

**HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
October 29, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Hopatcong Borough School District was held on October 29, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room, Administration Building, 2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, New Jersey.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 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 October 29, 2018.

4. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Anthony Fasano, President
Mr. Alex McLean, Vice President
Mr. Philip DiStefano
Mr. Warren Gallagher
Mrs. Candice Smith
Ms. Carol Trumpore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Scott Francis, Ms. Erin Jacobus, Dr. Sarah Schindelar

Also Present: Mr. Art DiBenedetto, Superintendent, Ms. Kathleen J. Ward, Board Secretary pro temp, Kerri Wright, Esq.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
The Hopatcong Board of Education entered Executive Session prior to the opening of the public meeting.

6. **RECONVENE**
A motion to return to Public Session was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. DiStefano.
The motion carried with all in favor Time: 7:15 p.m.

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. September 5, 2018 – Special Meeting – Executive Session
- b. September 18, 2018 – Special Meeting – Executive Session
- c. September 18, 2018 – Special Meeting
- d. September 24, 2018 – Regular Meeting - Executive Session
- e. September 24, 2018 – Regular Meeting

**Motion to approve Minutes 7a-7e was made by Mrs. Smith,
seconded by Ms. Trumpore:**

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	ABSENT	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	ABSENT	Alex McLean	Yes d, e Abstain a-c	Sarah Schindelar	ABSENT
Candice Smith	Yes	Carol Trumpore	Yes	Anthony Fasano	Yes

Motion to approve Finance 7a-7e passed.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

Nicolas Bozanov, Sophomore	Scholastics (Spanish 2)
Julia LaManna, Junior	Scholastics (Spanish 2)
Sophia Aciego, Freshman	Scholastics (Spanish 1)
Marisa Mejia, Junior	Scholastics (Spanish 3 H)
Marissa Fattorusso, Junior	Scholastics (French)
Brittney Lengkong – Junior	Specialty Area (Theatre Arts)

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

Morgan Rennie, Junior	Athletics (Girls Soccer)
Josue Hernan Guardado, Junior	Athletics (Boys Soccer)

c. **The Hopatcong Board of Education Safety Committee and Facilities staff** for their commendation in the district's successful completion of all requirements to qualify for the 2017/2018 Tier 1 Safety Incentive Program Award from The School Alliance Insurance Fund, Safety & Education Advisory Committee. By successfully completing the Tier 1 requirements, Hopatcong Board of Education will be credited \$4,000 towards the 2018/2019 assessment.

All in favor Yes

An Addendum #1 - #6 had been added to Personnel. Board President, Anthony Fasano adds Addendum #7 to Personnel as well. Addendum is within Personnel section.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND HIB REPORT

a. Superintendent's Report – **Mr. Art DiBenedetto, Superintendent of Schools** reported that he observed professional and support staff in our district and the kids were being treated royally. He is proud of the fact that he works in a district that puts kids first. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that he has met with the town: mayor, seniors and clergy. He is also working with the HEA to resolve grievances.

b. A first reading and approval of the Superintendent's HIB Report for October 2018, as presented to the Board at the October meeting on October 29, 2018.

Mr. DiBenedetto reported that there had been 5 incidents reported in October: 2 were determined to be HIB; 2 were not appropriate and the last was determined as a code of conduct.

Motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. McLean to approve items 9a – 9b:

Philip DiStefano	Yes	Scott Francis	ABSENT	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	ABSENT	Alex McLean	Yes d, e Abstain a-c	Sarah Schindelar	ABSENT
Candice Smith	Yes	Carol Trumpore	Yes	Anthony Fasano	Yes

Motion to approve items 9a – 9b passed.

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Student Achievement – Community Relations, Curriculum, Personnel and Special Education: Chairperson - Candice Smith – During their meeting on 10/15, they met with the new Superintendent. Appreciate his efficiency and direction. Everything approved in committee is on the agenda.
- b. Operations – Finance, Facilities, Security and Transportation: Chairperson - Alex McLean – Met on 10/22/18 and reviewed financials, transportation and discussed the payment for mold remediation.
- c. Negotiations: Chairperson - Sarah Schindelar – Dr. Schindelar was absent but Board President, Anthony Fasano stated that there is a Negotiations meeting scheduled.

**Mrs. Smith made a motion to accept 10a – 10c, seconded by Mr. DiStefano.
All in favor**

11. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public discussed the reduction of “For Sale” signs in town and wondered about the status of HMX; Karen Solimando, President of High School PTO reported on success of annual Homecoming Under the Stars and thanked principals, Athletic Director and Superintendent for their cooperation. Concern was shared regarding the Board’s continued micromanagement of the Budget and their advocacy for tax cuts; President of HEPTO thanked the elementary school principals for meeting with them at the beginning of the school year. HEPTO provided agendas, folders for the students and has author visits and fall assemblies scheduled for the schools. Craft/Vendor fair scheduled for 11/17 at HS Gym to benefit Elementary school. Public happy to see Mr. Binotto as HS principal and Mr. Benfatti moved to MS principal as per Personnel addendum.

Anthony Fasano responds to questions posed by public:

- **The community is growing modestly; seeing people in their 20s and 30s moving in.**
- **Status of HMX is still under discussion**
- **We presently receive approximately \$11m annually in state aid but within 8 years we will receive less than \$2m.**
- **This year we received the \$611k back due to mold remediation costs. The state spelled out in the letter accompanying the reimbursement that our buildings are being utilized at less than 50% capacity and we need to plan ahead.**
- **Mr. Fasano responds that he does not feel that the Board micromanages the budget.**
- **Capital Reserve was \$1.36m; we have \$386k at present so the \$611k reimbursement is wonderful.**
- **Commends faculty and staff and response to remediation of mold crisis.**

Mr. DiBenedetto adds:

- **The BOE has not intimated whether they would like to see a tax increase or decrease.**
- **Meetings with Real Estate professionals in town affirmed that the current trend is an influx of younger families with young children or young people ready to begin families.**
- **The BOE and Mr. DiBenedetto will be working on recommendations to address enrollment growth.**

12. FINANCE

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

- a. Approval of bills for the General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account, September 24, 2018 through October 29, 2018, in the following amount:

General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account	-	\$2,589,210.63
Cafeteria account	-	\$ 0.00

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- b. Approval of the Transfer Report for the month of August, 2018.
- c. Approval of the Board Secretary's Report for the month of August, 2018.
- d. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of August, 2018.
- e. Acceptance of \$4,000 in credit from the completion of the 2017-18 SAIF Tier 1 Safety Incentive Program. This credit will be taken against the 2018-19 annual SAIF Insurance bill.
- f. Approval for payment of mold remediation services for the Middle High School from ServPro in the amount of \$741,297.36.
- g. Approval for payment of mold testing services from Phase Associates in the amount of \$78,096.69.
- h. Approval of motion to transfer funds from Capital Reserve for the district schools mold remediation in the amount of \$819,394.05.
- i. Approval of Turning Pointe Financial (L. Ragsdate, CFP) as an additional Tax Shelter Annuity Advisor for the Hopatcong School District.
- j. Approval of the 2018-19 Morris County Vocational School District tuition agreement.
- k. Approval of Jersey Mail Systems to provide the usage of three district postage machines for a five year lease at a rate of \$423.00 monthly. (Note: savings from Pitney Bowes on monthly lease fees \$141.75), 50% reduction in supply costs and no transaction or late fees.
- l. Approval of the 2018/2019 AHEARA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) Yearly Notification Letter.
- m. Approval of the 2018/2019 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan, Notification Letter.
- n. Approval of the 2018/2019 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist.
- o. Approval of the commodity purchase of Salt, Gasoline and Diesel fuel from the Borough of Hopatcong:
 - Parking Lot Salt at \$53.37 a ton.
 - Gasoline and Diesel fuel at Borough cost at fill.
- p. Approval of HEA Settlement Agreement for five (5) grievances. **Anthony Fasano adds to Finance 12p to read: Approval of HEA Settlement Agreement for five (5) grievances subject to final negotiations with legal counsel.**

Motion was made by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept 12a – 12p.

Mrs. Smith remarks that the sharing of salt and gasoline with the town is great.

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

Motion to approve Finance 12a – 12p passed.

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13. PERSONNEL

Approval of the following personnel items, **13a – 13r**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of the request of **Alana Benninger** for an adjustment of her Maternity Leave of Absence from her position as a Special Education Teacher at the Hopatcong Middle School from November 26, 2018 to November 1, 2018.
- b. Accept the resignation of **Melissa Gordon Sant** from her position as a part time 0.5 Facilities Secretary, effective September 26, 2018.
- c. Approval of the employment of **Sandra Hornick** as a 0.5 Facilities Secretary in the Hopatcong School District, at a prorated salary of 11,821 effective October 30, 2018.
11-000-261-105-01
- d. Rescind the employment of **Manal Kanaa** as approved at the September 24, 2018 Regular Board of Education meeting as a Paraprofessional in the district.
- e. Approval of the employment of **Heather McMillan** as a paraprofessional in the Hopatcong School District, at a rate of \$11.00 per hour, plus \$1.00 differential for toileting if applicable, effective October 30, 2018.
11-216-100-106-01
- f. Acceptance of the resignation of **Robert Chaewsky**, for the purpose of retirement, from his position as a Guidance Counselor at Hopatcong High School, effective December 1, 2018.
- g. Acceptance of the resignation of **Jacqueline Tillson**, from her position as a School Counselor/SAC at Hopatcong High School and Middle School, effective December 1, 2018.
- h. Acceptance of the resignation of **Gail Smith** from her position as a Paraprofessional in the Hopatcong Borough School District, effective October 27, 2018.
- i. Approval of the following salary guide movements, effective September 1, 2018. Salaries are based upon the 2017-2018 HEA Salary Guide and may change based upon the outcome of negotiations.

Name	From	To	Effective Date
Carr, Joanne	MA	MA+15	9/1/2018
Adams, Marissa	BA+30	MA	9/1/2018
Brennan, Pamela	BA+15	BA+30	9/1/2018
Tumminelli, Michelle	MA+30	MA+45	9/1/2018
Sanders, Barbara	BA+15	BA+30	9/1/2018

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j. Approval of the following 2018-2019 Winter Athletic Coaches for the Hopatcong High School:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary	Date Effective	Date Terminated
Mike Farrell	Appoint	Head Boys Basketball Coach	A	4	\$7,712.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Dave Campagna	Appoint	Asst. Boys Basketball Coach	A	4	\$5,034.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Dominic Schiavone	Appoint	Asst. Boys Basketball Coach	A	1	\$3,187.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Jamie Douglas	Appoint	Head Girls Basketball Coach	A	4	\$7,712.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Dominic Spuckes	Appoint	Asst. Girls Basketball Coach	A	4	\$5,034.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Julianne Brennan	Appoint	Asst. Girls Basketball Coach	A	2	\$3,666.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Eric Fajerman	Appoint	Head Wrestling Coach	A	4	\$7,712.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Chansok J Chey *	Appoint	Asst. Wrestling Coach	A	1	\$3,187.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Toby Richards	Appoint	Head Bowling Coach	A	4	\$5,034.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Jen Dixon	Appoint	Head Winter Cheerleading Coach	B	4	\$5,034.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Jill Vicedomini	Appoint	Asst. Winter Cheerleading Coach	B	4	\$3,287.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019
Hayley Vicedomini	Appoint	Asst. Winter Cheerleading Coach	B	2	\$2,403.00	9/1/2018	6/30/2019

* pending sub cert

k. Approval of the following for the Extra Duty/Extra Pay positions for the 2018-2019 school year at the Hopatcong High School, on an as needed basis:

Saturday Detention \$100.00 per day	Homework Club \$28.00 per hour
Linda Padula	Dominick Spuckes

l. Approval of the following for the Extra Duty/Extra Pay positions for the 2018-2019 school year at the Hopatcong Middle School, on an as needed basis:

Detention \$20.00 per hour	Homework Club \$28.00 per hour
McKenzie Norris	McKenzie Norris

m. Approval of the following 2018-2019 Advisors for the Hopatcong High School:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary	Date Effective	Date Terminated
Kurt Zimmermann	Rescind	High School Chorus	C	2	\$1818.00	9/1/18	6/30/19
Kristen O'Shea	Appoint	High School Chorus	C	1	\$1413.00	9/1/18	6/30/19
Luis Mendez	Rescind	Pop Band	D	3	\$1458.00	9/1/18	6/30/19
Susan Pallotta	Appoint	FIT Advisor	E	2	\$936.00	9/1/18	6/30/19

11-401-100-100-01-02

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- n. Whereas Danielle Manisa and Jacqueline Tillson were approved at the September 26, 2018 meeting of the Hopatcong Board of Education for 2 days of work prior to the start of the school year at a rate of \$35 per hour for 6 hours, and whereas Article VI B of the HEA contract states that “any teacher assigned to work in his/her regular professional capacity beyond the regular school year be compensated at a rate of 1/200th of his/her previous year salary, therefore be it resolved that the Superintendent recommends deletion of the September 24, 2019 resolution and correction in this resolution to compensate the two guidance counselors at 1/200th of their previous year salary for their work on September 11 and 12, 2018.
- o. Approval for the following Education students to conduct a field experience in the Hopatcong School District:

Student Name	School Year	University	Experience	School	Cooperating Staff Member
Leah Rodriguez	2018-2019	Sussex County Community College	Observation 10 hours	High School	Mr. Schiavone
Kayla Henderson	2018-2019	William Paterson University	Student Teacher	High School	Mr. Marino

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

ADDENDUM

1. It is recommended by the superintendent, with the understanding and acceptance of HOPA, that Linda Tappen, Secretary to the Athletic Director/Building Administrator, be given the traditional stipend set forth for the secretary of an assistant principal; this given due to the fact that she has an expanded number of responsibilities given administrative restructuring.
2. It is recommended by the superintendent that Emil Binotto, currently Hopatcong High School and Hopatcong Middle School Principal, be re-assigned to Hopatcong High School Principal only, effective immediately.
3. It is recommended by the superintendent that Lewis Benfatti, currently Principal on Special Assignment be re-assigned to Hopatcong Middle School Principal effective immediately.
4. It is recommended by the superintendent that the children of employee Barbara Beere, Hopatcong Middle School Nurse who is moving to another town, be allowed to stay in the Hopatcong Borough School District as per BOE policy 5111, Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students. Emma Beere is in Grade Five and Molly Beere is in Grade One.
5. It is recommended by the superintendent that the board accept the resignation of Michelle Fischer, Accounts Payable, effective November 16, 2018.
6. It is recommended by the superintendent approval of the request of Diane Veres for a medical leave of absence from her position as a Grade 4 Teacher, effective January 14, 2019 for approximately 3 months, or until medically cleared by her physician.

ADDED TO THE ADDENDUM DURING MEETING BY BOARD PRESIDENT ANTHONY FASANO:

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7. It is recommended by the superintendent that the board approve all Safe Schools in-service work be done on teacher’s own time in exchange for not having 4 in person in-service days as per original calendar for the 2018-19 school year only, due to unforeseen school closure at the beginning of this school year.

Motion to approve Personnel 13a – and including Addendum #7 is made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Ms. Trumppore:

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

Personnel item 13a – and including Addendum #7 passed.

14. STUDENTS & SERVICES

Approval of the following items, **14a – 14k**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval for educational instruction services for **Student No. 13597** for up to 10 hours per week beginning September 14, 2018. Instruction will be provided by Professional Education Services, Inc. at @\$35.00 per hour.
- b. Approval for an out of district placement at Roxbury Township Schools - Eisenhower Middle School for **Student No. 13764**. The tuition for the 2018/2019 school year is \$48,517.00 and \$27,990.00 for a 1:1 aide.
- c. Approval for home instruction services for **Student No. 412023** for 2 hours per week. Instruction will be provided by Hopatcong certificated staff at the rate of \$35.00 per hour. Instruction would start October 15, 2018.
- d. Approval for intermittent educational instruction services throughout inpatient treatments for **Student No. 11327** for up to 10 hours per week beginning November 17, 2017. Instruction was provided by Life Works Schools at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for a total of 21.5 hours.
- e. Approval for educational instruction services for **Student No. 12046** for up to 5 hours per week beginning October 10, 2018. Instruction will be provided by Saint Clare’s at a rate of \$55.00 per hour.
- f. Approval to submit to the Sussex County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education for a group size waiver 5th grade Pull-out resource center Language Arts Class
- g. Approval to submit to the Sussex County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education for a group size waiver 5th grade Pull-out resource center Math Class
- h. Approval to submit to the Sussex County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education for a group size waiver 7th grade In-class resource center Social Studies class
- i. Approval to submit to the Sussex County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education for a group size waiver 7th grade In-class resource center Science class.
- j. Approval for The Uncommon Thread agency to provide services for the 2018-2019 school year as needed. This agency is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

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- k. Approval of the field trip requests, as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Motion to approve Students and Services 14a – 14k is made by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Smith:

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

Students and Services items 14a – 14k passed.

15. CURRICULUM

Approval of the following items, **15a**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of the updated High School Physics Essentials curriculum.

Motion to approve Curriculum item 15a is made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Ms. Trumpore:

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

Curriculum item 15a passed.

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 \$2,285.50.
is made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. McLean:**

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

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<u>Policy#</u> P 5460	<u>Title</u> High School Graduation (Community Service Requirement) (M) (Revised)
P 5511	Dressing and Grooming (Revised)

<u>Regulation #</u> R 5511	<u>Title</u> Dress and Grooming (Revised)
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- 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>Policy#</u> P 5561	<u>Title</u> Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Student with Disabilities (M) (Revised)
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<u>Regulation #</u> R 5561	<u>Title</u> Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Student with Disabilities (M) (Revised)
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Mr. DiStefano asks for some detail on P 5511. Mr. Binotto responds that there were some changes: removed spaghetti straps from prohibited list and outerwear and baseball caps may now be worn in class. Individual teachers can override policy in their classrooms, to a certain degree.

Motion to approve Policies and Regulations items 17a and 17b was made by Mr. DiStefano and seconded by Mrs. Smith:

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

Policy and Legislation items 17a and 17b passed

18. RESOLUTIONS

- a. Approval of the **Memorandum of Agreement** between the Hopatcong Borough schools and the **Hopatcong Police Department** in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b) 13 through 14 as provided by the NJ Attorney General and NJ Commissioner of Education.
- b. Approval of the **Nursing Services Plans for the 2018/2019 School Year**, as required by NJQSAC, and assignment plan for certified nurses assigned to the school respectively during those hours when school is in session to complete duties outlined in N.J.A.A. 6A:16-2.1 (e) 1, as follows:

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Certified Nurse	School
Lillian MacRae	High School
Barbara Beere	Middle School
Pamela Cavallo	Durban Ave.
Jacqueline Henderson	Tulsa Trail School
Rosemary Smith	Hudson Maxim School

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve 18a – 18b, which was seconded by Mr. McLean:

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

Resolution items 18a – 18b passed.

19. SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE

Approval of the following items, **19a –19e9**, at the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Operations Committee of the Board:

- a. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative/Hopatcong Board of Education, approve the following resolution to disqualify, Destiny 23 Transportation, LLC as a bidder for a period of five years:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 allows the Hopatcong Board of Education ("Board") to disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the Board finds that it has had prior negative experience with the bidder within the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 defines prior negative experience as, among other things, the bidder defaulting on a contract that required the Board to utilize the services of another contractor to perform the services or to complete the contract; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Board, through the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative ("SCRTC"), contracted with Destiny 23 Transportation, LLC ("Destiny") to provide transportation services; and

WHEREAS, Destiny defaulted on the contract with the Board, leading to the Board terminating the contract and contracting with others contractors to complete the services; and

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WHEREAS, during the 2018-2019 school year, the Board, through the SCRTC, again contracted with Destiny to provide transportation services; and

WHEREAS, Destiny again defaulted on the contract with the Board by not employing properly licensed drivers; and

WHEREAS, the Board provided Destiny with written notice that: (1) the Board is considering disqualifying Destiny; (2) the reasons for disqualification; and (3) that Destiny has the right to a hearing before the Board; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the reasons for the disqualification outlined in the written notice provided to Destiny, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the Hopatcong School District and SCRTC to disqualify Destiny from being awarded contracts with the Board or SCRTC for a period of five years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, after due consideration and for the reasons set forth above, the Board finds that Destiny 23 Transportation, LLC is hereby disqualified from being awarded contracts with the Board or SCRTC for a period of five years pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4*.

- b. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative/Hopatcong Board of Education, approve to exclude Noor Transportation and Ideal Transportation from bidding on student transportation routes for the Sussex Wantage Regional School District due to prior negative experience.
- c. Approval of bills for the Sussex County Regional Cooperative Operating account for September 25, 2018 through October 29, 2018, in the amount of \$5,228,027.21 for Bus Contractor and \$17,311.24 for Regular bills.
- d. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of 1 New School District**, Paterson Public School District, as a **New Member** of the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the 2018-19 School Year.
- e. 1. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations** for **Special Education Routes** for the **2018-19 School Year** as listed on Exhibit A.
- 2. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award** of student transportation **quotations** for **Special Education Routes** for the **2018-19 School Year** as listed on Exhibit A.
- 3. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation contracts for **quoted Athletic/Class/Field Trips** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the **2018-19 School Year** as listed on Exhibit A.
- 4. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award** of student transportation contracts for **quoted Athletic/Class/Field Trips** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the **2018-19 School Year** as listed on Exhibit A.

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October 29, 2018**

5. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of **contract addendums for the 2018-19 School Year Routes** as listed on Exhibit A.
6. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation **recommend the approval of revisions** to previously approved renewal contracts for the 2018-19 School Year due to route cancellations.
7. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of corrections** to previously approved quotes as listed on Exhibit A. (The quotes were responsive and compliant in accordance with the specifications. However, the corrections are necessary due to clerical errors to correct the board minutes for county approval of the contracts.)
8. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval** of a **Joint Transportation Agreement** with Sparta Township Public School District for the 2018-19 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
9. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval** of a **Joint Transportation Agreement** with High Point Regional High School District for the 2018-19 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve 19a – 19e9, which was seconded by Mr. McLean:

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

Sussex County Regional Cooperative items 19a – 19e9 passed.

20. BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEMBER COMMENTS

- Carol Trumpore – Was privileged to attend School Boards in AC. Thrilled with presentations by Mr. Binotto, Dr. Edgerton and Dr. Mullane. Many school officials that attended were very interested in our programs.
- Warren Gallagher – 5 Buildings now have 5 principals! Homecoming Under the Stars was enjoyed by his son. Guidance Counselors are doing a wonderful job. Happy with news from the state. Lots of great events coming up.
- Candice Smith – Thrilled that Mr. Benfatti will now have a building. Good luck to him. There were great workshops in AC. HS Marching Band received Silver in Warren Hills competition. HEPTO Craft Fair 11/17. Night of Hope 11/16. Thank you for being here.
- Phil DiStefano – Hopatcong’s presentation in AC was well received and drove home the need for this program. Where are we putting the \$611k. Come to DA on Thursday to meet the candidates. Get home safely.
- Alex McLean – Pleasantly surprised with interactions with new Superintendent. He responds quickly. The money be returned by the state is strictly for mold. Next year we will lose it again or more. Hope all the kids have a great Halloween. Good luck to the candidates.
- Anthony Fasano – Mentioned a classmate from Hopatcong that passed away. Wishes the best of luck to the candidates. Safe Halloween to all.

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21. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by
Ms. Trumpore.**

All in favor

Time: 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen J. Ward
Board Secretary pro temp