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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2025

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, February 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. Stephanie Skow	***Absent***
Mrs. Linda Chamberlain	***Present***	Mr. John Lucas	***Present***		
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	***Present***	Mrs. Tina Ritchie	***Present***		

Also present, Dr. Tim Frederiks

V. APPOINT TEMPORARY BOARD SECRETARY
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Dr. Tim Frederiks as temporary Board Secretary.

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

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Frederiks reported on highlights of the presentation of the draft findings of the Regionalization and Consolidation Study.

VII. PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mrs. Green presented - Student Panther PAWS Awards

Mrs. Green reported on school events.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

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

IX. MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas 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 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes

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

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

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Kasharian 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 Gymnasium by the Hope Township P.T.A. on March 17, 2025 through March 21, 2025 for the Book Fair and Friday March 21, 2024 from 6:00 pm through 9:00 pm for Book Fair Bingo.

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

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

No committee meeting this month.

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

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology items A through C.

A. Approve Field Trip - Museum of Early Trades and Crafts

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades to the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts in Madison, NJ on June 6, 2025.

B. Approve Field Trip - Memorial School Washington

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip to Memorial School for the Fifth Grade G&T students on April 2, 2025. Transportation will be at no cost to the district. Parents will be transporting.

C. Yearbook Committee Fundraiser

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Yearbook Committee fundraiser of "Anything but a backpack day" on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Students will pay $1.00 to participate.

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

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

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

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report January 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 January 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 January 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 January 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 January 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 January 31, 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 January 2025 and February 2025 Bill List

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 month of January 2025 and February 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 $102,483.87 for January 2025 and $317,711.05 for February 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. 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 2025-2026 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 13 Medicaid eligible classified students per the October 13, 2024 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 2025-2026 school year.

E. 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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

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

No committee meeting this month.

XV. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Skow to approve Policy item A.

A. Approve Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve First Reading on the following Policy and Regulation Updates:

- P 2365 Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) (NEW)
- P 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
- P 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M) (Revised)
- P 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Revised)
- P 5533 Student Smoking (M) (Revised)
- P 5701 Academic Integrity (Revised)
- P 5710 Student Grievance (Revised)
- P 7441 Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M) (Revised)
- P 8500 Food Services (M) (Revised)
- P 9320 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)

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

XVI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian

Mrs. Kasharian updated the Board regarding pending legislation.

XVII. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mr. Ciccarelli

No update.

XVIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Board discussion on the Unsung Hero Award; Mr. Beatty commented on recognition for students based on things other than academics or sports.

XIX. PUBLIC HEARING AND PETITION

President Ritchie opened the public hearing for public comment. Discussion about upcoming school and parent/teacher events.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas for the Board to enter into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

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

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, negotiations and contracts.

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 30 minutes. Action may be taken.

BE IT RESOLVED to return to Open Public Session at 7:54 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas_for the Board to reconvene public session.

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

XXI. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Lucas to acknowledge receipt of one founded HIB investigation.

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

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Tim Frederiks
Interim Superintendent