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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, September 22, 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. Linda Chamberlain	_____	Mr. Mathew Leitner	_____	Mrs. Desiree Whitbeck	_____
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	_____	Mr. John Lucas	_____		
Mrs. Diane Kasharian	_____	Mrs. Tina Ritchie	_____		

Also present,

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MOTION by__________, seconded by________ to approve Administrative Report A.

A. Nursing Services Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Hope Township School District Nursing Services Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

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.

August 25, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

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

Committee update

MOTION by_________, seconded by________ to approve Buildings & Grounds/Transportation item A through F.

A. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Gymnasium and the Lower Parking Lot facilities by the Hope Township Recreational - Basketball, September 15, 2026 through April 15, 2027, for practice and games.

B. 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, the Lower Parking Lot, Gymnasium, Fields, and bathroom facilities by Hope Township for the “Picnic Craft Market” on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 1:00 pm through 5:00 p.m.

C. Approve Renewal of the Transportation Contract 19-20HOPE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the renewal of contract 19-20HOPE with GST Transport Corp. to transport students to and from school for the 2026-2027 with route renewals at the CPI index rate of 3.58% for a total cost as follows:

Route Number	Per Diem Renewal Contract Amount	NJSA 18A:39:3 Extension	Number of Days	Total Per Diem	Total Annual Route Cost
ELEM1	183.95	6.58	180	$190.53	$34,295.40
ELEM2	184.94	6.62	180	$191.56	$34,480.80
				Total Cost	**$68,776.20**

D. Approve Renewal of the Transportation Contract 22-23HopeTwp

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the renewal of contract 22-23HopeTwp with GST Transport Corp. to transport students to and from school for the 2026-2027 with route renewals at the CPI index rate of 3.58% for a total cost as follows:

Route Number	Per Diem Renewal Contract Amount	NJSA 18A:39:3 Extension	Number of Days	Total Per Diem	Total Annual Route Cost
HS1	300.47	10.76	181	311.23	$56,332.63
HS2	300.47	10.76	181	311.23	$56,332.63
ELEM3	369.49	13.23	180	382.72	$68,889.60
				Total Cost	**$181,554.86**

E. 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 "Panther Paw Arts Night" on Thursday, November 19, 2026 between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

F. 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 the Winter Concert on Tuesday, January 12, 2027 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion:

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

X. COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mr. Leitner, Mrs. Kasharian

Committee update

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

Committee update

MOTION by__________, seconded by________ to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology items A through F.

A. Fundraiser - Yearbook Committee

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Yearbook Committee Fundraiser to sell snacks during lunch beginning in October to offset the cost of yearbooks.

B. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Lianne Markus to attend Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. This is for the school year activities and is a zero cost to the district.

C. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Kerri McCloskey to attend the 35th Annual School Health Conference on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. Registration fee is $295.00 and mileage will be paid.

D. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Jennifer Encin to attend IXL Live: Administrator Edition on Thursday, October 29, 2026 in Morristown, NJ. Registration fee is $179.00. Mileage and parking will be paid.

E. Educator Mini Grant 2026-2027 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Hope Township Board of Education approves administration to submit the Educator Mini Grant application to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and accepts the award of the 2026-2027 Educators Mini Grant to pay for the creation and implementation of the Panther mural on a wall in the school gymnasium in the amount of $2,000.00.

F. Educator Mini Grant 2026-2027 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the Hope Township Board of Education approves administration to submit the Educator Mini Grant application to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and accepts the award of the 2026-2027 Educators Mini Grant to pay for supplies for the school's Panther PAWS Art Night in the amount of $1,501.38.

Discussion:

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

XII. FINANCE - Mr. Ciccarelli, Mrs. Chamberlain

Committee update

MOTION by__________, seconded by________ to approve Finance items A through D.

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report Revised July 2026 and August 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 July 31, 2026 and August 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 July 31, 2026 and August 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 July 2026 and August 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 August 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 August 31, 2026 in fiscal year 2026-2027, 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 August 2026 and September 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 August 2026 and September 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 $21,783.74 for August 18, 2026 through August 31, 2026 and $445,682.95 for September 1, 2026 through September 18, 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. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Honacy Beco to attendPuresan - Clean & Maintain Expo 2026 on Friday, October 23, 2026 at the Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth, NJ. There is no cost to the District.. Mileage will be paid.

Discussion:

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

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

Committee update

MOTION by__________, seconded by________ to approve Personnel item A through G.

A. Approve Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Carol Napurano, as a Substitute Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of $16.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. Approve Paraprofessional

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve John Yeager, as a Substitute Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of $16.00 for the 2026-2027 school year, pending background check.

C. Approve Co-Curricular Activity Positions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following staff for Co-Curricular activity positions for the 2026-2027 school year.

Staff Member	Position	Stipend
Lianne Markus	Green Team 4 - 5	$900.00
Lindsay Williams	Yearbook	$1,700.00
Lianne Markus	Gifted and Talented	$1,500.00
Jennifer Encin	Substitute Caller	$2,200.00
Lindsay Williams	Safety Patrol	$1,700.00
Jazmin San Juan	Strategic Games Club	$900.00
Laura Sullivan	Homework Club K - 2	$1,100.00
Lindsay Willaims	Homework Club 3 - 5	$1,100.00
Sue Martino	Book Club 3 - 5	$900.00

D. Approve Lunch Aide/Food Courier -Parttime

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Stefania Aguilar as a parttime lunch aide/food courier for two hours a day, at a rate of $20.00 an hour, plus mileage.

E. Approve Lunch Aide -Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Mirna Horak as a substitute lunch aide for an hour a day, at a salary rate of $20.00 an hour.

F. Approve Lunch Aide/Food Courier for the 2026-2027 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Kira Pfeifer as a lunch aide/food courier for two hours a day, starting October 1, 2026 or sooner for $20.00 an hour, plus mileage for the 2026-2027 school year.

G. Approve Substitute Teacher

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Frances Ott as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2026-2027 school year, pending background check.

Discussion:

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

XIV. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain

Committee update

MOTION by_________, seconded by________ to adopt Governance item A.

A. Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board adopt the first reading of the following policies:

- P 2363 Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology (Abolished)
- P 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicles – To and From School-Related Activities (Revised)
- P 8662 Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles – To and From School (New)

Discussion:

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

XV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian
Committee update

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

XVII. WHITE BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Chamberlain
Committee update

XVIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

XIX. 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.

XX. 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

XXI. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

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

Voice Vote:

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

XXII. 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