MEETING MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE CAMPUS
JANUARY 6, 2026– 5:30 PM

Mr. Brian Bonanno, as presiding officer, shall call the meeting to order and chair the meeting until the election of the President.

O-1 Announcement of Election Results - *Read by Mr. Bonanno*
Mr. Bonanno certifies that the following were elected to the Franklin Township Board of Education at the Annual School Election held on November 4, 2025, as identified in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit O-1)

Three 3-Year Terms	Vote Total
Meher Pervaaz-Rafiq	12,058
Jennifer Welch	13,766
Clara Wilson	13,270

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE

CALL OF ROLL	TERM		TERM
Mr. Nicolas DiMeglio - ***Present***	2028	Jimmie Parker III- ***Present, Arrived at 5:40 pm, Departed at 7:45 pm***	2027
Mr. William Grippo - ***Present***	2027	Meher Pervaaz-Rafiq- ***Present***	2029
Dr. Dennis Hopkins- ***Present***	2028	Jennifer Welch- ***Absent***	2029
Erika Inocencio- ***Present, Arrived at 5:37 pm***	2027	Clara Wilson- ***Present***	2029
Ms. Laurie Merris- ***Present***	2028		

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

13 Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT - *Read by Mr. Bonanno*
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)*
Moved: Mr. DiMeglio Seconded: Mr. Grippo

Motion to adjourn to confidential session made at 5:35 pm for the purpose of discussing confidential matters including student personnel matters. Unanimously approved by voice vote. Minutes of the confidential session will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to close public comments and return to open session made at 7:43 pm by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. DiMeglio. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

MISSION STATEMENT OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

O-2 Election of President

Mr. DiMeglio Nominates ***Dr. Hopkins.***
Seconded by Mr.Grippo. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

O-3 Election of Vice President

Mr. Grippo Nominates ***Ms. Inocencio***
Seconded by Mr. DiMeglio. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 minutes per speaker – any topic)

Motion to open public comments made by Mr. DiMeglio and seconded by Mr. Grippo. Unanimoulsy approved by voice vote.

No comment

Motion to close public comments made by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. DiMeglio. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

O-4 **Adoption of the Board Member Code of Ethics (N.J.S.A.:18A:12-24.1)**

Moved: Mr. Grippo Seconded: Ms. Merris

Adopt the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members in accordance with N.J.S.A.:18A12-24.1:

a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

c. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.

d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

e. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.

f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools, which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.

h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.

i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Unanimously approved by voice vote.

O-5 **Adoption of Policies**

Approve the continued operation of the Franklin Township Board of Education under its present bylaws and policies until and unless revised by the Board of Education.

O-6 **Annual Calendar of Regular Meetings – Board of Education**

Approve the proposed annual calendar of regular meetings of the Franklin Township Board of Education, as identified in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit O-6)

O-7 **Annual Calendar of Committee Meetings – Board of Education**

Approve the proposed annual calendar of committee meetings of the Franklin Township Board of Education, as identified in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit O-7)

O-8 **Adoption of Organizational Chart**

Approve the Franklin Township Board of Education Organizational Chart as identified in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit O-8)

O-9 Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order

Adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the Board Secretary and Board Attorney to act as the parliamentarians for the 2026-2027 school year.

O-10 Designation of Official Newspaper

Approve designation of the **Courier News** as the official newspaper to be used for the advertisement of meetings, publication of legal notices and all other necessary public notifications for the Franklin Township Board of Education, and so designate the **The Star-Ledger, The Home News Tribune, TAPinto Franklin Township, and the Franklin Reporter and Advocate** if the time limit of the **Courier News** between publication of such notices be insufficient to comply with legal requirements.

O-11 Designation of Positions

The following positions are filled by the person(s) or firm named:

Asst. Supt. for Business/Board Secy.	Mr. Brian Bonanno
Treasurer of School Monies	Mr. John Calavano
Attendance Officers	Mr. Kevin Kelley/Mr. Eric Osman
Insurance Broker	Balken Risk Management
Health Benefits Broker	Integrity Consulting Group
Anti-Bullying Coordinator	Dr. Nicholas Solomon
504 Officer	Dr. Nicholas Solomon
Right-to-Know Contact Person	Mr. Eric Siegal
AHERA Representative (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act)	Mr. Jesus Ortiz
Integrated Pest Management Coordinator	Mr. Jesus Ortiz
Indoor Air Quality Coordinator	Mr. Jesus Ortiz
Public Agency Compliance Officers	Mr. Ryan Ellis
Affirmative Action Officer	Mr. Brian Bonanno
Qualified Purchasing Agent	Mr. Brian Bonanno/Mr. Stephen Fried/ Mr. Ryan Ellis
District Liaison to DCP&P (Division of Child Protection and Permanency)	Dr. Brenda Sofield
School Safety Specialist	Dr. Nicholas Solomon

O-12 Designation of Depositories for School Accounts

Approve the designation of the following depositories of school funds:

a. TD Bank
b. First Bank

O-13 Adoption of Signatories for 2025

Authorize the following check signatories for the following district accounts:

Accounts	***Signatories***
Agency Account	Board President, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies
Athletic Account	Athletic Director, an additional Franklin High School Administrator, School Business Administrator and Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Reserve Accounts	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator
Flexible Spending Account	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator
Food Service Account	Board President, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies
General Account	Board President, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies
General Investment Fund	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, School Business Administrator
Payroll Account	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary/, School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies
Referendum Account and CDs	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary and School Business Administrator
School Activity Accounts	Two School Administrators
SUI Account	Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary and School Business Administrator

O-14 Adoption of Education Program

In compliance with statutes and rules of the State Board of Education, approve the adoption of all existing Board-approved programs and services, curriculum, textbooks, school objectives and Comprehensive Equity Plan goals until and unless revised by the Franklin Board of Education. Copies of these documents are on file for review in the office of each building principal.

O-15 Appointments

Appoint Board representatives to the following state and county organizations:

a. Delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association - ***Dr. Hopkins and Ms. Inocencio***
b. Delegate to the Somerset County School Boards Association - ***Dr. Hopkins and Ms. Inocencio***
c. Member Board of Education Somerset County Educational Services Commission - ***Mr. Grippo***
d. Member Board of Education Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission - ***Ms. Parvaaz-Rafiq***

O-16 Approve the Chart of Accounts

Approve the Chart of Accounts as required by the State of N.J. Department of Education.

O-17 Authorization to Solicit Contracts

Authorize the Qualified Purchasing Agents (as listed in Motion O-11) to advertise for bids and competitive contracting and obtain quotes and proposals when the need arises.

O-18 Procurement of Goods and Services Through State Agency and Cooperative Purchasing Programs for FY 2026 and FY 2027

Whereas, Title 18A:18A-10 and 18A:18A-11 provide that a Board of Education, without advertising for bids or after having rejected all bids obtained pursuant to advertising, therefore, by resolution may purchase any goods or services pursuant to a contract or contracts for such goods or services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property and school districts, municipalities and counties; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing these contracts; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent for FY 2026 and FY 2027school year to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the district purchasing agents to make purchases of goods and services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property and school districts, municipalities and counties.

O-19 Use of Educational Data Services

Authorize the Purchasing Agents to utilize Educational Data Services, Inc. contracts for services and materials.

O-20 District Grant Submission

Appoint Dr. John A. Ravally, Chief School Administrator, to submit all federal, state, and local grants on behalf of the Franklin Township Board of Education.

O-21 Agencies for Purchasing

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to utilize the following agencies for services and materials for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Educational Services Commission of NJ
- Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
- Somerset County Educational Services Commission
- Somerset County Cooperative Purchasing Program
- NJ Start
- NJ State Contracts
- Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing
- Educational data Services
- Sourcewell
- Buyboard
- Garden State CooperativeNational Cooperative Purchasing Alliance
- Omnia Partners National Cooperative

Administration

A-01 HIB Motion

Moved: Seconded:

Acknowledge the receipt of the following report as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-01)

- HIB Report covering December 19, 2025 to January 5th

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 #300051_FPS_11212025, 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 December 18, 2025 with the exception of Case #300051_FPS_11212025.

A-03 **HIB Case #300051_FPS_11212025 Decision**
Moved: Mr. DiMeglio Seconded: Mr. Grippo

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education *affirms* the Superintendent's decision with regard to Case #300051_FPS_11212025 listed in the HIB Investigation Reports previously accepted by the Board at its regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting on December 18, 2025.

___Y____	____Y__	____Y___	___Y____	__Y_____	_______	_Abstain_	_______	_Abstain
DiMeglio	Grippo	Hopkins	Inocencio	Merris	Parker	Pervaaz-Rafiq	Welch	Wilson

A-04 **Field Trip Applications** *(Involving overnight, over 150 miles, or air travel)*

Motion to approve the following:

- FHS Girls Basketball Team trip scheduled for January 16-19, 2026 to Springfield, Virginia for a Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament.

ADJOURNMENT
Moved: Mr. DiMeglio Seconded: Mr. Grippo

Action to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Unanimously approved by voice vote.