

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2025

Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room
2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 7:01 pm

1. **FLAG SALUTE**

2. **OPENING 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 email that this Board of Education Special Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m on April 7, 2025 at the Hopatcong Board of Education, Board meeting room in the Administration Building.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present	Natalia Cappello	Present	Kevin Daviau	Present	Veronica Schram
Present	James Chaffee, Jr.	Present	Philip DiStefano	Present	Jennifer Polowchena
Present	Jayson Cittrich	Present	Jayna Gulan	Present	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

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

NONE

5. **RESOLUTIONS**

a. Application Submission – Additional Expenditures and Tax Incentive Aid

Whereas, in the proposed FY2026 State Budget, certain districts have the opportunity to apply to the Commission of Education to increase expenditures, including an allocation of Tax Levy Incentive Aid, in order to satisfy the thoroughness and efficiency standards established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46.

Whereas, the Hopatcong Borough Schools is below local fair share and spending below adequacy to be eligible to participate in this program.

Whereas, the Hopatcong Borough Schools is eligible to increase expenditures by \$397,216 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of \$19,861.

Whereas, the Hopatcong Borough Schools is requesting the approval to increase expenditures based on the following reasons:

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Over the past five years, our district has experienced a cumulative reduction in state aid totaling \$8.4 million due to the implementation of S-2. Despite these reductions, the District has made every effort to increase the local tax levy while maintaining fiscal responsibility, ensuring that budgetary decisions prioritize student needs and instructional quality. However, the loss of state aid has necessitated difficult cuts to essential programs and services, which the District now seeks to restore with the requested expenditure increase. Additionally, according to state figures, our district will enter the 2025-2026 budget year \$4 million under adequacy. These investments are crucial for maintaining compliance with the educational standards set forth by the State of New Jersey. Without these resources, our ability to provide students with a thorough and efficient education, as mandated by law, would be significantly compromised.

Therefore, the Hopatcong Board of Education is approving the submission of this application to the Commissioner of Education.

Motion to approve :

((ACTION))Motion by Chaffee. Seconded by Cappello

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	No	Philip DiStefano	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn:

((ACTION))Motion by Falconi-Schubert . seconded by Polowchena

All in favor: YES Time: 7:39pm

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Board Secretary