MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE CAMPUS ALL PURPOSE ROOM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2025 – 7:30 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL

Mr. Nicolas DiMeglio **-** ***Present***	Ms. Nancy LaCorte **-** ***Present***	Student Liaison
Mr. William Grippo **-** ***Present***	Ms. Laurie Merris **-** ***Present***	Dharti Shastri
Dr. Dennis Hopkins, Vice President **-** ***Present***	Mr. Jimmie Parker **-** ***Present***	Heidy Vera Parra
Ms. Erika Inocencio **-** ***Present***	Ms. Ardaman Singh, President **-** ***Present***	
Mr. Walter Jackson **-** ***Present***		

Dr. John A. Ravally, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Daniel C. Loughran, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Brian Bonanno, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Mr. Stephen Fried, School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary
Dr. Nicholas Solomon, Director of School Management
Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Mary L. Clark, Senior Manager of Policies, Regulations & Communications

27 Members of the Public

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT - Read by Ms. LaCorte
In accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" P.L. 1975, c. 231 (Sunshine Law), Copies of the public meeting notice were sent to the **Courier News,** the **Home News Tribune, The Star-Ledger, The Franklin Reporter, Tap Into Franklin Township,** Franklin Township Clerk/Manager, District Schools, Offices and Associations, PTO Presidents, and posted on the District website.

Confidential Session *(If deemed necessary) (B.A.C. Building #1, Room 113)*

N/A

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Lead by Mr. Jackson

MISSION STATEMENT OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS - Read by Ms. Singh

Franklin Township Public Schools embraces its diversity, fosters excellent educational innovation and empowers all students to achieve their highest potential.

DISTRICT GOALS 2025-2026

- Promote policies and programs that support academic growth, whole-child development, and a passion for learning. Expand innovative college and career technical readiness through industry collaboration initiatives that increase academic rigor and broaden students' future pathways.

- Recognize, nurture, and invest in talent within our district by providing high-quality, personalized professional development that reflects current and emerging educational needs, including technological advancements and leadership preparation. Support and empower staff to develop self-awareness and relational skills to deepen connections with students and inspire them to develop emotional wellness and lifelong intellectual curiosity.

- Eliminate systemic barriers to equity by promoting diversity, inclusion, and belonging across the FTPS community. Ensure all students have equitable access to the district's curriculum, instruction, and academic programs. Reinforce that discrimination in any form will not be tolerated. Inclusion will remain a core value, guiding all aspects of the educational environment.

- Safeguard the well-being of students, staff, and community by implementing targeted wellness programs to address food insecurity and promoting comprehensive physical, mental, and emotional health.

- Strengthen community and stakeholder partnerships to support district needs and promote a vibrant school culture. Foster meaningful family engagement. Expand extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities that build Warrior Pride.

- Advance environmental sustainability through education, climate responsibility, and community engagement, while supporting each school's pursuit of top-tier Sustainable Jersey certification.

I. **Action to Adopt the Agenda + Corrections to A-07 & A-09**
Moved: Mr. Grippo Seconded: Mr. Parker

Unanimously approved by voice vote.

II. **Student Representative Report -** *The Student Representative provided their report to the board and public.*

III. **Presentation:** Recognition of the FHS Madrigal aka Gold'n Blues Choir

IV. **Superintendent's Report -** *Dr. Ravally provided the Superintendent's Report to the board and public.*

V. **Board President's Report -** *Ms. Singh provided the Board President's Report to the board and public.*

VI. **Comments From The Public** *(5 minutes per speaker – agenda items only)*

Motion to open public comments made by Ms. LaCorte and seconded by Ms. Merris at 8:05 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public comments made.

Motion to close public comments made by Dr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Inocencio at 8:14 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

VII. **Committee/Liaison Reports**

All Committee/Liaison Reports are available on the franklinboe.org website.

VIII. New Business

Moved: Dr. Hopkins Seconded: Mr. Grippo

Roll call on the following agenda items:

R-01, M-01, A-01 to A-11, B-01 to B-07, C-01 to C-05, P-01 and P-02

Unanimously approved by voice vote with the following exceptions:
Mr. DiMeglio abstained from Check # 128250 and P-02.

R-01 Monthly Reports

Acknowledge the receipt of the following report attached hereto and made a part of the minutes:

● Principals' Reports	November	Exhibit R-01.a
● Attendance Officer's Report	November	Exhibit R-01.b
● Enrollment Report	November	Exhibit R-01.c
● Emergency Drill Report	November	Exhibit R-01.d
● Suspension Report	November	Exhibit R-01.e
● H.I.B. Report	November	Exhibit R-01.f

M-01 Minutes of Board Meetings

Approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Franklin Township Board of Education:

● November 25, 2025	Regular	Exhibit M-01

Administration

A-01 Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement

Adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district, and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 requires Board members to receive prior approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

Whereas, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 16-11-OMB, including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below which Board approval is not required; and

Whereas, the Board of Education establishes, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves the attendance of the listed school board members and district employees at the attached training, seminars, conferences and conventions, and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education authorizes in advance, as required by statute, attendance at the attached training, seminars, conferences and conventions as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-01)

A-02 Affirm Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Decisions

Whereas, these HIB Investigation Reports indicated each reported case of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and the results of the investigation also known as the Superintendent's decision – including any services provided, training established or discipline imposed; and

Whereas, the parties involved in those cases reported were notified of the results of the investigation, Superintendent's decision, and the rights of those parties to request a hearing before the Board of Education; and

Whereas, no requests for a hearing before the Board of Education have been received with the exception of case #298479_FMS_10272025; and

Whereas, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights provides the Board of Education the opportunity to affirm, modify or reject the Superintendent's decisions on reported cases of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decisions in the cases listed in the HIB Investigation Reports previously accepted by the Board at its regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting on November 25, 2025.

A-03 Donation

Pursuant to Policy 7230: Gifts, Grants and Donations, the Board of Education gratefully accepts the following donations:

a. A donation of $12,202.11 from the Franklin Township Warrior Education Foundation (FTWEF), to support the grant projects. As detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-03.a)

b. A donation of $10,000 from The Kelly Clarkson Show and Universal Television LLC, to be used by the Franklin High School Madrigals Choir, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-03.b)

c. A donation of $10,000 from Ms. Kelly Clarkson to be used by the Franklin High School Madrigals Choir.

d. A donation of $1,000 from The Pilot Pen Company, to be used by the Franklin High School Madrigals Choir.

e. A donation of $10,000 from the Sodhani Foundation for the purpose of supporting the district's annual FTPS Invention Competition.

A-04 Revised Policies - Second Reading and Adoption

Approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies, as detailed in the exhibits attached hereto and made part of the minutes:

a. Policy 4146 Non Renewal of a Non Tenured Support Staff Member (Exhibit A-04.a)

b. Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (Exhibit A-04.b)

c. Policy 9130 Public Complaints (Exhibit A-04.c)

A-05 New Policy - Second Reading and Adoption

Approve the second reading and adoption of the following new policy, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes, Policy 2535 Library Materials (Exhibit A-05).

A-06 Revised Policies - First Reading

Approve the first reading of the following revised policies, as detailed in the exhibits attached hereto and made part of the minutes:

a. Policy 1570 Internal Controls (Exhibit A-06.a)

b. Policy 6111 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (Exhibit A-06.b)

A-07 Facilities Use

Pursuant to Policy and Regulation 7510/R7510: Use of School Facilities, the Board of Education approves the use request made by:

- VHPA New Jersey Chapter and the Uttar Pradesh Federation of North America for the purpose of hosting a cultural and educational program called UP Diwas (Uttar Pradesh Day) at the Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School on Saturday, January 24, 2025, with fees limited to registration and staffing costs.

A-08 PEA - Preschool Operational Plan and Projected Enrollment 2026-27

Approve submission of the Preschool Plan and projected enrollment for the 2026-27 school year, as detailed in the exhibits attached. (Exhibit A-08)

A-09 Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Walter Jackson

Whereas, Mr. Walter Jackson , served as a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education most recently from January 2020 to December 2025 and

Whereas, during this time, Mr. Jackson served the Board and her community faithfully and with distinction;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby expresses its appreciation for Mr. Walter Jackson's leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the Board, to the Franklin Township Public School District, and to the Franklin Township Community.

A-10 Resolution of Appreciation for Ms. Nancy Lacorte

Whereas, Ms. Nancy Lacorte served as a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education most recently from January 2006 to present, as Vice President of the Board of Education from January 2007 - December 2008 and January 2015 - December 2017 and as President of the Board of Education from January 2018 through December 2023; and

Whereas, during this time, Ms. LaCorte served the Board and her community faithfully and with distinction;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby expresses its appreciation for Ms. Nancy LaCorte's leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the Board, to the Franklin Township Public School District, and to the Franklin Township Community.

A-11 Resolution of Appreciation for Ms. Ardaman Singh

Whereas, Ms. Ardaman Singh served as a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education most recently from January 2017 to December 2018, as Vice President of the Board of Education from January 2018 through December 2023 and as President of the Board of Education from January 2024 through December 2025; and

Whereas, during this time, Ms. Singh served the Board and her community faithfully and with distinction;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby expresses its appreciation for Ms. Ardaman Singh's leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the Board, to the Franklin Township Public School District, and to the Franklin Township Community.

Business

B-01 Warrants & Payrolls

Approve the following on the certification of the Board Secretary that sufficient funds are available to meet these claims (attached hereto and made a part of the minutes):

General Warrants - December 2025	$10,668,650.08
Payroll - November 15, 2025	$5,089,166.68
Payroll - November 30, 2025	$5,066,750.61
Enterprise Fund Warrants - December 2025	$245,024.88

(Exhibit B-01)

B-02 Financial Reports

Accept the financial reports attached hereto and made a part of the minutes as follows:

a. Report of the Board Secretary (A-148) (Exhibit B-02.a) (November)

b. Report of the Treasurer (A-149) and Cash Reconciliation of A-148 & A-149 (Exhibit B-02.b) (November)

c. Certification of the Asst. Supt. for Business/Board Secretary (Exhibit B-02.c) (November)

d. Void Check Report (Exhibit B-02.d) (November)

e. Transfer Report (Exhibit B-02.e) (November)

B-03 Contract Approval *(All contracts are LEA-funded, unless otherwise noted.)*

Approve the following:

a. A security order for Cedar Hill Prep School, Quote# 192359 from Eastern DataComm for the purchase of Eastern DataCamm Annual Maintenance Renewal - LENS2 Parts and Labor for the amount of $1,800.00. To be paid using non-public funding through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

b. A security order for Cedar Hill Prep School, Quote# 192364 from Eastern DataComm for the purchase of Annual Mitel Revolution Subscription including 600 Revolution SLED Bundle for the amount of $1,500.00. To be paid using non-public funding through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

c. An IAG Host School Agreement Addendum between International Alliance Group and Franklin Township Board of Education as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (B-03.c)

d. A security order for St. Matthias School for the annual renewal of Feenics Hosted Software Licensing from Open Systems Integrators for the period of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 in the amount of $889.20. To be paid using non-public funding through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

e. A contract between Powerful Dave LLC and Franklin Township Board of Education for sixteen “Stop Bullying Now” Presentations for the total amount of $11,500.00.

f. A security order for Rutgers Preparatory School for 1,326 hours of Armed Security Officer services from Praetorian Agency, LLC at a rate of $38.25 per hour for the total amount of $50,719.50. To be paid using non-public funding through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey.

B-04 Change Orders

a. Change Order #CO-14 - Chiller Replacement at Franklin High School - UniTemp Mechanical Degrees, LLC

As recommended by SSP Architects, the architect for the Chiller Replacement at Franklin High School project, approval is granted for the following change order as presented by SSP Architects on behalf of UniTemp Mechanical Degrees, LLC.

CO-14 - Chiller Isolation Valve Retrofit - $19,962.54

Original Contract	$1,700,000.00
Net Change by Previous Approved Change Orders	$251,870.61
Contract Amount Prior to Change Order	$1,951,870.61
Contract Sum Changed by Change Order CO-14	$19,962.54
New Contract Amount	$1,971,833.15

b. Change Order #CO-06 - Zufall Health Clinic - Scozzari Builders, Inc.

As recommended by SSP Architects, the architect for the Zufall Health Clinic project, approval is granted for the following change order as presented by SSP Architects on behalf of Scozzari Builders, Inc..

CO-06 - Additional Electrical Work - $10,264.20

Original Contract	$839,243.00
Net Change by Previous Approved Change Orders	$22,779.45
Contract Amount Prior to Change Order	$862,022.45
Contract Sum Changed by Change Order CO-06	$10,264.20
New Contract Amount	$872,286.65

B-05 Award of an EUS-RFQ for Group Medical & Prescription Drug Benefits

As per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.19(b), the district has requested quotes for the district's Group Medical & Prescription Drug Benefits. Per N.J.S.A. 40A:6.1(b), Integrity Consulting Group, the board's health insurance broker, has evaluated and guided the district on quotes received for Administrative Services and Stop Loss. Based on the advice from Integrity Consulting Group, to award a contract to Aetna Life Insurance Company for plan administration and Sun Life for Stop Loss, based on their quotes dated November 15, 2025. The term shall be from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 with two optional one year renewals, not to exceed three years of a contract term. As detailed in the exhibit attached hereto made part of the minutes (Exhibit B-05)

B-06 Receipt of Bids - Student Transportation Services - Bid # 2026-22

It is recommended that the Franklin Township Board of Education receive bids for Student Transportation Services on December 4, 2025. The following bidders submitted responses with their bid amounts and are listed below:

Bidder	Daily Per Bus Cost with Aid
Montauk Transit LLC	$650

B-07 Award of Bid - Student Transportation Services - Bid # 2026-22

Based upon the advice of Board Counsel, award a contract to Montauk Transit LLC , for the specified routes for Student Transportation Services, in accordance with their bid dated December 4, 2025. This award is contingent upon the receipt and approval of certain supporting documentation and subsequent County approval(and state, if necessary). The contract shall not exceed $50,400 with a term of December 19, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Curriculum and Instruction

C-01 Out of District Students: 2025-2026 School Year

Approve out of district placements for students, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit C-01)

C-02 Field Trip Destinations

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 requires prior approval of field trip destinations by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves, in advance, field trip destinations, all trips within district, local community locations, and all other schools and universities in New Jersey; be it further

Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education authorizes, in advance, the list of destinations. As detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit C-02)

C-03 Field Trip Applications *(Involving overnight, over 150 miles, or air travel)*

There are no trips at this time.

C-04 New Course and Curriculum

Motion to approve the following new courses:

- *Integrated JROTC* for Special Education students in grades 9-12, beginning September 2026
- *AP Cybersecurity*, an advanced placement course for students in grades 10-12, beginning September 2026.

C-05 Whole-School Enrichment Program Pilot

Motion to approve a *Depth and Complexity Framework* pilot for use in the Whole-School Enrichment Program. Staff members in K-5 will receive professional learning on the framework in the 2025-2026 SY, and the pilot will begin in the 2026-2027 SY.

Personnel

P-01 Salary Allocations

As Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Salary Allocations for the 2025-2026 school year, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

- Pre-K Salary Allocations (Exhibit P-01)

P-02 Personnel Report No. 06

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Personnel Report No. 06 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-02)

Comments From The Public *(5 minutes per speaker – any topic)*

Motion to open public comments made by Ms. LaCorte and seconded by Ms. Merris at 8:27 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public comments made.

Motion to close public comments made by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Hopkins at 8:37 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

IX. Good of the Order

Note: Any matters which arise after this agenda is posted which are so urgent that their omission would seriously affect the operation of the district will be considered at this point in the agenda.

Alternate Location

Confidential Session *(if deemed necessary)*

N/A

X. Adjournment

Moved: Mr. Grippo Seconded: Mr. Jackson

Action to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.