Minutes of a regular public meeting of the East Orange Board of Education held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:37p.m. 199 4th Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McPhatter read the following notice:
Please take notice that this is a Regular Public Meeting/Budget Hearing of the East Orange Board of Education. The purpose of this meeting is for the Board of Education to take action on the resolutions as indicated on the agenda. Notice of this meeting has been posted and announced in accordance with the law. Said notice was published in the newspapers and a copy of this notice has also been filed with the Office of the City Clerk of East Orange.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL:
Ms. Jennifer Richardson-Neverson - Present
Ms. Jamillah N. Lawson – Absent
Ms. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr – Present
Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. – Absent
Mr. Thomas R. Paisley – Present
Ms. Medinah E. Muhammad – Absent
Ms. Andrea McPhatter– Present

Also Present:
Dr. Christopher C. Irving, Superintendent
Dr. Crystal Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Education Support Services
Mrs. Tia Thomas, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Bryant Horsley Esq., Shabazz & Woolridge

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. Audit Presentation, PKF O'Connor Davies
2. Budget Presentation, Dr. Christopher C. Irving, Superintendent of Schools, Tia Thomas, School Business Administrator

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Virginia Jeffries, 236 Brighton Avenue, East Orange

Good Evening Board members, staff, members of the public in attendance, physically and virtually. Concerns of the budget. The local tax levy at this point is unchanged from the 2025-2026 budget which is good, because taxpayers are overly burdened. Higher property taxes do not make it easier for anyone. However, there is a proposed budget increase of about 7,793,027. The budget presentation by Superintendent Irving the anticipated savings, the initiatives on page 4, the right-sizing. When it comes to administrative staff. What is the priority of physicians to be eliminated? And will positions eliminated be based on certain funding sources?
Under the solar project. Will students earn state certifications in respective training on this solar project? As for business services. Item B, the addition of the adoption of the budget. The bulk of monies is from the revenues from state sources, an increase of about $191,532,715. Whereas in the 2025-2026 budget, it was $184,623,394. dollars. Title I to the SBB is zero. However, in the 2025-2026 budget, that was over a million dollars. How can the board be sure that the State sources will not change to a lesser amount? and special revenue fund has a decrease from the 2025 to the 26 budget. So it seems that the board, the district, is relying on monies directly from the state. for the increase in this budget. So how can the board be sure that those increases will be approved by the state?
Thank you.

2. Brother Lamar Williams

First, give an honor to God and the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please remember God is the spirit and God is love, and Jesus taught us to love God and love our neighbor and love one another. And since God is our Father, we're all brothers and sisters, our young people are all our sons and daughters, and our young people are all God's children and our children and yes, and please remember, we still believe that there is hope for all of our young people here in East Orange, and as always I'm asking and pleading and begging you all to remember all of our young people, you know, who passed away here in East Orange, and thank God please remember all of our board members are good people, and our, um, EOSD family, all good people, and you're all trying to do what is right for our young people in East Orange

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Cont'd

2. Brother Lamar Williams (cont'd)

And thank God that God bless us to, you know, to work out the budget situation from last year. And I hope you pray God to bless us to work out the budget situation for this year. And as always, I'm sorry I'm not a real minister, and thank God that God has blessed like a youth minister, and I love all of our young people, and I'm passionate about our African American history and our East Orange history, and I'm
passionate about teaching our young people our African history and East Orange History and I thank God, I thank you all so much for letting me do a little black history presentation on 2-17-26, and it was a super blessing. And thank God, and the young people, the two young people, um, Daryl and Kennedy from Whitney Houston for doing their Black History, reading your Black History resolution, and it was especially a blessing for everybody.

And I thank God I remember how we, um, agreed we also do it in March, and I'm sorry to say that we weren't able to do an official presentation, and I thank God, and thank you all for letting me do an unofficial African American East Orange Women's History presentation and, um, you know, on 3-17-26. And please remember, um, you know, African American history is important all year round, and women's history is important all year round. And, um, please remember, women are half the population of
the human race, and I personally believe that women are pound for pound, women are the better half of the population of the human race. And please remember Um, you know, again, women are half the population of human race, and women gave birth to that, you know, the first half and also the second half. So none of us would be here if it wasn't for women. So please remember, um, you know, well, again, American history is important all year long, and women's history is important all year round. So, and, um.

And I'm sorry to say that we weren't… I'm sorry we weren't able to have the official presentation in March, so now I know it was moved up to April, but I know there are other presentations, but I'm begging y'all, please, pretty, please, pretty, please, with sugar on top. Can we please still have the presentation and do it correctly? Because I called today and I was told that I could only do, like, one page, and I'm sorry to say it, but please remember, we, you know, we have 400 years of African American history, and we have at least 400 years of African American women's history. I cannot do African American history in five minutes. you know, thank God we can't do African American Women's history in five minutes. And I personally, and please remember, um, well, during, well, back in Africa, we had traditional families, like a father and a mother and a children, but unfortunately, our people were captured and brought here in
slavery, and they still wanted to be traditional families. But remember, the slave owner would literally sell off the male so that you could not be a husband to the wife and a father to his children, and that went off generation after generation after generation after generation after generation after generation, generation after generation, to the point that we got to the point that, um, you know, that we, you know, that we didn't have traditional families. Most African American children grow up in single parent households, and the parent is almost always the mother. So please remember responsibility of, you know, the men in the community to try to be, you know, um, well, fathers and well, husbands and fathers, and even for me, to try to help, um, you know, help, raise our children in our community. So I'm begging you, can you please still have our, African American East Orange Women's History presentation on 4-21-26? And can we please do the whole thing? Because I promise you it's worth it because you think about all the nights that you were a baby and you were crying and your mother stayed up for you. The least we could do is, you know, is also have time, you know, for our grandmothers and mothers and wives and specially to inspire our daughters. Okay, and as always, thank you all so much for what you all do for all of our people, and especially our young people, because they're all God's children, and may God bless all our people and all young people. God bless you as school, bless you as a high school, bless you as a college, and bless lives. And we ask you all these blessings in Jesus name, Amen.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. BUSINESS SERVICES

On the motion of Mr. Thomas R. Paisley duly seconded by Ms. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr, the members of the Board voted to approve "**a-b**" under Business Services.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Jennifer Richardson-Neverson– Yes
Ms. Jamillah N. Lawson – Absent
Ms. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr – Yes
Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
Mr. Thomas R. Paisley - Yes
Ms. Medinah E. Muhammad – Absent
Ms. Andrea McPhatter – Yes

a. Acceptance of the 2024-2025 School Year Audit Report/Audit Findings and Recommendations/Correction Plan for the 2024-2025 Annual Audit

WHEREAS, the East Orange Board of Education has received the audit; reviewed the recommendations contained in the Management Report on Administrative Findings-Financial, Compliance and Performance Reporting Audit Report for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 as prepared by its Auditor of Record, PKF O'Connor Davies; and

WHEREAS, the East Orange Board of Education has reviewed the findings and responses to these recommendations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Orange Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby,

1. Authorize the Board Secretary to enter said discussion in the minutes of this meeting;
2. Accept the Audit and approve and authorize the implementation of the Corrective Action Plan that addresses all of the audit Findings and Recommendation in the Management Report on Administrative Findings-Financial, Compliance and Performance for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025 presented by the Auditor of Record, PKF O'Connor Davies

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the East Orange Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator to cause two (2) certified copies of said Corrective Action Plan to be filed with the County Superintendent of Schools and the State Department of Education. (Attachment 3-a)

VII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. BUSINESS SERVICES

b. Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget for the East Orange Board of Education

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A requires that the Board of Education in Type I School Districts approve and adopt a budget and then have the local tax levy be considered by the Board of School Estimate; and

WHEREAS, this budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this District's Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 7A-11 and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the NJ Student Learning Standards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Orange Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby adopt the 2026-2027 budget as follows:

REVENUES

GENERAL FUND

Local Tax Levy	39,291,159
Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues	1,812,663
Revenues from State Sources	191,532,715
Medicaid Reimbursement	22,846
Fund Balance	2,000,000
Capital Reserve	
Maintenance Reserve	
Transfer From Title 1 to SBB	
Sub Total General Fund	234,659,383

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues from State Sources	1,643,779
Revenues from Federal Sources	5,451,932
PreK (Special Education)	24,019,957
Sub Total Special Revenue Fund	31,115,668

DEBT SERVICE

Debt Service Tax Levy	1,883,663
Debt Service State Aid	3,495,837
Other	307,183
Sub Total Debt Service Fund	5,686,683
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCE	**271,461,734**

VII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. BUSINESS SERVICES

b. Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget for the East Orange Board of Education – (cont'd)

APPROPRIATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Total General Current Expense	87,854,435
Total Capital Outlay	6,627,264
Total Other special Schools	300,000
Charter Schools	35,029,606
School Based Budget	104,848,078
Total General Fund	234,659,383

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

State Projects	25,663,736
Federal Projects	5,451,932
Total Special Revenue Fund	31,115,668

DEBT SERVICE

Total Regular Debt Service	5,686,683
Total Debt Service Fund	5,686,683
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	**271,461,734**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the East Orange Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the use of Budgeted Fund Balance in the amount of $2,000,000 for the 2026-2027 budget.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McPhatter read the following notice:

The East Orange Board of Education will hold its next Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at 199 4th Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07017. The Board of Education will retire to Executive Session after "Comments from the Public" in which they will discuss matters pertaining to negotiations, personnel and/or litigation. The Board will resume the regular public meeting at or about 8:00 p.m.; immediately following the Executive Session.

On the motion of Ms. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr, duly seconded by, Ms. Jennifer Richardson-Neverson, the members of the Board voted to approve to adjourn the meeting:

ROLL CALL: Ms. Jennifer Richardson-Neverson– Yes
Ms. Jamillah N. Lawson – Absent
Ms. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr - Yes
Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
Mr. Thomas R. Paisley - Yes
Ms. Medinah E. Muhammad – Absent
Ms. Andrea McPhatter - Yes

The meeting adjourned at or about 5:31 p.m.

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Tia Thomas, School Business Administrator

BOARD APPROVED_____