

**WHARTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING  
TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY CENTER - MACKINNON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
January 2, 2025- 7PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Cammarata read the following:**

The Board of Education calls the Reorganization Meeting of the Wharton Borough Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT – Mrs. Cammarata read the following:**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed and acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act and Board of Education Bylaw 0160, the Wharton Borough Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the Daily Record, posted on the bulletin board in the Wharton Public School, filed with the Wharton Borough Clerk, and mailed to all those people who have requested individual notice and paid the required fee.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ELECTION RESULTS – Mrs. Cammarata reported on the results of the November 5, 2024 election:**

**Seats on the Board of Education:**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>
<b>Two (2) Three-Year Full Term</b>	
<b>Jennifer Hobbs</b>	<b>1,019</b>
<b>TBD</b>	

**V. OATH BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Cammarata will administer the Oath of Office to newly-elected Board member:

Ms. Jennifer Hobbs.

**VI. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call	Anthony Astrologo	Satwant Banga	Kelly Elardo	Robin Ghebreah	Jennifer Hobbs	Pamela Schiele	
Roll Call	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Also present, Mr. Christopher Herdman, Superintendent, Mrs. Sandy Cammarata, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**VII. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

The Board Secretary will ask for nominations for the position of President.

NOMINATION: Mrs. Ghebreah was nominated by Mrs. Schiele.

Mrs. Ghebreah accepted her nomination.

Vote for President	Anthony Astrologo	Satwant Banga	Kelly Elardo	Robin Ghebreah	Jennifer Hobbs	Pamela Schiele	
Name: Robin Ghebreah	X	X	X	X	X	X	

ELECTION RESULTS: Mrs. Ghebreah was elected President of the Wharton Borough Board of Education.

**VIII. BOARD PRESIDENT TAKES CHAIR**

**IX. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Ghebreah, President declared nominations were in order for the position of Vice President.

NOMINATION: Mrs. Elardo was nominated by Mrs. Ghebreah.

Mrs. Elardo accepted her nomination.

Vote for Vice-President	Anthony Astrologo	Satwant Banga	Kelly Elardo	Robin Ghebreal	Jennifer Hobbs	Pamela Schiele	
Name: Kelly Elardo	X	X	X	X	X	X	

ELECTION RESULTS: Mrs. Elardo was elected Vice-President of the Wharton Borough Board of Education.

**X. CODE OF ETHICS FOR NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

The Code of Ethics for New Jersey School Board Members will be recited each January.

**XI. REORGANIZATION ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Board of Education officially designates an abstention as a non-vote.
2. The Board of Education adopts the Mission Statement that was developed as part of the Strategic Planning process:  
 “Learn to thrive in a dynamic world.”
3. The Board of Education adopts all bylaws, policies, and regulations in effect on January 2, 2025 in compliance with N.J.S.A.18A:11-1.
4. The Board of Education adopts all textbooks of record on January 2, 2025, in accordance with the document below and in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1 and 3.
5. The Board of Education adopts the following curricula and programs of record on January 2, 2025 in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1 and 34-1:

Academic	Assessment	Support	Extracurricular
	Access 2.0 Testing ESL Students Lexia	NJ Tiered Systems of Supports	Art Club (6-8)

Art	Newsela 3-8 SmartyAnts1-2	Rtl Team and Interventionists	Band (4,5 & 6-8)
Rubicon West (Atlas)			
Circulatory System as an Obstacle Course (4)	LinkIt!	Child Study Team Services	Chorus (4,5 & 6-8)
Colonial Day (5)	Authentic Assessment (K-3)	Bully-Busting W.N.B.I.	Baseball
Creative Curriculum (PRIDE)	Developmental Reading Assessment 3 (K-6)	L.E.A.D. (5)	Basketball - Boys
	Research paper (6-8) in Science and Social Studies	English as a Second Language (K-8)	Basketball - Girls
Full Day Kindergarten	NJSLA (3,4,5,6,7,8) NJSLA Science (5 & 8)	Extended School Year (ESY) Extended School Day	Wrestling (6-8)
Health Education		Reading Plus (3-8) Gim Kit	Technology Club (6-8)
Integrated Language Arts	Pre/Post Leveling Tests	Guidance & Counseling Generation Genius	Cross Country
Library/Media	Standards Based Report Cards: Grades K, 1 Grades 2, 3 Grades 4, 5 Grades 6-8 PSD - <i>Project PRIDE</i>	IXL All Subjects	Yearbook (6-8)
	Writing Rubrics	SOS Club (2,3,4,5; 6-8)	Drama Club (6-8)

Mathematics Algebra	Teacher constructed tests, quizzes, rubrics	BrainingCamp	Soccer- Boys
Medieval Faire (6)		Brain Pop	Soccer- Girls
Music – General	ABLES Test	Physical/Psychological Management Training (PMT)	Softball
Music – Instrumental (4-8)	Catalyst	Discovery Education Streaming K-8	Student Council (6-8)
Project UpGrade G&T Program, includes School-wide Enrichment		Occupational Therapy (OT) & Physical Therapy (PT) Services	
Quill			
Readers Workshop		Restorative Justice	
Reading		Fundations Common Lit Geodes	
Readers Writer Workshop		New Units of Study K-2	
Science		Bridge Program	Duffy Drop-In Morning Program (2-5)
Science		Amplify K-5	
Science		Savvas Elevate 6-8	
Social Studies		Peer Tutoring	

Spelling & Phonics Recipe for Reading K-5		ESL SOS Club	
Technology		Problem Based Learning	
		Reading Recovery (1)	
			TREP\$
World Language – Spanish (2-8)		Reading Specialist	
Writers Workshop		Response to Intervention	
Science Fair 7th & 8th Grade		Speech and Language	
		Students Obtaining Success (6-8)	
		Weather Net	
		Headsprout	
		RAZ Kids	
		Sumdog	
		Prodigy (5th Grade)	
		Google for Education	

6. The Board of Education designates *The Daily Record* as the official newspaper for legal notices and other obligations, and *The Star-Ledger* as alternate official newspaper.

7. The Board of Education approves the following appointments, which are in effect until the next reorganization meeting or until changed by resolution and carry the compensation indicated:

POSITION	APPOINTMENT	COMPENSATION
Treasurer	Diana Spina	\$4,293.80/year

		(Acct. #11-000-230-100)
Labor/Negotiations Attorney, or as assigned	Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.	\$170/hour (Acct. #11-000-230-331)
Board Secretary	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
Auditor	Andrew Kucinski Nisivoccia & Co.	\$27,430/year \$3,643/per major program tested re: Federal single audit (Acct. # 11-000-230-332)
Medical Inspector	Brent Forward, MD	\$6,990.00/year (Acct. # 11-000-213-330)
Architect	Coppa Montalbano Architects	\$150.00/hour (Acct# 11-000-230-334)
School Attendance Officer	Jeffrey Oster	\$48/hr \$.65/mile  (Acct.# 11-190-100-340-030, 11-190-100-340-040)
1. Affirmative Action Officer 2. Affirmative Action Team	1. Kenneth Russo 2. Frank DeVone, Michael Laudati	Included in salary
Public Agency Compliance Officer	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
Custodian of Public Records	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
Safety Compliance Officer	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
School Safety Specialist	Sandy Cammarata	Included in Salary
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Sandy Cammarata	Included in Salary
Indoor Air Quality Officer	Sandy Cammarata	Included in Salary

504 Coordinators	Robert Hayzler, MacKinnon Middle School Principal Pamela Blalock, Duffy School Principal	Included in salary
Integrated Pest Management Coordinator	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
Homeless Liaisons	Michael Laudati, Frank DeVone	Included in salary
DYFS Liaisons	Michael Laudati, Frank DeVone	Included in salary
Wellness Committee Coordinator	Sandra Dantzler	Included in salary

Anti-Bullying and Safety Coordinators	Pamela Blalock, Robert Hayzler	Included in salary
Acting Superintendent (in the absence of the Superintendent from the district)	Pamela Blalock	Included in Salary
Anti-Bullying Specialists	Michael Laudati, Frank DeVone	Included in salary
OPRA Officer	Sandy Cammarata	Included in salary
Agent of Record - Health Benefits	Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey	fee included in assessment
Agent of Record – Workers' Compensation	NJSBAIG (NJ School Board Association Insurance Group)	fee included
Agent of Record - Property & Casualty Insurance	Morville Agency School Alliance Insurance Fund	fee included
Agent of Record – Student Insurance	Bollinger Insurance Co.	\$4,752
Agent of Record-Flex Spending Account	Discovery Benefits	\$4.75 per month/ per

		employee/\$50.00 minimum per month
SEC MCDC Initiative Compliance Survey and Continuing Disclosure Agent Services	Phoenix Advisor, LLC	\$1,350/year
Agent of Record - Dental & Medical Insurance	Delta Dental – Brown and Brown, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey – Brown and Brown	fee included
Disability Insurance	Prudential Insurance Co.	fee included
Disability Insurance	Colonial Life Insurance Co.	fee included
Disability Insurance	Unum Provident	fee included
Tax Sheltered Annuity	Lincoln National	fee included
Tax Sheltered Annuity	Met Life Investors	fee included
Tax Sheltered Annuity	Valic	fee included
Tax Sheltered Annuity	Met Life	fee included
Tax Sheltered Annuity	AXA Equitable	fee included
457(b)	Met Life	fee included

8. WHEREAS 18A:18A-2 provides that a board of education shall assign the authority, responsibility and accountability for the purchasing activity of the board of education to a person or persons who shall have the power to prepare advertisements, to advertise for and receive bids, and to award contracts as permitted by this chapter, and

WHEREAS, the Wharton Board of Education would like to take advantage of the maximum statutory bid threshold amount of \$44,000 for school districts with purchasing agents who possess qualified purchasing agent certificates;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wharton Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.4, establishes and sets the bid threshold

amount of \$44,000 and the quotation threshold of \$6,600 (15% of the bid threshold) for the board of education, and further authorizes Sandy Cammarata to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed the aggregate of the newly established bid and quote threshold amount.

9. WHEREAS, Sandy Cammarata has been appointed Secretary of the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, Diana Spina has been appointed Treasurer of School Monies; and

WHEREAS, Board of Education policy authorizes school principals to establish and administer student activity accounts under certain conditions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the maintenance of the following bank accounts and authorizes the persons indicated to sign checks, savings withdrawals, drafts, and other instruments and to approve electronic fund transfer

**TD BANK**

	#	Signatories
General Account	3	President/Vice President and Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman and Diana Spina
Payroll Account	1	Diana Spina
Payroll Agency Account	1	Diana Spina
Unemployment Insurance Trust	3	President/Vice President and Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Diana Spina
Cafeteria Fund	1	Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman
Capital Projects Account	3	President/Vice President and Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Diana Spina
Capital Reserve Account	3	President/Vice President and Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Diana Spina

Duffy Student Activities	2	Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Pamela Blalock <u>or</u> Kasey Rhead
MacKinnon Student Activities	2	Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Robert Hayzler <u>or</u> Jennifer Podesta

Account Name	#	Signatories
New Jersey Cash Management Fund-Wharton Board of Education	1	Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman
Peapack Gladstone Bank - Bond Account	3	President/Vice President and Sandy Cammarata <u>or</u> Christopher Herdman <u>and</u> Diana Spina

10. The Board of Education establishes the following **meeting calendar** for the next year. All meetings will be held in the Technology Library Center of MacKinnon Middle School and will begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise stated:

Thursday, January 2, 2025 Snow date – Monday, January 6, 2025	Reorganization
Thursday, January 23, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2025	Work Session
Thursday, February 27, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	Work Session
Thursday, March 27, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025	Work Session

Thursday, April 24, 2025	Regular Business Meeting/Public Hearing
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Work Session
Thursday, May 22, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, July 24, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, August 28, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025	Work Session
Thursday, September 25, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Work Session
Tuesday, November 25, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025	Work Session/Regular Business Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 Snow date – Thursday, January 8, 2026	Reorganization

<b>Committee Assignment</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
Liaison to PTA 7:00PM 02/04/2025, 03/04/2025, 04/01/2025, 05/06/2025, 06/03/2025	<b>Mrs. Elardo</b>
Committee on Regionalization/ Consolidation/ Shared Services Dates TBD	<b>Mrs. Ghebreal Mr. Astrologo</b>
Liaison to Borough Council 7:00PM 01/20/2025, 02/10/2025, 03/10/2025, 04/14/2025, 05/12/2025, 06/16/2025, 07/14/2025, 08/18/2025, 09/15/2025, 10/27/2025, 11/17/2025, 12/08/2025	<b>Ms. Hobbs</b>
Liaison to Morris Hills Regional Board of Education 6:30PM 01/27/205, 02/24/2025, 03/17/2025, 04/28/2025, 05/12/2025, 06/17/2025, 08/18/2025, 09/22/2025, 10/27/2025, 11/17/2025, 12/15/2025, 01/06/2026	<b>Mrs. Schiele</b>
Liaison to Special Education Advisory Council Dates TBD	<b>Mrs. Banga Mr. Astrologo</b>
Liaison to Technology Committee Dates TBD	<b>Mr. Astrologo</b>
Liaison to Curriculum Council 5:00PM 05/08/2025	<b>Mrs. Banga Mrs. Elardo</b>
Liaison to Early Childhood Advisory Council 6:00PM 05/07/2025	<b>Mrs. Banga</b>
Liaisons to Strategic Planning Dates TBD : 2028	
<del>Wharton Kids First Foundation Trustee Dates TBD</del>	
Representative Assembly Member to Educational Services Commission of Morris County 2nd Wednesday of each month	<b>Mrs. Ghebreal</b>
NJSBA Delegate Dates TBD	<b>Mrs. Ghebreal</b>
Negotiations Committee	

Dates TBD	
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11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board designates the Wharton Public School District Media Learning Center, 137 East Central Avenue, Wharton, NJ 07885 as the Official Meeting Place of the Board for the 2025-2026 Year.

12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Wharton Board of Education adopts and shall be governed in all actions and business to come before this Board by the written Board Policies, Regulations, and Job Descriptions previously duly adopted and contained in the Board of Education Policy Book.

13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to advertise for bids as needed during the school year as required by Public School Contracts Law.

14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education does hereby authorize the use of state contracts as appropriate for the school year.

15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Wharton Police Department/Law Enforcement.

16. Whereas, the Wharton Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent for the 2025-2026 year to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year.

17. The Board of Education approves the Parliamentary Procedures for all Board Meetings to the extent consistent with State Law, policies and bylaws of the Board will be guided by "Robert's Rules of Order" for all Board Meetings.

18. WHEREAS, certain utility, leases, and tuition payments have required due dates to be made at the end of the month following Business Meetings; be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary to make advance payments on a monthly basis for designated vendors, as deemed necessary; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such payments shall be approved by the Board of Education at its subsequent Business Meeting; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Business Administrator be authorized, in the event of a meeting postponement and following consultation with the Board President and the

Superintendent, to release payments for those billings determined to be most appropriate and emergent.

Motion to Move Reorganization items #1-18: Ms. Hobbs Second Mrs. Satwant

**Roll Call:** Mr. Astrologo X, Mrs. Banga X, Mrs. Elardo X,  
Mrs. Ghebreal X, Ms. Hobbs X, and Mrs. Schiele X.

## **XII. D. OPERATIONS**

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the reporting of HIB-MMS:3

Motion to Move Operations item #1: Mrs. Elardo Second Mrs. Schiele

**Roll Call:** Mr. Astrologo X, Mrs. Banga X, Mrs. Elardo X,  
Mrs. Ghebreal X, Ms. Hobbs X, and Mrs. Schiele X.

## **XIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Christina Burnett asked the status of the Superintendent search. Mrs. Ghebreal stated they

are getting closer to deciding on a candidate.

Mr. McCusker asked the status of the new Board member and expressed surprise she was not

in attendance.

**XIV. CLOSED SESSION: Motion by: Mrs. Banga second by Ms. Hobbs, at 7:23 p.m**

**WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: (select one or more)**

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law**
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds**
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy**
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it**

- 5) a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

*Note: This closed session will include items in categories 8. It may be adjourned while business is conducted in public then reconvened after public business has been completed*

XIV. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: A motion by Mrs. Elardo and second by Mrs. Schiele to return to regular session at 7:37 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ms. Hobbs seconded by Mrs. Elardo, at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

  
Sandy Cammarata

Approved at the 1/23/25 board meeting.