HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
320 JOHNSONBURG ROAD, P.O. BOX 293
HOPE, NEW JERSEY 07844
908-459-4242

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MAY 20, 2025

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hope Township School Media Center.

Hope Township School, in cooperation with our community, values the importance of a supportive, challenging education for all students delivered through an effective, contemporary curriculum that meets or exceeds the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. By fostering communication and respect in a positive educational environment, all children can realize their potential.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is either discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this provision of the act, the Hope Township Board of Education has sent notice of this meeting, stating the date, and place, to the Star Gazette and the New Jersey Herald, and posted the same in the Hope Township School, Municipal Building, and Post Office.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Andrea Beatty	_____	Mrs. Diane Kasharian	_____	Mrs. Stephanie Skow	_____
Mrs. Linda Chamberlain	_____	Mr. John Lucas	_____		
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	_____	Mrs. Tina Ritchie	_____		

Also present,

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

White Township Board representative
Shared Service Agreements - status

VI. PRINCIPAL REPORT

Presentation - Student Panther PAWS Awards - Shows Perseverance

Report of NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grade under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act

VII. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

As per Board Policy 0167, public comments are welcome on educational issues. All comments should be directed to the board president. Those wishing to share comments are asked to state their name and address before speaking. Please respect the five minute speaking rule so that the business of the Board may proceed in a timely manner.

VIII. MINUTES

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____ to approve the following minutes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board of Education meeting, held on the dates indicated as transcribed, be approved and filed.

April 29, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

IX. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Lucas, Mr. Ciccarelli

Committee update

X. COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mrs. Skow, Mrs. Kasharian, Mrs. Beatty

Committee update

XI. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY - Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Kasharian

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology items A through G.

A. Approve Field Trip - White Township School

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades to the White Township for a meet/greet and orientation for next year, on June 3, 2025. Transportation will be $150.

B. Tuition Contract - Regular High School

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the Hope Township Board of Education (sending) and Belvidere High School (receiving) for tuition charges of $823,200. The cost per pupil of $19,600 multiplied by an estimated daily enrollment of 42 students. (11.000.100.561.000.000)

C. Tuition Contract - High School Resource Program

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a High School Resource Room Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the Hope Township Board of Education (sending) and Belvidere High School (receiving) for tuition charges of $36,000. (11.000.100.562.000.000)

D. Tuition Contract - High School Multiple Disabilities Program

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the Hope Township Board of Education (sending) and Belvidere High School (receiving) for Student ID #2100457084 at $30,000 for tuition. (11.000.100.562.000.000)

E. Tuition Contract - High School Multiple Disabilities Program

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the Hope Township Board of Education (sending) and Belvidere High School (receiving) for Student ID #2821458260 at $30,000 for tuition. (11.000.100.562.000.000)

F. Tuition Contract - High School Multiple Disabilities Program

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year between the Hope Township Board of Education (sending) and Belvidere High School (receiving) for Student ID #2821458260 at $17,403 for tuition. (11.000.100.562.000.000)

G. Approve Itinerant Services for Students with Hearing Loss

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an agreement with the Mountain Lakes Board of Education for student OG to receive four 50 minute Itinerant Service Sessions at a cost of $720 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Discussion:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Beatty				
Mrs. Chamberlain				
Mr. Ciccarelli				
Mr. Lucas				
Mrs. Skow				
Mrs. Kasharian				
Mrs. Ritchie				
Totals				

XII. FINANCE - Mr. Ciccarelli, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Chamberlain

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Finance items A through M.

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report April 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Hope Township Board of Education to certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Hope Township Board of Education receive and accept the monthly financial statements, the Board Secretary's, and Treasurer's reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month ending April 30, 2025 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Hope Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and Hope Township Board of Education certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the district's financial obligation.

B. Approval of Budget Transfers for April 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line-item accounts for each line-item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for the time period of April 2025 were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, that Hope Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for April 30, 2025 in fiscal year 2024-2025, approved by the Chief School Administrator, so that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations.

C. Approval of May 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Boards of Education to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

WHEREAS, a list of bills for the months of May 2025 are being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified, approved and paid; and

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, ratifies and approves the list of bills for payment in the grand sum of $383,056.41 for May 2025.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting.

D. Approval of Lunch Prices for 2025/2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve breakfast and lunch prices as follows:

Student Breakfast	$2.50	Adult Breakfast	$3.00
Student Lunch	$3.80	Adult Lunch	$4.25

E. Approval to Renew School Health Insurance Fund (SHIF)

WHEREAS, a number of school boards in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the SCHOOLS HEALTH INSURANCE FUND hereafter referred to as "SHIF", as permitted N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the SHIF has received approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance on August 10, 2015;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a school board joint insurance fund;

WHEREAS, the governing body of White Township, hereinafter referred to as"SCHOOL BOARD" has determined that membership in the SHIF is in the best interest of said SCHOOL BOARD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD hereby agrees as follows:

i. SCHOOL BOARD shall become a member of the SHIF for the period outlined in the SCHOOL BOARD's Indemnity and Trust Agreement.

ii. SCHOOL BOARD will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
a.) Health Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the SHIF's Bylaws, and the SHIF's Plan of Risk Management.

iii. SCHOOL BOARD accepts and approves the SHIF's Bylaws and agrees to be bound by the terms thereof.

iv. SCHOOL BOARD shall execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

v. SCHOOL BOARD agrees to commit to the four principles of the SHIF which are:
a.) A long term philosophy on rates.
b.) A willingness to work with bargaining units to achieve plan design changes.
c.) Professional management with stability and commitment.
d.) Rating structure based on actuarial numbers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the SHIF as required by the SHIF's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the SHIF's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

i. Approval of the SCHOOL BOARD by the SHIF.

ii. Receipt by the SHIF of a Resolution from the SCHOOL BOARD accepting SCHOOL

BOARD's SHIF assessment.

iii. Approval by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance of SCHOOL BOARD as a member of the SHIF.

F. School Health Insurance Fund - Medical, Prescription, Dental Rates 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following monthly premiums for medical, prescription, and dental for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

MEDICAL	AETNA POS II $10	AETNA POS II $15	Educators Health Plan	Garden State Health Plan
Single	$14,760.00	$14,064.00	$13,512.00	$11,964.00
Parent/Child	$27,480.00	$26,160.00	$25,128.00	$22,272.00
Couple	$29,520.00	$28,128.00	$27,000.00	$23,928.00
Family	$42,240.00	$40,212.00	$38,664.00	$34,248.00

PRESCRIPTION	AETNA $10/$3/$10 Prescription Drug Program	AETNA Prescription Drug Program (EHP/GSHP)
Single	$2,844.00	$4,008.36
Parent/Child	$5,304.00	$7,455.12
Couple	$5,700.00	$8,016.36
Family	$8,136.00	$11,389.92

DENTAL	Horizon Healthcare
Single	$828.48
Parent/Child	$1,547.16
Couple	$1,497.60
Family	$2,199.84

G. Appove the Appointment of the Auditors

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the appointment of Ardito and Co., LLP as the auditors for the 2025-2026 school year.

H. Appove the Appointment of the Attorney

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the appointment of John Comegno II, Comegno Law Group, P.C. as Board Attorney for the 2025-2026 school year.

I. Appove Shared Services Agreement for Technology

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Shared Service Agreement with Belvidere for Technology Services for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of $25,000.

J. Approve Shared Services Agreement - Business Administrator

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Shared Services agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the Hope Township Board of Education for the Business Administrator, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of $68,492.00.

K. Approve Shared Services Agreement - Child Study Team

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Shared Services agreement between the Hope Township Board of Education and the White Township Board of Education for the Child Study Team, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

L. Approve Shared Services Agreement - Middle School Math Instruction

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Shared Services agreement between the Hope Township Board of Education and the White Township Board of Education for Middle School Math Instruction, specifically, Brian Grennan, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

M. **Approval of the Use of Maintenance Reserve**

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 permits a district board of education to withdraw by resolution funds from the maintenance reserve account and appropriate the funds into the required maintenance account lines at budget time or any time during the year for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility, as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4;

WHEREAS, funds withdrawn from the maintenance reserve account shall be restricted to required maintenance appropriations. A district board of education or board of school estimate shall not transfer the funds to any other line-item account;

WHEREAS, in any year that maintenance reserve account funds are withdrawn, the district board of education shall restore to the maintenance reserve account at year-end any unexpended required maintenance appropriations, up to the amount of maintenance reserve account funds withdrawn;

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education has determined that an amount of $30,000 is needed to replace a hot water heater, repair an HVAC unit and replace broken lighting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, authorizes the School Business Administrator to make a transfer from the Maintenance Reserves in an amount of $30,000 to the 261 maintenance lines.

Discussion:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Beatty				
Mrs. Chamberlain				
Mr. Ciccarelli				
Mr. Lucas				
Mrs. Skow				
Mrs. Kasharian				
Mrs. Ritchie				
Totals				

XIII. PERSONNEL - Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Skow

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Personnel item A through E.

A. Appoint Social Worker for the 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, appoint and approve Erica Zarro as a Social Worker, MA, Step JK, at the salary rate of $69,665.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Hope Township Board of Education and the Hope Township Education Association.

B. Appoint Speech Therapist for the 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, appoint and approve Melody Groben as a Speech Therapist, MA, Step F, at the salary rate of $65,450.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Hope Township Board of Education and the Hope Township Education Association.

C. Appoint Part Time Speech Therapist for the 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, appoint and approve Laura Crawford as a Part Time Speech Therapist (.70), MA, Step L, at the salary rate of $49,879.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the agreement between the Hope Township Board of Education and the Hope Township Education Association.

D. Approve Summer ESY at Belvidere

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an hourly rate of $60.34 for Meghan Gecek to work at Belvidere June 30, 2025 through July 24, 2025. It will be for 16 days, 4 hours a day for a total of $3,861.94.

E. Approve Summer ESY at Belvidere

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an hourly rate of $56.48 for Lianne Markus to work at Belvidere June 30, 2025 through July 24, 2025. It will be for 16 days, 4 hours a day for a total of $3,614.63.

Discussion:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Beatty				
Mrs. Chamberlain				
Mr. Ciccarelli				
Mr. Lucas				
Mrs. Skow				
Mrs. Kasharian				
Mrs. Ritchie				
Totals				

XIV. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain
Committee update

XV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian
Committee update

XVI. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mr. Ciccarelli
Committee update

XVII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

XVIII. PUBLIC HEARING AND PETITION
As per Board Policy 0167, public comments are welcome on educational issues. All comments should be directed to the board president. Those wishing to share comments are asked to state their name and address before speaking. Please respect the five minute speaking rule so that the business of the Board may proceed in a timely manner.

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ for the Board to enter into Executive Session at _____p.m.

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board of Education discusses topics falling within certain specified exceptions to the requirement for public meetings;(N.J.S.A. 10:4-13) and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to discuss matters that fall within statutory exceptions to open public meetings

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act(N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board adjourn from public session and enter into executive session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to legal matters and personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be. The Board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately ___ minutes. Action may be taken.

BE IT RESOLVED to return to Open Public Session at _____p.m.

MOTION by _____, seconded by_____for the Board to reconvene public session.

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

XX. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____ to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by _____, seconded by_____.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent