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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 17, 2026

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

Hope School Happenings
Presentation of Panther Staff Award - Helping Panther
Presentation of Paw Awards - Helping Hound - Preschool to 5th grade
Congratulations to John Lucas and Desiree Whitbeck on their reappointments to the Board.

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.

October 20, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2026 - Executive 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 item A and E.

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 PTA for the Holiday Shop, December 16th, 17th, and 18th during school hours.

B. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, to approve the use of the media center for the Bright Smiles yearly presentation on February 12, 2027 from 9:30 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. for all grades.

C. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Gymnasium, Classrooms, Upper Parking Lot and the Lower Parking Lot by Mrs. Green for a Panther Family Art Night, “Masterpieces and Memories” on Thursday, November 19, 2026 between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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, Classrooms, 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.

E. 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, four classrooms and lower parking lot to Camp Invention/National Inventors Hall of Fame for the week of June 21st through 25th, 2027 for Summer Science Camp.

Discussion:

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

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

Committee update

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

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology items A and B.

A. Approve Field Trip - Hope Junction Antiques

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip to Hope Junction Antiques, Hope, NJ for the Fourth and Fifth grade on November 19, 2026. The students will walk.

B. Approve Send/Receive Agreement between Hope Township and White Township

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Send/Receive Agreement for the education of students in 6-8 grades in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8, et seq. between the Hope Township Board of Education and the White Township Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2031. It is a four (4) year agreement. The per pupil tuition to be charged for the first year 2027-2028 shall be $10,000 for each student; the second year 2028-2029 shall be $10,500 for each student; the third year 2029-2030 shall be $11,000 for each student; and the fourth year 2030-2031 shall be $11,500 for each student.

Discussion:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Chamberlain				

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

XI. FINANCE - Mr. Ciccarelli, Mrs. Chamberlain

Committee update

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

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report October 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 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 2026 and November 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 October 2026 and November 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 $429,180.18 for October 17, 2026 through October 31, 2026 and $342,556.79 for November 1, 2026 through November 17, 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. Approval of Budget Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Budget Calendar for the preparation of the 2027-2028 school budget.

E. Approve Snow Removal Contractor for the 2026-2027 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Joe's Landscaping, Blairstown, NJ for snow removal for the 2026-2027 school year at the following rates.

Inches	Price per time
0-3"	$175.00
3"-6"	$185.00
6"-12"	$375.00
12"-18"	$550.00
18"-24"	$725.00
Salt/Grit Application	$175.00

Discussion:

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

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Ritchie				
Totals				

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

Committee update

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

A. Approve School Nurse

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Lindsey Ritchie, as School Nurse, BA Step H, at the salary of $66,940 for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. Approve Substitute

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

C. Approve Teacher Observation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Katharine Costa, a speech student from Rutgers University, to observe the speech teachers to complete 20 observation hours.

Discussion:

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

XIII. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain

Committee update

MOTION by_____, seconded by_____ to adopt Governance item A.

A. First Reading

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

- P 0143 Board Member Election and Appointment (Revised)
- P 2361.6 Unauthorized Audio and/or Video Recording (New)

- P 2363 Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology (Abolished)
- P&R 2412 Home Instruction Due to Health Condition (M) (Revised)
- P 2422 Statutory Curricular Requirements (M) (Revised)
- P&R 2422.02 Parental opt-Out from Certain Instruction (M) (New)
- P&R 5320 Immunization (Revised)
- P 5514 Student Use of Vehicles on School Grounds (Revised)
- P&R 5516 Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices (M) (Revised)
- P 5517 School District Issued Student Identification Cards (M) (Revised)
- P&R 6471 School District travel (M) (Revised)
- P 7523 School District Provided Technology Devices to Students (Revised)
- P 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities (M) (Revised)
- P 8662 Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles - To and From School (M) (New)
- P 9181 Volunteer Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants (Revised)
- P 9182 Athletic Coaches (New)

Discussion:

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