

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2025

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 6:01 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 Regular Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. following the Executive Session (in room 21) which starts at 6:00 p.m. on July 28, 2025 at the Hopatcong Board of Education, Board meeting room in the Administration Building.

3. **ROLL CALL**

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

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion will be made that the Hopatcong Board of Education will enter Executive Session in room 21 to discuss personnel and attorney/client privilege, which are exempt from public participation pursuant to New Jersey Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Open Public Meetings Act. Any discussions held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public when appropriate. Minutes of the Executive Session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at 7:00 p.m. following the executive session.

Motion to enter executive session:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano. seconded by Chaffee

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

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5. RECONVENE

- Jennifer Polowchena arrives 7:10pm

Motion to Reconvene

(ACTION) Motion by Gulan seconded by Schram

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- May 19, 2025- Executive Session
- May 19, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- June 16, 2025 -Executive Session
- June 16, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- June 24, 2025 - Special Meeting

Motion to approve 6a-6e:

(ACTION) Motion by Gulan. Seconded by DiStefano

Absent	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	Philip DiStefano * * abstain c, d	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND HIB REPORT

- Superintendent's Report – **Mr. Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Superintendent of Schools**
 - NJQSAC District Placement Review – Mr. Hallenbeck noted that we passed everything except 57% to 60% Instruction & Programs for NJQSAC. It is our goal to greatly improve those numbers.
 - NJGPA Reporting, Matthew Robinson – Mr. Robinson reviewed the NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment for Spring 2025
- A second reading and approval of the Superintendent's HIB Report for June 2025 as presented to the Board at the June meeting on June 16, 2025. Approval of the Superintendent's HIB report for July 2025 for first reading and review as presented to the Board at the July meeting on July 28, 2025.

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Motion to approve 7a –7b:

(ACTION) Motion by Chaffee. Seconded by Gulan

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

8. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Congratulations to **Hopatcong Middle School Students** who made **High Honor Roll and Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period of the 2024 – 2025 school year
- Congratulations to **Hopatcong High School Students** who made **High Honor Roll and Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period of the 2024 – 2025 school year

9. **PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

Nikki Roman-Gerena reports that the Marching Band are doing great and band camp starts next week. Parents and students are so excited that band is moving forward! Drama club picked their Fall play and it will be Arsenic and Old Lace performed November 20-23.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL DISCUSSION**

A member of the public stated that her taxes increased by \$438 a year because of the Referendum; why are their 64 paraprofessionals for the 25/26 school year? Mr. Hallenbeck responded that it is due to state law driven by student IEP requirements. Our HS liaison, Natalia Gerena-Roman reports that students are eager for the upcoming school year to begin. Another parent expressed concern that parents are not able to accompany their 4th graders to orientation at the MS and Mr. Hallenbeck conveyed that she should contact the building principal to discuss.

11. **FINANCE June 30, 2025**

Approval of the following Finance items, 11a– 11c, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

- It is recommended by the Superintendent that bills for the General Fund and Special Revenues (Grants) account, June 24, 2025, through June 30, 2025 be approved in the following amounts:

General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account -	\$295,951.98
Cafeteria account -	\$1,924.40
Fund 30 -	\$3,150.00
- Motion to approve the certification by the Board Secretary that the Account Balance Report, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, as of June 30, 2025, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

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- c. Motion to certify, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), as of June 30, 2025, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion to approve 11a – 11c:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano. Seconded by Gulan

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

Mr. Hallenbeck lost contact with Mr. Daviau, Mrs. Polowchena and Mrs. Falconi-Shubert who were attending remotely.

12. **FINANCE July 28, 2025**

Approval of the following Finance items, 12a– 12k, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that bills for the General Fund and Special Revenues (Grants) account, July 1, 2025, through July 28, 2025 be approved in the following amounts:
General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account - \$1,581,495.81
Cafeteria account - \$46,599.08
Fund 30 - \$21,000.00
- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2025.
- c. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Board Secretary's Report for the month of June 2025.
- d. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Transfer Report for the month of June 2025.
- e. Motion to approve the certification by the Board Secretary that the Account Balance Report, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, as of July 28, 2025, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).
- f. Motion to certify, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), as of July 28, 2025, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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- g. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approves the transfer from the Capital Reserve account of \$123,900.29 to the General Fund account for Debt Service payment #1 for the 2025/2026 school year.
- h. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Hopatcong Board of Education approve the establishment of petty cash accounts for the following locations/amounts:
 - High School - \$300
 - Middle School - \$150
 - Tulsa Trail - \$150
 - Durban Ave. - \$150
 - Superintendent Office - \$150
 - Business Office - \$150
- i. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the following resolution authorizing Contracts with Approved State Contract Vendors for Boards of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 School Year as follows:

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 (c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods or services utilizing State contracts; and
WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, intends to enter into contracts with the Referenced State Contract vendors through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contracts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hopatcong Board of Education School Business Administrator shall certify to the availability of sufficient funds prior to the expenditure of funds for such goods or services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the duration of the contracts between the Hopatcong Board of Education and the Referenced State Contract Vendor shall be effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (school year).

- j. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the following resolution authorizing Contracts with Approved County Contract Vendors for Boards of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 School Year as follows:

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 (c), may by resolution and without

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advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the Sussex County Cooperative Purchasing Program for any County contracts entered into on behalf of the Sussex County Office of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods or services utilizing County contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education, intends to enter into contracts with the Referenced County Contract vendors through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current County contracts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hopatcong Board of Education School Business Administrator shall certify to the availability of sufficient funds prior to the expenditure of funds for such goods or services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the duration of the contracts between the Hopatcong Board of Education and the Referenced County Contract Vendor shall be effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (school year).

12k was added at the meeting:

- k. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board approve the contract with Weatherproofing Technologies Inc. for Project# 5068910 High School Roof Area 10 under ESCNJ Contract – Roofing & Envelope Services Bid #ESCNJ23/24-30 in the total amount not to exceed \$181,096.43. The cost of the project shall be paid for from the District Referendum account. The base project cost is \$164,633.12 with an additional contract contingency of \$16,463.31

Motion to approve 12a – 12k:

(ACTION) Motion by Gulan. Seconded by Chaffee

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

13. **PERSONNEL**

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

- Approval of the High School Principal of Student Affairs/Athletics Job Description.
- Approval of the High School Principal of Academic Affairs Job Description.
- Approval to accept the resignation of **Isabel Yarosz** from her position as a Paraprofessional effective June 30, 2025.

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- d. Approval to accept the resignation of **Tamika Parks** from her position as a Paraprofessional effective June 30, 2025.
- e. Approval to accept the resignation of **Manuel Ovalles** from his position as a Custodian effective July 30, 2025.
- f. Approval to accept the resignation with regret, for the purpose of retirement, of **Tammy Miller** from her position as Director of Special Services effective December 31, 2025. Tammy has worked for the Hopatcong School District for the past 18 years.
- g. Approval of the leave of absence for **Employee #80341** using earned sick leave starting August 27, 2025 through September 12, 2025 or until cleared by a doctor.
- h. Approval of **Wendy Padilla** as a Paraprofessional at the Durban Ave School effective September 1, 2025 at a rate of \$16.73 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate.
- i. Approval of **Elizabeth Petrock** as a Paraprofessional at the Durban Ave School effective September 1, 2025 at a rate of \$16.73 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate.
- j. Approval of **Melanie Gabriel** as a Paraprofessional at the Tulsa Trail School effective September 1, 2025 at a rate of \$16.73 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate.
- k. Approval of **Kara Sowell** as a Paraprofessional at the Tulsa Trail School effective September 1, 2025 at a rate of \$16.73 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate.
- l. Approval of the hiring of **Anna Voloshin** as School Nurse at the Middle School effective September 1, 2025 at a salary of \$100,910, which represents MA+30, Step 14 of the 2025-2026 HEA contract.
- m. Approval of the employment of **Kelly Rafferty** as High School Math Teacher effective September 1, 2025 at a salary of \$65,755, which represents BA, Step 1 of the 2025-2026 HEA contract, pending certification from the NJDOE.
- n. Approval of the employment of **Alvaro Cardenas** as Full Time Custodian at a prorated salary of \$45,740, minus \$400 for not having a black seal, which represents Step 1 of the 2025-2026 HEA Support Staff Contract, start date pending background clearance.

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- o. Approval of **Christian Jensen** as the High School Principal of Academic Affairs effective September 1, 2025 or as soon as possible given his release from his current employer at a prorated salary of \$137,500 per the terms and conditions of the HAPS agreement.
- p. Approval of the change in assignment of **Stephanie Martinez** from High School Principal to the High School Principal of Student Affairs/Athletics effective August 1, 2025 at her current salary per the terms and conditions of the HAPS agreement.
- q. Approval of **Emil Binotto** as the Interim High School Principal of Academic Affairs effective July 29, 2025 at a per diem rate of \$740 on an as needed basis until the permanent High School Principal of Academic Affairs begins employment.
- r. Approval of **Christine Pascual** to work up to 30 hours total at \$40/hour to complete Preschool registration paperwork. (Funding by the Preschool Expansion Grant)
- s. Approval to rescind the offer of employment of **Natalie Earl** (High School Social Worker) and **Meg Castro** (Middle School Special Education Teacher) due to budgetary constraints.
- t. Approval to terminate the employment of the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year due to reasons of economy and lack of work upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Each employee must be provided with 60 days notice per contract and will remain with the district until September 26, 2025 or sooner if they request to be released from their contract to take another job.

Employee #
81745
81742

- u. Approval of the following **Involuntary Transfer Recommendations** based on staffing needs effective for the 2025-2026 school year:

Employee #	Current	Transfer
80482	Elementary Guidance	Elementary/Middle School Guidance Counselor
80394	Elementary Guidance	Shared Elementary Guidance
80817	Middle School Counselor	High School Guidance Counselor
80160	Elementary Reading Specialist	Grade 3 Teacher
80073	Grade 3 Teacher	Middle School Special Education Teacher

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81346	Elementary Reading Specialist	Middle School Special Education
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- v. Approval of the renewal of **Hank Fattorusso** as Job Coach for the 2025-2026 school year.
- w. Approval of the following **Paraprofessional renewals** for the 2025-2026 school year:

Abogendia, Elham Acquavella, Cara Aufiero, Mary Bastedo, Michelle Becker, Jamie Bell, David Bleibdrey, Adrienne Bravo, Raysa Brown, Wanda Chiquito, Amizelly Collantes, Cecilia Cutchis, Joan Cuttone, Josephine Daino, Marynoel delCampo, Erika Duran Pimentel, Marinelza Earl, Stephanie Egbert, Chris Engle, Dawn Finland, Nicole George, Donna George, Patty Gesregan, Julie Gessner, Fabiola Giordano, Theresa Gricenko, Nicole Grochulski, Tracey Guardiola, Wanda Hardman, Gretchen Hemmerich, Cheryl Insalaco, Mia Jennings, Amanda Justiniano, Beanca	Komt Giraldo, Nubia Kowal, Nicole Leon, Diana Maffeo, Donna Maitland, Judy Manco, Glaucielle Masterson, Lynn Merkle, Ann Monsalve, Candy Morgan, Dortha Moriarty, Gail Mueller, Kirk Murray, Mikel Ochs, Shelby Pagan, Joanne Parks, Tamika Rodriguez, Jariely Roio, Donna Rooker, Elise Smith, Connie Sprague, Jamie Stillwell, Jessica Taesler, Vicky Vater, Melissa Vaughan, Robin Vidal, Franchais Volpe, Marilyn Wallace, Marge Wiemer, Christine Yepes Patino, Leidy Zeier, Kim
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- x. Approval of the following **Coach/Advisor** Positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary
Gary Andolena	Appoint	Assistant Football Coach	B	4	\$5,034
James McKowen	Appoint	Spring E Sports	B	4	\$5,034
	Appoint	Winter E Sports	B	4	\$5,034
Tyler Fedorenko	Appoint	Marching Band Director	A	3	\$6,718

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Michael Juskus	Appoint	Bowling Coach	B	4	\$5,034
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- y. Approval of the following **Extra Duty/Extra Pay** Position for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary
Mamta Patel	Appoint	Head Nurse	\$2,500

- z. Approval of the following staff members to write curriculum over the summer at a rate of \$35/hour for the number of listed hours below which represents the negotiated rate from the HEA Contract:

Course/Subject	Name	Number of Hours
Probability and Statistics CP, AP Statistics	Nancy Duffy	20
PE K	Fajerman	15
PE 1	Fajerman	15
PE 4	Hilary Martin	15
PE 5	Hilary Martin	15
G&T 2	Sue Hill	15
G&T 3	Sue Hill	15
G&T 4	Sue Hill	15
G&T 5	Sue Hill	15
G&T 6	Sue Hill	15
G&T 7	Sue Hill	15
Science 6	Eric Shramko	15
Science 7	Leeanne Juliano	15
Science 8	Eric Shramko	15
Math 4	Ruth DeSaliva	15
Math 5	Ruth DeSaliva	15

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- aa. Approval of the following staff to take and receive tuition reimbursements*, as per contract, upon successful completion of the course and submission of paperwork

Course Approval /Reimbursement Approval

Name	Course Title	Course Number	Credits	Cost
Christina Belfiore	Understanding Asperger's Syndrome	EDUC 714U	3	\$420
Christina Belfiore	The Special Needs Brain: Helping it Learn	EDUC_718B	3	\$420

****The maximum rate of reimbursement per credit for the 24-25 school year is \$453. The rate of reimbursement per credit for the 25-26 is not yet calculated.***

- bb. Approval of the following cheer camp instructors:

1. Jadah Robinson
2. Kelsey-Anne Kelly

Motion to approve 13a-13bb:

(ACTION) Motion by Chaffee seconded by DiStefano

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

14. **TRAVEL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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 reimbursement listed in this resolution are in compliance with the state travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1. seq

Approval of the following staff to attend Professional Development/Conference*

Name	Title	Cost	Date
Stephanie Martinez	NJALAS Annual Conference	\$0	11/14/2025
Jennifer Valenti Stacey Montefusco Michelle Iannuzzi	The Center for Prevention and Counseling and The Sussex County School Counselor Association In Service	\$0 + mileage	10/13/2025

****Cost will be reimbursed upon completion of attendance and all documentation has been provided.***

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15. POLICY & REGULATIONS

Approval of item 15a, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement and Operations Committees of the Board:

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**:

Policy/Regulation #	Title
5440	Honoring Student Achievement
5430	Class Rank

Motion to approve 15:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano seconded by Chaffee

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

16. RESOLUTIONS

Approval of the following resolutions as per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

- It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve that Hopatcong Schools voluntarily agrees to join the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), which is a non-profit association of public and non-public high schools in the State of New Jersey and is authorized to participate in the approved athletic activities sponsored by the NJSIAA. The Board of Education hereby adopts as its own policy and agrees to be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.
- It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the application for IDEA-B Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Funding in the amount of Basic (ages 3-21) \$592,486 and Preschool (ages 3,4, and 5) \$21,480.
- It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the sidebar agreement with HAPS for a modification of job responsibilities for the Director of Special Services Position in accordance of terms and conditions of the agreement through June 30, 2026.
- It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sussex County Community College for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Academic Year for Concurrent Enrollment Program.

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- e. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the application waiver for the Bilingual Process Data Submission.
- f. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve that the following vehicles be approved for disposal since they have outlived their service life.

- 1) H-06 S11962 2013 Chevrolet WC Van 16 Passenger WC B
1GB3G3BG1D1186236
- 2) H-10 S11648 2010 Collins 16 Passenger W WC B
1GBKG31K891114488

Motion to approve 16a-16f:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano seconded by Schram

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

17. SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE

- a. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of bills** for the Sussex County Regional Cooperative Operating account for June 17, 2025 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$17,354.99 for Regular bills and \$5,277,797.62 for Contractor bills.
- b. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of bills** for the Sussex County Regional Cooperative Operating account for July 1, 2025 through July 28, 2025 in the amount of \$73,484.23 for Regular bills.
- c. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend **the approval of the following new member district** for the 2025-2026 school year:
North Brunswick Township School District
- d. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval to accept the resignation** of **Loni Nakos** from her position as Administrative Assistant effective July 27, 2025.
- e. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval to pay** Employee ID# 81094 for the balance of 14 vacation days.
- f.
 - 1. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations for Special Education Extended School Year Routes** for the 2025 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

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2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

2. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award** of student transportation **quotations for Special Education Extended School Year Routes** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2025 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
3. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of route contract addendums** for the 2025 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
4. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations for Athletic/Class/Field Trips** for the 2025-2026 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
5. 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 2025-2026 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
6. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **renewal of 2024-2025 Student Transportation Routes for School Related Activities for the 2025-2026 School Year** at or below the State issued CPI increase of 3.57% or less as listed on Exhibit A.

Motion to approve 17a-17f:

(ACTION) Motion by Chaffee. seconded by Gulan

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

18. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Schram – Thanked the attendees for their comments and expressing their concerns. The board is doing everything they can to balance the budget and be more efficient. We are sorry the community's taxes had to increase and we are very sorry to have to lose staff but we have been backed into a corner. Despite everything however our students are doing well: there was an article listing the top SAT scores for school districts in Sussex County and Hopatcong was number 4, beating Lenape! In addition, Matt's presentation on the NJGPA indicated an increase in scores with a nine-point improvement in the Math score. We are very proud of the academic progress our students have made.

Mr. DiStefano – Would like to underline what Mrs. Schram shared. Mr. DiStefano then congratulated Mr. Hallenbeck and Mr. Robinson for the improvements being made in academic achievements since this has always been a concern for him since he began on the board in 2016. Mr. Hallenbeck added that this was a testament to our staff.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2025

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

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Mrs. Gulan – Thanked Mr. Hallenbeck, Mr. Robinson and the entire team for trying to balance the budget without making the town suffer because of unfair calculations from the state.

Mr. Chaffee - Offered kudos to Mrs. Schram for the points she made earlier. Welcomed Mr. Jensen to the district. Mr. Chaffee added that the board is trying to be good stewards of the community's tax money. The students are doing well but we need to put pressure on the state and federal politicians to fund education as it should be funded. It is incredibly important to our children.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano. seconded by Gulan

All in favor: Yes Time: 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Hallenbeck, Board Secretary