank) is a designated public depository certified by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUPDA), N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.; **and**
WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to maintain its official accounts and utilize treasury management, and related financial services with Toronto Dominion for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Harding Township School District, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. **Designation of Depository**: Toronto Dominion is hereby designated as the official depository for all public funds of the Harding Township Board of Education for the 2025-2026 and 2026 - 2027 School Years.
2. **Authorized Accounts:** The Board Authorizes the maintenance of the following accounts with Toronto Dominion
    - General Account
    - Payroll Account
    - Payroll Agency Account
    - Student Activities Account
    - Lanzerotti Science Award Account/Certificate of Deposit
    - Flexible Spending Account
    - Unemployment Account
    - Cafeteria Account
3. **Authorized Signatories:** The following Board officers and administrative personnel are hereby designated and authorized to sign checks, drafts, wire transfers and electronic fund transfers (EFT) on behalf of the Board of Education
    - General Account – BA, Superintendent, Board President or Vice President
    - Cafeteria Account – BA and Superintendent
    - Payroll Account -BA and Superintendent
    - Payroll Agency – BA and Superintendent
    - Student Activities – BA and Superintendent
    - Unemployment – BA or Superintendent
    - Flexible Spending – BA or Superintendent
    - Board President – Davor Gjivoje, Board Vice President Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Superintendent Dr. Christopher Magno, Business Administrator Mr. John Jennings
4. **Prior Resolutions:** In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between this resolution and any prior resolution relating to the same subject matter, this resolution shall prevail to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

FF-004 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves Summit Speech School to provide Itinerant Teacher Services for student #7688405751, 1 session per week and student #4869423357, 4 consults per year. All services to be provided at an hourly rate of $225 to take place between September 2026 and June 2027.

FF-005 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Facility Use Application, submitted by the Harding Hawks Field Hockey Club by John Keating for use of the gymnasium on November 8, 15, 22, December 13, 20, 2026, and January 10,17, 24, 31, February 7, 21, 28, 2027 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FF-006 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Resident tuition contract for the 2026-2027 school year for Grade 1 student #11094, tuition at $10,500 to be paid an initial deposit of $3,000 and ten (10) equal monthly installments of $750; September 2026 through June 2027.

FF-007 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Resident tuition contract for the 2026-2027 school year for Grade Kindergarten student #11086, tuition at $10,500 to be paid an initial deposit of $3,000 and ten (10) equal monthly installments of $750; September 2026 through June 2027.

FF-008 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Resident tuition contract for the 2026-2027 School Year for Grade Kindergarten student # 11157 at $6,300 to be paid in initial deposit of $1,000 and ten (10) equal monthly installments of $530; September 2026 through June 2027. Note this is a discounted tuition rate as per the terms of the HTEA contract.

FF-009 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the tuition contract with Morris County Vocational School District for the 2026-2027 school year at the following rates:

	Regular Ed (3.8% increase)	Special Ed (0% increase)
Full-time Student	$10,562	$15,361
Part-time Student	$ 5,221	$ 7,681

FF-010 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes the Business Administrator to submit the School Lead Filters Program for Filtered Bottle-Filling Stations and Filtered Faucets and accepts the grant in the amount of $1,000.

FF-011 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts and authorizes the School Business Administrator the submission of the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) Grant Application funds of $86,109 and $3,018 for IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool respectively for the 26-27 school year. These funds will be used to offset special education out of district tuition costs and related services (Occupational and Physical Therapy Services.

FF-012 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts and authorizes the School Business Administrator the submission of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary School Act) Grant Application funds of $16,389 Title 1-A, $7,447 Title IIA and $10,000 Title IV A for the 26-27 School Year.

FF-013 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints John J. Jennings as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner for the 25-26 school year. **And,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the following:

1. Mr. John J. Jennings Harding Twp. School – Business Administrator
2. School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF)

FF-014 WHEREAS, John J. Jennings, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, possesses a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certificate issued by the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-9(b) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(b); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 18A:18A-3(a) the Harding Township Board of Education may increase the bid threshold for the procurement of goods, materials and services up to the maximum statutory amount allowed for contracting units that have appointed a Qualifying Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b), has adjusted the maximum bid threshold for contracting units with a Qualified Purchasing Agent to $53,000;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Harding Township Board of Education hereby appoints Mr. John Jennings as the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) for the school district and designates them to exercise the duties and responsibilities of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby increases it bid threshold to $53,000 in the aggregate for the 26-27 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (c), the Qualified Purchasing Agent is authorized to award contracts on behalf of the Board of Education, up to the $53,000 bid threshold without public advertising of bids, while soliciting at least (2) competitive quotations for purchases equal to or exceeding 15% of the bid threshold ($7,950) whenever practicable.

FF-015 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Food Service Agreement with Maschio's for the 2026-2027 School Year which contains a monthly management fee of $1,300 ($13,000 total) and a subsidy not to exceed $4,000

FF-016 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the School Lunch Prices for the 2026-2027 School Year as follows;

Student Lunch $6:50
Adult Lunch $7:25
25 cent increase over the prior year's prices

FF-017 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Parental Contract for student transportation, Student ED #10505, from home to the Bancroft School from September 2026 – June 2027, in the amount of $12,000.

FF-018 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2026-2027 school year bus routes for Harding Township School and Madison High School students.

FF-019 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the June 2026 Transfer Report.

FF-020 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Resident tuition contract for the 2026-2027 school year for Grade Kindergarten student #11146, tuition at $10,500 to be paid in ten (10) equal monthly installments of $1,050; September 2026 through June 2027. Approves the Non-Resident tuition contract for the 2026-2027 school year for Grade 3 student #11132, tuition at $10,500 to be paid in ten (10) equal monthly installments of $1,050; September 2026 through June 2027.

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
CI-001 Approve Mentoring Plan, 2026-27
CI-002 Approve School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades, 2025-26
CI-003 Approve Professional Development
CI-004 Approve Field Trip
CI-005 Approve Curriculum Update – French

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve:

CI-001 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Harding Township School Mentoring Plan, 2026-27.

CI-002 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grade Under the Anti-bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR), with a grade of 78 out of 78.

CI-003 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Professional Development:

Ms. King, Legal One Anti-Bullying Specialist online certificate program, Foundation of Educational Administration, registration $600.

CI-004 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following field trip;

8th Grade Class to attend the 25th anniversary of 9/11 being held at Memorial Park on September 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., New Vernon, NJ. Students will be escorted to and from the event by the Harding Township Police Department.

CI-005 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves updates to the French Curriculum (Document review available at the Superintendent's Office).

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT
PM-001 Approve Substitute Teacher List, 2026-27
PM-002 Approve Teacher in Charge, 2026-27
PM-003 Approve Movement on the Guide
PM-004 Approve Faculty Resignation
PM-005 Approve New Faculty/Staff Members
PM-006 Approve Faculty Leave of Absence Request
PM-007 Approve Extracurricular Stipend Positions

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve:

PM-001 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the rehiring of the following substitute staff, 2026-27 school year. Substitute teacher's per diem rate at $150, and substitute Nurses at a per diem rate of $225.

Last	First	Substitute Position
Hamfeldt	Tomasina	Teacher
Grenard	Sharon	Teacher
Howard	Eithne	Amin/Teacher
Kapp	Connie	Teacher
Kulsea	Kathleen	Nurse
Kuppersmith	Barbara	Teacher
Maurice	Kathleen	Nurse
Mele	Jennifer	Teacher
Miele	Lisa	Teacher
Racanelli	Joe	Teacher
Sena	Kathryn	Teacher
Wentz	Laura	Nurse

PM-002 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following certificated faculty as Teacher In Charge for the 2026-27 school year:

Mrs. Carol Cochran, Middle School

PM-003 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the movement on the guide:

Ms. Fry, from MA+45/Step 19 to MA+60/19 at a base salary of $101,536, effective September 1, 2026.

Ms. Pinyan, from BA/Step 6 to BA+15/Step 6 at a base salary of $65,661, effective September 1, 2026.

Ms. Christian, from BA/Step 5 to BA+15/Step 5 at a base salary of $64,621, effective September 1, 2026

Mr. Alworth, from MA+30/Step 18 to MA+45/Step 18 at a base salary of $97,586, effective September 1, 2026

Mrs. Daley, from MA/Step 19 to MA+15/Step 19 at a base salary of $96,436 effective September 1, 2026.

Ms. Hunter from MA/Step18 to MA+15/Step18 at a base salary of $94,186 effective September 1, 2026.

PM-004 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts with regret the following resignation:

Ms. Kimberly Volz, Gr.3 teacher, effective August 25, 2026.

PM-005 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves hiring the following staff members:

Ms. Nikki Lurz, Grade 3 teacher, at an annual salary of $62,271 (BA Step 2), effective September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, tenure track and pending Criminal History Background clearance.

Ms. Andrea McGarry, Secretary to the Principal/Director of Curriculum, effective August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027 at an annual salary of $64,553 (Secretary Salary Guide Step 5), prorated to $57,828.57.

PM-006 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following faculty Leave of Absence request:

Mrs. Mihaly, commencing November 2, 2026 through December 11, 2026 utilizing (26) accumulated illness days. Following the sick leave, Family Medical Leave to begin on or about December 14, 2026 through March 12, 2027 to be unpaid but with benefits and subject to employee's current contribution. An additional leave from March 15, 2027 through March 19, 2027. Anticipated return to work is March 26, 2027.

PM-006 RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following extracurricular stipend positions:

ELA Coach (E/S) – Mrs. Jennifer Crum
Climate and Culture Advisor – Ms. Natalie Christian
Track Coach – Mrs. Andrea McGarry

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

X. HEARING OF PUBLIC REGARDING (Agenda and non-Agenda Items- Policy 0167)

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to open public comment on Agenda and non-Agenda items at _____.

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to close public comment on Agenda and non-Agenda items at _____.

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

XI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to enter Executive Session at _____.

Be It Resolved, that the Harding Township Board of Education convenes Executive Session in full compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*; and the minutes of the discussion of any of these items will be available to the public when such minutes have been approved by the Board pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1.* **Topics:**

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

XIII. RETURN to PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to return to Public Session at _____.

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____

XIV. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

XV. ADJOURN

MOTION presented by _____ and seconded by _____ to adjourn at _____.

Roll call vote:
Mr. Davor Gjivoje _____ *Dr. Alex Anastasiou* _____ *Mr. Abi Singh* _____
Mr. Richard Bruno _____ *Mrs. Melissa Krikos* _____