DEAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEAL, NJ

Public Minutes – May 18, 2026

The Regular Public Meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Jannarone at 5.03 p.m. and read the following statement: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, also known as the "Sunshine Law", a 48-hour notice of this meeting has been provided to the public as follows: Posted written notice on the bulletin board at the main foyer of the Deal School; sent to the Asbury Park Press as a press release; and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Deal. This notice also has been published online in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:3-5. Visit our website at: https://www.dealschool.org/legal-ads/current. These online notices provide the public with full access to the legal advertisements and public notices, and will replace traditional print publication requirements.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Kathleen Jannarone – Present Mr. Joseph Rishty – Present

Mr. Michael Sorrentino – Present Mr. Salvo Bildirici - Absent

Mr. Joseph Nachmani – Arrived 6:08 PM

MINUTES.

1. Approve the Public Minutes of April 27, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Sorrentino SECOND: Mr. Rishty

VOTE: 3-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Superintendent Recommends the approval of the following:

1. Approve HIB REPORT P.L. 2010. c. 122 (A-3466) There were (0) HIB reported, and (0) investigated and (0) confirmed incidents from April 27, 2026 to May 18, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Sorrentino SECOND: Mr. Rishty

VOTE: 3-0

BUILDING & GROUNDS -

1. Approve the CARES SPECIAL NEEDS CHARITY to have their annual softball charity event here on the Deal School grounds on August 30, 2026 from 6 Am to 7 PM. Usage fee for the group is $3,500.00 and Appropriate COI is on file.

MOTION: Mr. Sorrentino SECOND: Mr. Rishty

DEAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEAL, NJ

VOTE: 3-0

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

PERSONNEL

The Superintendent Recommends the approval of the following:

Goal 1 – Quantitative: Pia Lordi Completion of the State of New Jersey Certification for School Transportation Directors in the amount of $4,563.30.

a. The School Transportation New Jersey Certification program provides a structured framework to equip transportation professionals with the essential knowledge and skills required to manage school transportation systems responsibly and effectively. Given the critical role of transporting students safely each day, the program emphasizes high standards in safety, regulatory compliance, and logistical coordination. The certification includes comprehensive instruction in New Jersey transportation laws, student behavior management, vehicle maintenance, and driver supervision. It also prepares participants to effectively respond to emergencies, minimize operational errors, and implement cost-efficient practices.
b. Completion of this certification directly aligns with Ms. Lordi's daily responsibilities and long-term professional goals. In her role, she oversees bus route coordination, ensures adherence to safety regulations, communicates with parents and drivers, and manages operational challenges. The program reinforces these competencies while introducing best practices and emerging trends that enhance overall efficiency and safety.
c. Documentation verifying successful completion of all program requirements has been provided.

2.Approve the Following Non-Tenure and Tenure Teaching Staff for the 2026-2027 School Year:

			2026-2027			2026-2027
Name - Date Started	**STEP**	**Degree**	**FTE**	**Guide Amt**	**Longevity**	**Total**
NON TENURE						
Trilli - 9/1/2024	7	BA	100%	$ 64,015.00		$ 64,015.00
Ficchi - 9/1/2022	6	BA	100%	$ 62,215.00		$ 62,215.00
Zimmerman 9/1/2022	6	MA	100%	$ 65,465.00		$ 65,465.00
McMichael 9/1/2022	12	MA+30	100%	$ 84,965.00		$ 84,965.00

DEAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEAL, NJ

Pietrocola - 9/1/2023	18	MA+30	100%	$ 99,240.00		$ 99,240.00
K. Hayes - 9/1/2023	18	MA+15	80%	$ 95,990.00		$ 76,792.00
Pawlak - 2/7/2024	18	MA	100%	$ 92,740.00		$ 92,740.00
McNeace - 9/1/2024	16	MA +30	100%	$ 96,740.00		$ 96,740.00
TENURE						
Puglisi - 9/1/2020	8	BA	100%	$ 66,015.00		$ 66,015.00
Ritter - 9/1/2021	11	BA	100%	$ 72,715.00		$ 72,715.00
Campo - 9/1/2017	12	BA	100%	$ 75,215.00		$ 75,215.00
Russo - 9/1/2015	12	BA	100%	$ 75,215.00		$ 75,215.00
Resto - 9/1/2019	13	BA	100%	$ 78,015.00		$ 78,015.00
Robbins - 3/1/2014	14	BA	100%	$ 80,990.00		$ 80,990.00
Priest - 9/1/2013	15	MA+15	100%	$ 90,490.00		$ 90,490.00
Buehler - 1/9/2022	15	MA+15	100%	$ 90,490.00		$ 90,490.00
Kiernan - 9/1/2020	16	MA	100%	$ 90,240.00		$ 90,240.00
Bloomquist - 9/1/2013	17	BA	100%	$ 86,990.00		$ 86,990.00
Curcione - 9/1/2010	18	BA	100%	$ 89,490.00	$6,500.00	$ 95,990.00
Lucarelli - 9/1/2012	18	MA+30	100%	$ 99,240.00		$ 99,240.00
Moskov - 11/1/2006	18	BA	100%	$ 89,490.00	$6,500.00	$ 95,990.00
Cutler - 9/1/2010	18	MA+30	80%	$ 99,240.00	$6,500.00	$ 84,592.00

PARAPROFESSIONAL						

Jones - 9/1/2024	N/A	BA	100%	$ 32,915.40		$ 32,915.40
Campbell - 9/1/2014	N/A	BA	100%	$ 32,915.40		$ 32,915.40

3. Approve Carol Osterbye as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for the 2026-2027 School Year at a salary of $ 87,324.34.
4. Approve Teresa Davis, as the Treasurer of School Monies for the 2026-2027 School Year with a salary of $ 12,750.00.
5. Approve the 1 year contract between the Deal Board of Education and Ms. Pia Lordi, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary and the additional job responsibilities beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Ms. Lordi's contract was approved by the Monmouth County Superintendent, Dr. Lester Richens on May 7, 2026.
6. Approve Christina Ritter's Maternity Leave of Absence beginning on September 1, 2026 using 12 weeks of FMLA through November 20 then Mrs. Ritter will utilize her sick time from November 23 through December 11, 2026, Tentative return to work on December 14, 2026.
7. Approve Kayla Troia to take a second full year of Maternity Leave of Absence for the 2026-2027 School Year.
8. Approve Ashley Hartranft at Step 2 BA $ 60,715.00 as the 4th and 5th grade replacement teacher for the staff member who extended their leave another year.
9. Approve Allison Ficchi to teach two extra periods of week for a special education need commencing May 7, 2026 through the end of the school year. Hourly rate will be $46.15.
10. Approve the following Professional Consultants for the 2026-2027 School Year:

Christine Salvatore - Director of Special Services - $ 18,750.00.

Evaluations -$ 375.00 and hourly rate $ 95.00 per hour.

Marla Volpe - Speech Therapist

Michele Meaney - Occupational Therapist

Katherine Connell - LDTC

Deborah Tuzzo - Psychologist

MOTION: Mr. Sorrentino SECOND: Mr. Rishty

VOTE: 3-0

POLICY

Approve the first reading of the New, Updated and Abolished Policies:

- 0162 Notice of Board Meetings – Bylaw
- 0162.01 Legal Notices – Bylaw (M) (NEW)
- 1230 Superintendent's Duties – Policy (M)
- 1643 Family Leave – Policy (M)
- 2200 Curriculum – Policy (M)
- 2200 Curriculum Content – Regulation (M) (ABOLISHED)
- 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices – Policy (M)
- 2411 Career Education and Academic Counseling – Policy (M)
- 2411 Guidance Counseling – Regulation (M) (ABOLISHED)
- 2460.30 Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services – Regulation (M) (ABOLISHED)
- 5111.13 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students – Choice School District – Policy & Regulation (M) (NEW)
- 5561 Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities – Policy (M)
- 6112 Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures – Policy (M)
- 6115.01 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs – Regulation (M)
- 6115.02 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures – Policy (M)
- 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants – Policy (M)
- 8561 Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs – Policy (M)

MOTION: Mr. Sorrentino SECOND: Mr. Rishty

VOTE: 4-0

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

FINANCE AND INSURANCE

1. Approve the following Resolutions:

Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Certifications:

That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c) 3, I Pia Lordi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary does hereby certify that as of April 30, 2026 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line items appropriations in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c) 4.

Pia Lordi, Business Administrator Board Secretary

2. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the following:

a. Disbursements:

Approve the disbursements May 2026 in the amount of $ 477,202.81.

b. Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Financial Report:

Resolved: That the Financial Report of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the month ending April 30, 2026 is hereby approved, and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is instructed to file same.

c. Treasurer's Financial Report:

Resolved: That the Financial Report of the Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending April 30, 2026 is hereby approved, and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is instructed to file the same. The report is in agreement with the report of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

d. Monthly Certification:

Resolved: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 I, Pia Lordi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, do hereby certify that as of April 30, 2026 , after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report (appropriations section) and, upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4), that no line item appropriation is in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3. Approve the Tax Levy Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year commencing in July 2026 the amount is as follows $ 225,853.17 and the payment schedule will be:

July 15, 2026	January 15, 2027
August 14, 2026	February 15, 2027
September 15, 2026	March 15, 2027
October 15, 2026	April 15, 2027
November 13, 2026	May 14, 2027
December 15, 2026	June 15, 2027

4. Approve the contract with Pritchard Industries for Custodial Services at the annual amount of $ 117, 832.61 for the 2026-2027 School Year this is an increase of 3.58% which is the CPI Number.

5. Resolution Urging Relief from Rising Public School Employee Health-Care Costs

WHEREAS, At a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, Despite record levels of state investments in public education, these school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the mounting insolvency of the state's public employees health benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, Both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers alike; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, The seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, These projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, This growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, These cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, For the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences — including district deficits, program cuts and school closures — mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, These are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Implementing real, sustainable solutions to the rising cost of health benefits and reforming how benefits are delivered through the SEHBP would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's leadership and continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators and families, which directly advances our shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Deal Board of Education in the county of Monmouth calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Deal Board of Education in the county of Monmouth urges the Governor to engage in meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term reforms to the state's system of delivering health care to its public employees in order to generate meaningful, long-term savings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, State Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblywoman Margie Donolon M.D., Assemblywoman Luanne M. Peterpaul Esq. and the New Jersey School Boards Association

MOTION: Mr. Rishty **SECOND: Mr. Sorrentino**

VOTE: 4-0

Reminders and Notes:

Change of Day and Time for the Deal Board of Education Meeting commencing May 2026 through the rest of the year will be at 5 PM as follows:

Monday May 18, 2026;	Sept 17, 2026
June 18, 2026;	October 15, 2026
July 16, 2026;	November 19, 2026
August 20, 2026;	December 17, 2026

DEAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DEAL, NJ

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rishty Motioned and Mr. Sorrentino Second to adjourn the meeting at 6: 20 PM.

Carried by a unanimous voice vote.
Submitted By,

Pia Lordi