

**HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES  
February 26, 2018**

A Regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Hopatcong Borough School District was held on February 26, 2018 in the High School Cafeteria, 2A Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, New Jersey.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. Mr. Fasano, Board President, read the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, this public body, the Hopatcong Board of Education hereby announces that The New Jersey Herald and the Daily Record have been notified by mail that this Board of Education Regular meeting will take place in the Hopatcong Board of Education meeting room, 2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ, at 7:00 p.m. on February 26, 2018.

4. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Anthony Fasano, President  
Mr. Alex McLean, Vice President  
Mr. Scott Francis  
Mr. Warren Gallagher  
Ms. Erin Jacobus  
Dr. Sarah Schindelar  
Mrs. Candice Smith  
Ms. Carol Trumpore

**VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS:** Mr. Philip DiStefano

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Candice Smith, Ms. Carol Trumpore

**Also Present:** Mr. Paul Saxton, Interim Superintendent, Ms. Carolyn B. Joseph, Board Secretary, Mr. Richard Bauch, Esq.

Approximately 200 individuals in attendance.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Hopatcong Board of Education entered Executive Session.

6. **RECONVENE**

A motion to return to Public Session was made by Ms. Jacobus, seconded by Mr. McLean.  
The motion carried with all in favor Time: 7:11 p.m.

*Interim Superintendent Paul Saxton addresses the audience regarding the district's decision to privatize our custodial/maintenance services (Finance item 12h). Mr. Saxton states that this decision was made based on a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers and as the district looks for other ways to benefit our students and programs. There is no doubt that our custodial/maintenance staff is the best, we are just going to see what's out there and also make it mandatory that whichever company comes in hires our own people.*

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**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the following meetings, as reported by the Board Secretary and reviewed by the Board President and members of the Board:

- a. January 02, 2018 – Re-organization meeting
- b. January 22, 2018 – Executive Session
- c. January 22, 2018 – Regular meeting

**Motion to approve 7a – 7c made by Dr. Schindelar and seconded by Mr. McLean.**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes a, c ABSTAIN b,	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Approval of Minutes passed.**

**8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. JOSEPH ROSS**

**WHEREAS**, Joseph has dedicated himself to the Hopatcong Borough School District for 14 years as an English Teacher and Drama Club advisor; displaying an unselfish commitment to our children; exemplifying the ideals of professionalism and the standard of excellence, and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopatcong Borough School District Board of Education, together with its citizens, wishes to acknowledge exemplary service that Joseph has provided our children,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Hopatcong Borough School District Board of Education does hereby extend its appreciation and gratitude to Joseph in recognition of exemplary service to our school district.

- b.** The following students were chosen as **Hopatcong High School's *Students of the Month*** for their outstanding performance in **January, 2018:**

<b>Breanna Maurer, Senior</b>	Scholastics (Algebra 2 Concepts CP)
<b>Maxwell Schuman, Senior</b>	Scholastics (Algebra 2 Concepts)
<b>Lily Christiana, Sophomore</b>	Specialty Area (Art 2)
<b>Kaitlyn Donnelly, Junior</b>	Specialty Area (TV/Video Productions)

- c.** The following students were chosen as **Hopatcong High School's *Scholar Athletes of the Month*** for their outstanding performance in **January, 2018:**

<b>Gianna Santiago, Senior</b>	Athletics (Girls Basketball)
<b>Benjamin Bibeault, Junior</b>	Athletics (Boys Basketball)

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- d. Congratulations to **Eagle Scout and High School Senior Justin McCarthy** who was interviewed by Reporter Christie Duffy of PIX11 News and the NJ Herald regarding the observatory he built on the High School Grounds to help complete the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.
- e. Congratulations to Hopatcong musicians **Heather Sutton (senior) and Alyssa Alvarez (freshman)** who auditioned for and were accepted into the Region 1 (North Jersey) Honors Choir on Saturday, January 6, which was held at Paramus High School. 900 students competed from Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties. The 200 students selected participated in two high school choirs which rehearsed and performed a concert on Saturday, January 27 at Bloomfield High School. Heather plays flute in most of the high school bands, and is the flute section leader in marching band. She is a member of the after school choir as well as a member of the Tri-M Honors Music Society, Chapter #7212. Alyssa plays saxophone in every high school musical ensemble, and is the president of the after school choir.
- f. **Hopatcong High School, Middle School and Durban Avenue Honor Roll Students** for the second marking period.

**Mr. McLean made a motion to accept 8a – 8f, seconded by Dr. Schindelar  
All in favor**

**9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT AND HIB REPORT**

- a. Superintendent’s Report – **Mr. Paul Saxton** introduced **Ms. Mary Ellen Fata and FIT members**.
- b. **Presentations –**  
  - 1) **FIT – Mary Ellen Fata – Students: Madison Maniquis, Daniella Mendez, Shauwn Gesregan, Paige Gianfrancesco** – FIT stands for Freshmen in Transition. At HHS there are over 100 FIT volunteers that mentor the freshmen. Daniella and Madison spoke about how FIT helps them handle the stresses of HS life and honors programs. The FIT trips allow them to have a day to relax. Mary Ellen added that it helps to decrease bullying. Shauwn reported that it has helped him feel less lonely and able to connect with other people. He likes helping the freshmen on their journey; it allows them all to feel part of a community. FIT helps to develop communication skills and builds relationships which help to build a safer environment. Paige describes kickoff of “Hate Has No Home Here” campaign. Selling signs to be posted around town to show Hopatcong’s willingness to bring everyone together regardless of race and help each other.

Presentation of each school’s activities: No school activities presented this evening
- c. A second reading and approval of the Superintendent’s HIB Report for January, 2018 as presented to the Board at the January meeting on January 22, 2018. Approval of the HIB report for February, 2018 for first reading and review.

**Mr. Saxton reports 2 HIB for first reading.**

**Motion was made by Ms. Jacobus, seconded by Dr. Schindelar to  
accept Superintendent’s HIB report 9c:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

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**Motion 9c to approve Superintendent's HIB report passed.**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Curriculum, Technology, Special Education — **Chairperson, Candice Smith** Mrs. Smith out with flu. Mr. DiStefano reports that they did approve class size waiver in committee.
- b. Community Relations – **Chairperson, Warren Gallagher III** – Superintendent Saxton had a great idea for senior citizens in town. Issuing to all seniors 60 years and older a gold card which will make them eligible for preferred parking and free admission to all school events.
- c. Finance, Facilities, Transportation – **Alex McLean reports** – Presentation by Senator Oroho regarding state budget which was not good news. It looks like it will be a challenge, especially for districts like ours with declining enrollment. Adjusted aid of \$3.9 million in aid this year will be phased out over next 5 years by 20% each year. We will get the state aid numbers March 15.
- d. Policy and Legislation – **Chairperson, Phil DiStefano** – Policies and regs for both first and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Opioid Antidote revised; Reporting pupil progress tabled. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading re: Bed bugs.
- e. Negotiations – **Chairperson Sarah Schindelar** – our lawyer met with Henry John Klein and are working on getting proposal together with in the week.
- f. Personnel – **Chairperson, Carol Trumppore (absent)** – Anthony Fasano reports that everything discussed in committee is on the agenda.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Public discussed Finance item **12h**: don't try to break the unions; these custodians are great, they know our kids, which during these times give parents a sense of safety; Marty Petrizzo was mentioned multiple times as an individual who always goes the extra mile and can always be counted on. Most of the custodians live in our town so if you take their jobs away, you hurt the town. Custodian Patty Houterman gave Anthony Fasano a petition with over 400 signatures on behalf of the custodians/maintenance staff. In addition, although a new company may say they will hire our people, they don't always keep them. Patty added that this happened with Leanne Fetcho who worked in house for the cafeteria when Maschio's took over Food Service. Within a year Leanne was let go. Concerns raised for who would be vetting the employees of a privatized service. What about the summer employment so many students rely on with the Custodial department? Danielle Kovach quoted from the Operational Efficiency Audit which proclaimed the pride and sense of ownership evident with our custodial/maintenance staff. Another parent relayed a story about her son being bullied which was only brought to light by a custodian who witnessed the incident. A few other individuals reported stories from other districts which were privatized and staff was promised to keep their jobs but did lose them within a year or two.

**Ms. Jacobus made a motion for a 10 minute recess at 8:53pm which was seconded by Mr. Francis. All in favor.**

**Ms. Jacobus made a motion to reconvene at 9:11pm which was seconded by Mr. Gallagher. All in favor.**

***Superintendent Saxton spoke to audience and expressed how overwhelmed and impressed he was by the comments made in support of the custodians and maintenance staff. Ms. Saxton made a recommendation to table the motion to RFP and go back to committee to see what other options are available.***

***Ms. Jacobus made a motion to table 12h and was seconded by Mr. Gallagher:***

***Mr. Fasano spoke about how well he knows these custodians and this motion means we have to test other options. We have a lot of progress to make and student achievement is paramount.***

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**12. FINANCE**

Approval of the following finance items, **12a-12i**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Finance Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of bills for the General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) accounts, and Cafeteria account, January 22, 2018 through February 26, 2018 in the following amounts:

General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account	\$2,043,913.18
Cafeteria account	\$ 63,355.83
- b. Approval of Regular bills for January 22, 2018 through February 26, 2018 for the SCRT Cooperative Operating Account in the amount of \$108,036.91
- c. Approval of Bus Contractor bills for March 15, 2018 for the SCRT Cooperative Operating Account, in the amount of \$3,343,320.17
- d. Approval of the Transfer Reports for the months of November 2017 and December 2017.
- e. Approval of the Board Secretary's Reports for the months of November 2017 and December 2017.
- f. Approval of the Treasurer's Reports for the months of November 2017 and December 2017.
- g. Approval to enter into a shared service agreement with the Hopatcong Borough Police Department to place a Security Resource Officer in the district for the duration of time not to exceed 5 years, effective March 1, 2018.
- h. **WHEREAS**, for reasons of economy and of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the Hopatcong School District, the Board finds it advisable to go out for bid for the purpose of engaging a private contractor for custodial/maintenance services;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Hopatcong Board of Education that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board provides all custodial and maintenance employees with formal notice of its intention to subcontract custodial and maintenance services and to eliminate the following positions through a reduction in force effective July 1, 2018, subject to receipt of acceptable proposals:

- 1) Custodial/maintenance employees

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary and/or Superintendent to provide formal notification to all affected employees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary and/or Superintendent to go out for bid for custodial and maintenance services.

- i. **WHEREAS**, the Hopatcong Board of Education wishes to engage the services of SSP Architectural Group, Inc. as the district's architect of record;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the hiring of SSP Architectural Group, Inc. as its architect of record; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to request that SSP Architectural Group, Inc. prepare a proposal for the cost of a long-range facility plan for the Board of Education.

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**Motion to approve Finance 12a-12i, less 12h was made by Mr. McLean and seconded by Ms. Jacobus:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Motion to table Finance item 12h was made by Ms. Jacobus and seconded by Mr. Gallagher:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Motion to table 12h passed.**

**13. PERSONNEL**

Approval of the following personnel items **13a-13m**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Personnel Committee of the Board:

- a. Acceptance of the resignation, with regret, of **Joseph Ross** from his position as English Teacher at Hopatcong High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2018.  
*11-140-100-101-01*
- b. Approval of the request of **Alana Benninger** for a Maternity Leave of Absence from her position as a Special Education Teacher of 20 Sick Days during the period of September 4, 2018 to October 1, 2018, followed by New Jersey Family Leave of Absence/Federal Leave of Absence for the period of October 2, 2018 to November 14, 2018.  
*11-130-100-101-01*
- c. Approval of the employment of **Timothy Will** as the Assistant to Facilities Manager in the Hopatcong Borough School District at a prorated stipend of \$10,000, annually, effective February 27, 2018.  
*1-000-261-100-01-*
- d. Approval of the employment of **Ruth Drewes** as a Part Time Clerk at the Administration Building in the Hopatcong School District at an hourly salary of \$11.25, effective March 1, 2018. Ms. Drewes is replacing Roxann Serna.  
*11-000-263-106-01*
- e. Approval of the employment of **Kimberly Loftis** as a Grade 3 Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher in the Hopatcong Borough School District at the prorated salary of \$55,783, based upon Level BA/Step 3, effective January 22, 2018. Ms. Loftis is replacing Jamie Douglas.  
*11-130-100-101-02*
- f. Approval of the voluntary transfer of **Sonia Scovil** from her position of Middle School Special Education Teacher to the position of Middle School Special Education/Mathematics Teacher, effective February 12, 2018. Ms. Scovil is covering courses of Neil Pallotta, who is on a medical/sick leave of absence.

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- g. Move to confirm **Lillian MacRae** attendance at High School FIT Trip, outside of the school day, at a rate of \$40 per hour for a total of 5 hours on January 19, 2018 as nursing coverage.  
11-401-100-100-01-02

- h. Approval of the following 2017-2018 Advisors for the Hopatcong High School:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary	Date Effective	Date Terminated
Brook Ganguzza	Resign	Spring Weight Room	-	-	\$1,100.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018
Dave Campagna	Appoint	Spring Weight Room	-	-	\$1,100.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018

11-401-100-100-01-02

- i. Approval of the employment of **Dana DeMetro and Melanie Rowbotham** as Instructors for the Title I Family Math Program at the Hudson Maxim School for four, two hour sessions during April 2018 at the salary of \$300.00 each.  
11-401-100-100-01-02

- j. Approval of the following 2017-2018 Advisors for the Hopatcong Middle School:  
11-401-100-100-01-02

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary	Date Effective	Date Terminated
Richard Anderson	Adjust	Games Club 0.5 (prorated for 6 months)	E	2	\$281.00	9/1/2017	2/28/2018
Richard Anderson	Appoint	Games Club 1.0 (prorated for 4 months)	E	2	\$374.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018
James McKowen	Adjust	Games Club 0.5 (prorated for 6 months)	E	2	\$281.00	9/1/2017	2/28/2018
James McKowen	Appoint	Games Club 1.0 (prorated for 4 months)	E	2	\$374.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018
Edric Debos	Appoint	Art Club (prorated for 4 months)	E	3	\$490.00	2/1/2018	6/30/2018
Craig Vallaro	Resign	Intramurals - Spring	C	3	\$777.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018
Donald Dippel	Appoint	Intramurals - Spring	C	4	\$953.00	3/1/2018	6/30/2018

- k. Approval of Safety Monitors and Ticket Sellers for the Fall 2017 Drama Production, Spring 2018 Music Production and Band Concerts.

Event	Date	Position	Number of Staff	Rate of Pay Each	Total Cost
Fall Drama Production	12/7/2017	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Fall Drama Production	12/8/2017	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Fall Drama Production	12/9/2017	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100

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Event	Date	Position	Number of Staff	Rate of Pay Each	Total Cost
Fall Drama Production	12/10/2017	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Fall Drama Production	12/7/2017	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Fall Drama Production	12/8/2017	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Fall Drama Production	12/9/2017	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Fall Drama Production	12/10/2017	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Spring Music Production	4/12/2018	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Spring Music Production	4/13/2018	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Spring Music Production	4/14/2018	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Spring Music Production	4/15/2018	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Spring Music Production	4/12/2018	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Spring Music Production	4/13/2018	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Spring Music Production	4/14/2018	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Spring Music Production	4/15/2018	Ticket Seller	1	\$55	\$55
Band Concert	12/19/2017	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100
Band Concert	5/17/2018	Safety Monitor	2	\$50	\$100

- I. Approval for the following Education students to conduct a field experience in the Hopatcong School District during the 2017-2018 school year:

Student Name	Semester	University	Experience	School	Cooperating Staff Member
Stephen Andrewlavage	Spring 2018	West Chester University	Observation	Tulsa Trail	Mr. Mendez

- m. Approval of **substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians and van drivers.**

**Ms. Jacobus made a motion to approve Personnel 13a-13m and was seconded by Dr. Schindelar.**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	ABSTAIN	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Personnel items 13a – 13m passed.**

**14. STUDENTS & SERVICES**

Approval of the following Students and Services items, **14a-14g** as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Curriculum/Technology/Special Education Committee of the Board:

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- a. Approval for agreement for ancillary educational services with the Sussex County Educational Services Commission. The assessment for member districts is \$1.25 per student.
- b. Approval for educational instruction services for **Student no. 11552** for up to 10 hours per week beginning December 8, 2017. Instruction will be provided by Professional Education Services, Inc. at a rate of \$35.00 per hour.
- c. Approval for home instruction services for **Student no. 12057** for 5 hours per week beginning December 18, 2017 to March 1, 2018. Instruction will be provided by Hopatcong certificated staff at the rate of \$35.00 per hour.
- d. Approval for educational instruction services for **Student no. 10883** for up to 10 hours per week beginning January 25, 2018. Instruction will be provided by Professional Education Services, Inc. at a rate of \$35.00 per hour.
- e. Approval for educational instruction services for **Student no. 13542** for up to 5 hours per week beginning February 2, 2018. Instruction will be provided by St. Clare's Hospital at a rate of \$55.00 per hour.
- f. Approval for an assistive technology evaluation for **Student no. 13764** at the cost of \$1,050.00.
- g. Approval of the field trip requests, as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

**Motion to approve Students and Services 14a – 14g made by Ms. Jacobus and seconded by Mr. McLean:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Students & Services items 14a – 14g passed.**

**15. CURRICULUM –**

Approval of the following item, **15a**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Curriculum/Technology/Special Education Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of a class size waiver for AM pre-school disabled class due to a new student.

**Motion to approve Curriculum 15a was made by Mr. McLean and seconded by Dr. Schindelar:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Item 15a passed.**

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**16. TRAVEL**

Resolved, that the Hopatcong Board of Education approve travel costs as related in this resolution, which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in compliance with the state travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1. seq.

**Motion to approve Travel in the amount of \$2,867.42  
is made by Mr. Gallagher and seconded by Ms. Jacobus:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Item 16, Travel passed.**

**17. POLICIES & REGULATIONS -**

a. Approval of modifications and additions to the policies and regulations of the Hopatcong Board of Education in accordance with statutory and regulatory changes for approval, as revised, for **FIRST READING**:

<u><b>Policy #</b></u> P 5330.04	<u><b>Title</b></u> Administering an Opioid Antidote (New, Suggested)
<u><b>Regulation #</b></u> R 5410 R 5460.1	<u><b>Title</b></u> Promotion and Retention (Mandated, Revised) High School Transcripts (Mandated, Revised)

b. Approval of modifications and additions to the policies and regulations of the Hopatcong Board of Education in accordance with statutory and regulatory changes for approval, as revised, for **SECOND READING**:

<u><b>Policy #</b></u> P 7424	<u><b>Title</b></u> Bed Bugs (New, Suggested)
<u><b>Regulation #</b></u> R 7424	<u><b>Title</b></u> Bed Bugs (New, Suggested)

**Motion to approve Policies and Regulations items 17a and 17b was made by Mr. DiStefano and seconded by Ms. Jacobus:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes

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Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes
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**Policy and Legislation items 17a and 17b passed**

**18. CALENDAR**

- a. Approval of the Revised 180 day School Calendar for the 2017/2018 school year.
- b. Approval of the 180 day School Calendar for the 2018/2019 school year.

**Motion to approve Calendar 18a -18b was made by Ms. Jacobus and seconded by Mr. McLean:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Items 18a and 18b were approved.**

**19. SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE**

Approval of the following items, **19a-19i**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent:

- a. The Superintendent recommends the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations** for Special Education Routes for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- b. The Superintendent recommends the **award** of student transportation contracts for **quoted** Special Education Routes to the lowest responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- c. The Superintendent recommends the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations** for Athletic/Class/Field Trips for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- d. The Superintendent recommends the **award** of student transportation contracts for **quoted** Athletic/Class/Field Trips to the lowest responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- e. The Superintendent recommends the **approval** of a Joint Transportation Agreement with Sparta Township Public School District for the 2017-18 School Years as listed on Exhibit A.
- f. The Superintendent recommends the **award** of Parental Contracts for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- g. The Superintendent recommends the **approval** of the **renewal** of 2016-17 transportation contracts at the CPI increase of 0.30% for the 2017-18 school years as listed on Exhibit A.
- h. The Superintendent recommends the **approval** of Member School Districts for the 2018-19 School Years as listed on Exhibit A.

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- i. The Superintendent recommends the **approval** of corrections to previously approved bids/quotes and/or contract numbers as listed on Exhibit A. (All quotes/bids were responsive and compliant in accordance with the specifications however; the corrections are necessary due to minor clerical/typographical errors to correct the board minutes for county approval of the contracts.)
- j. The Superintendent recommends the **approval** of the Mountain Lakes School District as a new Member of the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the 2017-18 School Year.
- k. The Superintendent recommends, based upon the advice and consent of the Director of Transportation of the Cooperative, the **approval** of the employment of Jennifer Fox as a Bus Aide effective February 1, 2018, part-time, 10-month position, 5 hours per day, 5 days per week at the hourly rate of \$10.00 for the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Fox began employment as a Substitute Aide on January 22, 2018 at \$10.00 per hour.
- l. The Superintendent recommends, based upon the advice and consent of the Director of Transportation of the Cooperative, the **approval** of the employment of Roxann Serna as a 10 month, part-time clerical employee, 4 hours per day, 5 days per week at the hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Serna's effective date is subject to the employment of a replacement for her current position with the Hopatcong BOE.

**Mr. McLean made a motion to approve 19a-19l which was seconded by Mr. Gallagher:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Abstain
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Sussex Regional Cooperative items 19a – 19l passed.**

**20. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments included many thanks for tabling 12h; a parent who was pleased with Maschio's food service; concerns about recent school shootings and what our district is doing to protect the children; concern for the Day Plus program even though it had been taken off the agenda; it was terrible that Mrs. P's name was dragged through the mud; if she rebid would it be accepted and Mr. Saxton replied "yes." Operational Efficiency Audit – where do we stand with those recommendations – Mr. Saxton answers that he does not feel comfortable with the report and will be meeting with the company to discuss. Mr. Saxton was asked if the OEA had been paid in full and he answered that he held the last check. Special Ed Audit? – still under review with attorneys. The fall drama rates in 13k – were they paid out? Middle School parents claim that they volunteer to sell tickets and be safety monitors during plays.

**HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES  
February 26, 2018**

***Ms. Jacobus made a motion to have Superintendent Saxton investigate Personnel item 13k.  
Mr. McLean seconded the motion:***

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	Yes	Alex McLean	Yes	Sarah Schindelar	Abstain
Candice Smith	ABSENT	Carol Trumpore	ABSENT	Anthony Fasano	Yes

**Motion that Superintendent Saxton investigates Personnel item 13k passed**

**21. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Erin Jacobus– Thank you to Mr. Saxton. He is available and accessible. Congratulations to Mr. Ross. The FIT presentation was great. Is very happy to see do many come out tonight. Keep coming out.
- Scott Francis – There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes here. Very proud to be a part of this.
- Warren Gallagher– Thank you to Mr. Saxton for always being available. About the OEA - next month you will learn a lot more. Leave it to the professionals to make the decisions. Day Plus will stay within our buildings.
- Alex McLean – Thank you this is a very difficult job. Has friends in custodial staff and has kids Day Plus. Board is very focused on kids that walk these halls every day. It takes hours of deliberation and discussion on where we are heading and what challenges we face. Officer Schultz is much more than a police officer in our district. When the Parkland news first broke there was instant communication between the Board President/Superintendent/Police Department. Thanked Paul for his leadership and sense of humor.
- Phil DiStefano– You help us identify areas where we can reduce our budget. Open to suggestion. Thank you for coming. Public comments were spectacular.
- Sarah Schindelar – Our Mayor has put in for a grant to get a second SRO for the district. We are a district in crisis regarding our finances and we have to think out of the box.
- Anthony Fasano – Thank you. It is late. We are focused on a student need based budget. We are waiting to hear what we get from the state. Appreciate every one coming out tonight.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. McLean, seconded by  
Ms. Jacobus  
All in favor**

**Time: 10:24 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

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Carolyn B. Joseph,  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary