A G E N D A

for

ORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2026

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Linden, New Jersey

Dr. Atiya Y. Perkins
Superintendent

Annabell Louis
Assistant Superintendent

John A. Serapiglia, Jr. Business
Administrator/ Board Secretary

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – BOARD SECRETARY TO TEMPORARY CHAIR MEETING

SALUTE TO FLAG

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as follows:

On November 21, 2025, notice was sent to the Home News Tribune, Star Ledger, TAPinto Linden, Union County Local Source, and the Clerk of the Municipality.

NO SMOKING NOTICE:

BY STATE LAW, THERE IS NO SMOKING PERMITTED IN THIS BUILDING AT ANY TIME.

NOTICE:

In addition to the listed items in this agenda, this Board of Education may discuss and act upon other items not specifically referred to herein as is allowed at the regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting under the Sunshine Law.

ROLL CALL: 6:01 p.m.

Ms. Armstead	X	Dr. Perkins	Absent
Dr. Berghammer	X	Mrs. Louis	X
Ms. Cintron	X	Mr. Serapiglia	X
Ms. Kalia	Online at 6:05 p.m.	Attorney	X
Ms. Pino	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		
Ms. Ullisse	X		

The Board Secretary will act as temporary chair of this Organization Meeting until such time as a new president is elected.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following election was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 for three members to the Linden Board of Education for a (3) three-year term:

	NO. OF VOTES
BRIANNA ARMSTEAD	2,351
PHILLIP CAMPO	1,923
CRAIG HALLORAN	4,155

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary declares the following persons as duly elected Members of the Linden Board of Education as a result of the election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025:

FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM

BRIANNA ARMSTEAD PHILLIP CAMPO CRAIG HALLORAN

Administration of the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Members:

BOARD MEMBER

Brianna Armstead
Phillip Campo
Craig Halloran

Ms. Armstead addressed the public and thanked various people. She spoke about her time on the board and her accomplishments. She thanked everyone for their support and prayers. She mentioned the fundraiser for the Disney Experience Trip.

Mr. Campo said thank you to all the voters and he looks forward to working with everyone. He also thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Halloran said thank you to his family and friends and he looks forward to working with everyone.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Various attendees spoke about the new Board members and what it is to sit on the Board of Education.

1. Motion to approve the 2026 Linden Board of Education:

Board Members	Term Expires
Rempee Kalia	2026
Malaysia Thomas	2026
Kimberly Ullisse	2026
Marlene Berghammer	2027
Lymari Cintron	2027
Antoinette Pino	2027
Brianna Armstead	2028
Phillip Campo	2028
Craig Halloran	2028

MOTION: 1

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas			X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer	X		X		

Motion carried.

Mr. Serapiglia presented Mr. De La Cruz with a plaque for his years of service to the Linden Public Schools. Dr. Berghammer gave Mr. De La Cruz the plaque and said a few words about him and his work on the Board.

Mr. De La Cruz addressed the audience and thanked the parents of Linden that voted him in. He also spoke about his time on the Board. He thanked the teachers and staff. He congratulated the new Board members.

At this time the Business Administrator/Board Secretary entertains nominations for the Office of President of the Linden Board of Education.

2. Motion made by Dr. Berghammer, to nominate Ms. Thomas for President.

   Ms. Thomas accepts the nomination as President.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary conducts a roll call vote for Ms. Thomas as President of the Board.

	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain
Ms. Armstead	X			Ms. Kalia			
Dr. Berghammer	X			Ms. Pino	X		
Mr. Campo	X			Ms. Thomas	X		
Ms. Cintron				Ms. Ullisse	X		
Mr. Halloran	X						

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary declares election of the new President of the Board and turns the gavel over to Ms. Thomas to act as the presiding officer of the meeting.

At this time, the newly elected Board President entertains nominations for the Office of Vice-President of the Linden Board of Education.

3. Motion made by Ms. Thomas, to nominate Dr. Berghammer for Vice-President.

   Dr. Berghammer accepts the nomination as Vice-President.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary conducts a roll call vote for Dr. Berghammer as Vice-President of the Board.

	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain
Ms. Armstead	X			Ms. Kalia			
Dr. Berghammer	X			Ms. Pino	X		
Mr. Campo	X			Ms. Thomas	X		
Ms. Cintron				Ms. Ullisse	X		
Mr. Halloran	X						

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

4. To adopt Roberts 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.

BOARD POLICIES/REGULATIONS

5. Motion to adopt the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Education of the City of Linden, Bylaws, Policies and Regulations as stated in the Linden School District Policy Manual.

ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

6. To authorize the Home News-Tribune, Star Ledger, TAPinto Linden, and Union County Local Source be adopted as the official newspapers to be used for the advertisement of meetings and legal ads, and all other necessary public notifications.

ADOPTION OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS

7. To adopt the current School Curriculum and Textbooks for the Linden School District.

APPROVAL OF BOARD SECRETARY

8. To approve that John A. Serapiglia, Jr. shall serve as Board Secretary.
9. To appoint John A. Serapiglia, Jr. as Custodian of Records (OPRA).

10. Motion to approve the Order of Business for 2026 as follows:

Linden Board of Education ORDER OF BUSINESS – 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER SALUTE TO FLAG
STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE ROLL CALL
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Agenda items only) REPORTS

Superintendent Attorney

STANDING COMMITTEES (Agenda items requiring a vote)

Education Committee:

(Includes all items pertaining to the education, and physical welfare of students. It includes the purchase of all textbooks and instructional supplies/equipment, the development of educational programs, libraries and the training of professional staff. Additionally, this committee will also deal with matters of audiovisual support.).

Personnel Committee:

(Includes all items pertaining to personnel, negotiations, security, public relations, and contracted professional services).

Finance Committee:

(Includes all matters pertaining to general finance, auditing of bills, official bonds, leases and contracts, insurance, and the annual budget of expenses of the schools. It also includes the cafeteria operation and transportation issues concerning the transportation of students and personnel).

Buildings, Grounds and Security Committee:

(Includes all issues related to the construction of new buildings, acquisition of sites, and planning for future needs. It will also include all matters pertaining to the operation of buildings and grounds and all matters pertaining to the security of same.)

Planning & Policy Committee:

(Includes matters pertaining to long-range planning of the district initiatives and shall also coordinate and maintain the district's policies and board bylaws.)

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES/DELEGATES COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ADJOURNMENT

MOTIONS: 4-10

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motions 4-10 carried.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

11. Motion to approve the Calendar of Board Meetings as follows:

Linden Board of Education
Calendar of Board Meetings
January 2026 – December 2026

(ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY MEETING)

Organization Meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2026 6:00 p.m.			
Work Session Tuesday –6:00 p.m.		Regular Meeting Thursday – 6:00 p.m.	
Month & Date	Location	Month & Date	Location
January 27, 2026	School No. 1 Gymnasium 728 N Wood Avenue Linden	January 29, 2026	School No. 1 Gymnasium 728 N Wood Avenue Linden
February 24, 2026		February 26, 2026	
March 24, 2026		March 26, 2026	
April 28, 2026		April 30, 2026	
		May 14, 2026	
		May 28, 2026	
		June 18, 2026	
		July 23, 2026	
		August 20, 2026	
		September 24, 2026	
October 13, 2026		October 15, 2026	
		November 19, 2026	
		*December 17, 2026	

*The December Meetings will both be held on the third Thursday due to Christmas. The Regular Meeting will begin immediately following the Work Session, but no later than 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: 11

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motion carried.

ETHICS

12. Pursuant to School Ethics Code N.J.S.A.18A:12-24.1, Code of Ethics for School Board Members, each member swears to and affirms the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 school.
- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- 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.

MOTION: 12

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motion carried.

13. **WHEREAS**, the Linden Board of Education is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 to adopt policy and approve travel expenditures by board members using local, State, or Federal funds to ensure that travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, the board of education has determined that the training and informational programs sponsored by New Jersey School Boards Association and Union County School Boards Association, and set forth below are directly related to and within the scope of the current responsibilities and the board's professional development plan; and

WHEREAS, the board of education has determined that participation in the New Jersey School Boards Association and Union County School Boards Association training and informational programs requires school district travel expenditures and that this travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or furthers the efficient operation of the district; and

WHEREAS, the board of education has determined that the school district travel expenditures to New Jersey School Boards Association and Union County School Boards Association programs are in compliance with State travel guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and within the guidelines established by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB), except as superseded by conflicting provision of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the board of education finds that a mileage reimbursement rate equal to the OMB reimbursement rate of .47 cents per mile is a reasonable rate; and

WHEREAS, the board of education has determined that participation in the New Jersey School Boards Association and Union County School Boards Association training and informational programs are in compliance with the district policy on travel; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby approves the attendance of the listed number of school board members New Jersey School Boards Association and Union County School Boards Association training and informational programs, and the cost of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount, as follows:

Brianna Armstead	Rempee Kalia
Marlene Berghammer	Antoinette Pino
Phillip Campo	Malaysia Thomas
Lymari Cintron	Kimberly Ullisse
Craig Halloran	

MOTION: 13

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino			X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse		X	X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motion carried.

The Planning and Policy Committee, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, presents the following motion to the Linden Board of Education for approval:

1. Second Reading: Policy

Policy Guide #	Title
5111 (REVISED)	Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students (M)

MOTION: 1

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public desiring to make a public comment may come forward at this time. For those watching online, if you wish to make a comment or ask a question, please utilize the raise your hand feature on the online meeting platform.

Please begin your comments by stating your name and address. Individuals are invited to speak on one topic at a time, and no individual will speak more than once, until all individuals so desiring have spoken once.

The public is reminded that to ensure the efficient and orderly operations of the meeting, members of the public will be limited to speaking on items for three minutes.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Armstead acknowledge the President of the African America Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Harmon. She thanked him for attending.

Ms. Thomas mentioned the fundraiser for the Disney Experience trip.

ADJORNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Ms. Pino.

Roll Call:

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Armstead			X		
Mr. Campo			X		
Ms. Cintron					
Mr. Halloran			X		
Ms. Kalia					
Ms. Pino		X	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		X		
Ms. Ullisse			X		
Dr. Berghammer			X		

Motion carried.

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John A. Serapiglia, Jr.
Business Administrator/Board Secretary