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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 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. Tina Ritchie	_____
Mrs. Linda Chamberlain	_____	Mr. Mathew Leitner	_____		
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	_____	Mr. John Lucas	_____		

Also present,

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Hope School Happenings
Presentation of Paw Awards - PAWSitively Inclusive
Presentation of Red Apple Award - Heart of a Red Apple

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

January 20, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

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

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Buildings & Grounds/Transportation items A through D.

A. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, to approve the use of the gymnasium by Hope Township PTA for the Book Fair March 18, 2026 through March 20, 2026.

B. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Gymnasium, Upper Parking Lot and the Lower Parking Lot by Mrs. Green for a "Literacy Night" on Thursday, March 19, 2026 between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

C. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Upper Parking Lot and the Lower Parking Lot facilities by Kaleidoscope Productions for their production on Friday, May 8, 2026 through Sunday, May 10, 2026 and Friday May 15, 2026 through Sunday, May 17, 2026 for parking.

D. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Gymnasium, by St. Hubert's Animal Welfare for a presentation to our students on February 26, 2026.

Discussion:

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

IX. COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mr. Leitner, Mrs. Kasharian, Mrs. Beatty

Committee update

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

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Curriculum items A through D.

A. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip to Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ for the PreKindergarten, Kindergarten and MD on May 20, 2026. Cost per pupil is $17.50. Transportation will be provided by the district.

B. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve field trip to a G&T Event called Strategic Thinking Day given by the Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment on April 14, 2026 in Washington, NJ . The workshop cost is no cost to the district..

C. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip to Hope Town Hall Municipal Building, Hope NJ for the First and Second Grades on Wednesday May 27, 2026. The rain date is Friday, May 29, 2026. There is no cost to the district.

D. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Tammy Green to attend training for NJGPA-Adaptive, NJSLA-Adaptive and NJSLA-Science Testing on Tuesday February 24, 2026 in Park Ridge, NJ. There is no cost to the district.

Discussion:

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

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

Committee update

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

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report January 2026

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 January 31, 2026, 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 January 31, 2026; 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 January 2026

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 January 2026 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 January 31, 2026 in fiscal year 2025-2026, 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 January 2026 and February 2026 Claims

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 January 2026 and February 2026 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 $98,631.89 for January 21, 2026 through January 31, 2026 and $218,780.58 for February 1, 2026 through February 13, 2026.

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. Authorizing the Submission of a Major Amendment to the LRFP

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education ("Board") seeks to proceed with the submission of a Major Amendment to the District's current Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the submission of a Major Amendment to the School District's LRFP

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary to engage Parette Somjen Architects, LLC, the Board's appointed architect of record, to prepare and submit the LRFP Major Amendment on behalf of the District to the New Jersey Department of Education.

E. Waiver of Requirements for Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI)

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(b) provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2026-2027 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the district is projecting an enrollment of 12 Medicaid eligible classified students per the October 13, 2025 ASSA report.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Warren an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2026-2027 school year.

F. Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services with WCSSSD

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a resolution for the Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between Hope Township Board of Education and Warren County Special Services School District for July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Discussion:

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

XII. PERSONNEL - Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Leitner

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Personnel items A through D.

A. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Melissa Thomas as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

B. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Marlene Wilburn as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

C. Approve Student Observation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Kaylee Wildrick to observe Science in a Pre-K/Elementary setting for (6) hours to fulfill course requirements, pending background check.

D. Approve Job Descriptions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve all Hope Township Board of Education Job Descriptions for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Beatty				

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

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

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to adopt the first reading of Policy items 1 through 10.

1. P 0142.1 Nepotism (M) (Revised)
2. P 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
3. P & R 1552 Sexual Harassment - Staff (M) (New)
4. P & R 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
5. P & R 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
6. P 3362 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
7. R 3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
8. P 4352 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
9. R 4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
10. P & R 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)

Discussion:

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

XIV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian
Committee update

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

XVI. WHITE BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Ritchie
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 will 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 HIB investigation #2 25/26 deemed a HIB incident.

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