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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2025

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, November 18, 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

President Ritchie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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	***Present***	Mrs. Diane Kasharian	***Present***	Mrs. Tina Ritchie	***Present***
Mrs. Linda Chamberlain	***Present***	Mr. Mathew Leitner	***Present***		
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	***Present***	Mr. John Lucas	***Present***		

Also present, Tammy Green, CSA and Lori Tirone, SBA/BS

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Presentation of Paw Awards - Positively Thankful

Presentation of Red Apple Award - Gratitude Giver
Presentation of G&T by Lianne Markus
Congratulations to Linda Chamberlain and Mathew Leitner on their reappointments to the Board.

Mrs. Green reported on:

- PD Day 11/4 IXL Training.
- Conferences
- NJSLA Adaptive Test
- Halloween Parade, Trunk or Treat, Family Art Night
- Hope hosting Warren County Consortium
- Holiday Party, Stuff the Stocking, PTA

VI. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

President Ritchie opened the public hearing for public comment. No one from the public made any comments.

VII. MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli 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.

October 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

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

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to approve Buildings & Grounds/Transportation item A.

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 Kitchen by the Hope Volunteer Fire Department during the Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 6, 2025 and Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

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

No committee update.

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

No committee update.

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

MOTION by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mrs. Kasharian to approve Finance items A through E.

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report October 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 October 31, 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 October 31, 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 October 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 October 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 October 31, 2025 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 September 2025 and October 2025 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 September 2025 and October 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 $144,05.23 for October 16, 2025 through October 31, 2025 and $337,303.19 for November 1, 2025 through November 15, 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. Professional Services Agreement with NJ Pediatric Neuroscience Institute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Professional Services Agreement in Related Services between Hope Township Board of Education and NJ Pediatric Neuroscience Institute for December 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 to provide Monolingual and Bilingual Neurological Evaluations at a cost of $795.00 per evaluation.

E. Professional Services Agreement with Advancing Opportunities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Professional Services Agreement in Related Services between Hope Township Board of Education and Advancing Opportunities for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. They will provide AAC Evaluations at $1,450 per service with an additional $200 an hour for supplemental and training. And they will provide AT Evaluations at $1,250 per service with an additional $180 an hour for supplemental and training.

The Board discussed the cost of transportation and tuition.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

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

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas to approve Personnel item A through C..

A. Approve Substitute

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

B. Approve Part Time Speech Therapist

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Joy Jable, as Part Time Speech Therapist, MA Step M at a salary of $74,245, prorated for a .60 position, for the 2025-2026 school year, starting on January 20, 2025.

C. Approve Cocurricular Activity Positions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following staff for CoCurricular activity positions for the 2025-2026 school year.

Staff Member	Position	Stipend
Lianne Markus	Panther Pride Squad - (Pep Squad)	$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
Lianne Markus	Strategic Games Club	$900.00
Meghan Gecek	Homework Club K - 2	$1,100.00
Lindsay Willaims	Homework Club 3 - 5	$1,100.00
Sue Martino	Bool Club K - 5	$900.00

The Board discussed the co-curricular activities.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XIII. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Beatty to adopt the first reading of Governance item A.

A. P 2468 Independent Educational Evaluations (Revised)

The Board discussed the revision of the policy.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XIV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian

Mrs. Kasharian reported on:

- **Bill S4861** - Requires executive county superintendent of schools to establish consolidation plan to combine school districts in county into regional school districts.
- **Bill S4855** - Prohibits reconditioning, sale, distribution, and use of second-use lithium ion batteries for use in powered mobility devices; prohibits certain charging and storage of powered mobility devices that contain lithium-ion batteries.

XV. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mr. Ciccarelli

Mr. Ciccarelli reported on:

- Winter Sports starting
- Sale of 3rd Street School
- New Superintendent Dr. Garcia

XVI. WHITE BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Ritchie

Mrs. Ritchie reported on:

- HIB Increase
- Bus shuttle between Hope and White
- Teachers are great.

XVII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

CSA Green commented - The CST Supervisor, Mrs. Wilk is doing a fabulous job!

XVIII. PUBLIC HEARING AND PETITION

President Ritchie opened the public hearing for public comment. No one from the public made any comments.

XIX. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary