

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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: 7:04 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 May 18, 2026 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
Absent	James Chaffee, Jr.	Absent	James Warin	Present	Jennifer Polowchena
Present	Jayson Cittrich	Present	Jayna Gulan <b>Attended Remotely after 7:06pm</b>	Present	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

Also in attendance: Brian Giardina, Board Attorney

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 Polowchena. seconded by Cappello

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

5. **RECONVENE**

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

**Motion to Reconvene**

(ACTION) Motion by Schram seconded by Polowchena

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Absent	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Absent	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:

- a. April 27, 2026 - Regular Meeting
- b. April 27, 2026 - Executive Meeting

**Motion to approve 6a-6b:**

(ACTION) Motion by Cappello. Seconded by Schram

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

**Mrs. Jayna Gulan joined by phone at 7:06pm**

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND HIB REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives, Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt, Lilyanne Zinsli  
*Reagan – reported that softball still has two games left; Guys track finished the season 5 – 1 and the girls had their first win in seven years; Sports Awards for all seasons are 5/19/2026 in the Auditorium at 6:00pm; Student Council elections are Wednesday; National Honor Society will be inducting new members Thursday, in the auditorium; Prom will be at the Chandelier in Flanders on Thursday, 5/28 with the Red Carpet in the gym beforehand.*  
*Lilyanne – NJSLA testing will be conducted 5/19 – 5/29. The Literary magazine has been sent to the publisher with contributions from teachers, High School and Middle School students. The Yearbook will arrive the last week of school. Our cheerleaders are already starting fundraising efforts because they are hoping to get to Disney World again next year, they are working to become a tumbling team as well. The Senior Awards will be held June 2 in the auditorium during which scholarships will be awarded. Concert Band was last Thursday with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade performing, then Jazz Band, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Tri-M and then 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade band. From the show Mama Mia, cast will be performing “Chiquitita” at the state teen arts.*  
*Natalia – Natalia Gerena-Roman and Natalie Leybov will also me at the Teen Arts, each performing a solo and also a duet together. The Marching Band car wash is*

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

*on Sunday at Lakeside Tire. Sign-ups for Marching Band are due 5/28/2026 and June 3, 2026 is the first rehearsal. On Saturday the Marching Band will be marching in the Hopatcong Memorial Day parade at 10am, and on Monday in the Stanhope parade at 1pm. This year Sussex County Youth Orchestra will be hosted at Hopatcong HS Auditorium; they also offered scholarships to our students. Dominick Amella and Natalie Leybov will be performing solos.*

*Mr. Hallenbeck thanked our Student Representatives for presenting student info and perspectives throughout the year.*

- b. Superintendent’s Report – **Mr. Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Superintendent of Schools**
- c. A second reading and approval of the Superintendent’s HIB report for March and April 2026 as presented to the Board at the April meeting on April 27, 2026.

**Motion to approve 7a –7c:**

(ACTION) Motion by Cappello. Seconded by Schram

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

### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as **Hopatcong Middle School’s Students-of-the-Month** for their outstanding performance in **April 2026**:  
Grade 5: Ashlee Arnold  
Grade 6: Amira Bizati, Avery O'Brien  
Grade 7: Hayden Dockhorn
- b. Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as **Hopatcong High School’s Students-of-the-Marking Period** for their outstanding performance in **Third Marking Period of 2025-2026**:  
Grade 8 – Riley Stewart  
Honorable Mention: Kennedy Raimondo, Brynn Tracey, John O'Brien  
Grade 9 – Grace Jurgaitis  
Honorable Mention: Salome Hurtado, Genesis Santos  
Grade 10 – Elijah Bailey  
Grade 11 – Timea Szabo  
Honorable Mention: Dane Wecht  
Grade 12 - Kayla Wright  
Honorable Mention: Kiyon Simpson
- c. WHEREAS, Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli has served with distinction on the Hopatcong Board of Education; and

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

WHEREAS, Through their leadership, the Hopatcong Board of Education has gained fresh insights into student concerns, student priorities and what is on the mind of young people in the community; and

WHEREAS, They have further contributed to the community by serving as a valuable spokesperson, sharing the student perspective at board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli exemplary commitment to fellow students and the school district has promoted clear communication between the board, district administration and the student body; and

WHEREAS, Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli has maintained a professional decorum at board meetings, shown respect to board members and strived to learn the proper etiquette of serving on a school board; and

WHEREAS, They have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the education of all students without neglecting their own responsibility to strive for success in the classroom. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Hopatcong Board of Education recognizes Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli dedication and commitment to advancing educational opportunity and open communication between the board, district administrators and the student body; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Hopatcong Board of Education extend their sincere appreciation to Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli for their dedicated service on the Hopatcong Board of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Hopatcong Board of Education extend their best wishes to Natalia Gerena-Roman, Reagan Gravatt & Lilyanne Zinsli in all of their future endeavors.

*Nicole Falconi-Shubert adds that applications are out on-line for juniors and seniors to apply for Board Liaison positions for 2026/2027 school year*

9. **PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

*Nikki Roman-Gerena – Applications due for band 5/28; June 1<sup>st</sup> will be a later audition.*

*Band camp will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August which is early for them. Nikki thanked the board for all there help with the challenges facing band this year.*

*Dr. Cappello – The HEPTO Color Run is June 6 at 2:00pm at Hilltop; Ice cream social at Tulsa Trail, 6/9 at 6pm.*

*Jennifer Polowchena - Project Graduation will be held at Spa 23 June 11- June 12 and they are still in need of parent chaperones.*

*Nicole Falconi-Shubert – The HHSPTSO purchased Zorb balls for the school; Ice cream social June 3, 2026 during all lunches.*

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL DISCUSSION - NONE**

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

### 11. FINANCE

Approval of the following Finance items, 11a.–11i , 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, April 27, 2026, through May 18, 2026 be approved in the following amounts:  
General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account - \$1,301,416.65  
Cafeteria account - \$81,170.31  
Fund 30 - \$914,477.90
- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2026.
- c. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Board Secretary's Report for the month of April 2026.
- d. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Transfer Report for the month of April 2026.
- 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 May 18, 2026, 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 May 18, 2026, 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.
- g. Approval of the appointment of Susan Dykstra as District Treasurer of School Monies at a salary of \$12,000, for the 2026/2027 school year.
- h. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the contract with Porzio, Bromberg & Newman for the 2026-2027 school year.
- i. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the tax levy payment schedule below for the 2026-2027 school year:

YEAR	MONTH	GEN FUND PAYMENTS
2026	July 2026	\$2,668,394.00
	August 2026	\$2,668,395.00
	September 2026	\$2,668,395.00
	October 2026	\$2,668,395.00
	November 2026	\$2,668,395.00
	December 2026	\$2,668,395.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$16,010,369.00</b>

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

2027	January 2027	\$2,668,393.00
	February 2027	\$2,668,395.00
	March 2027	\$2,668,395.00
	April 2027	\$2,668,395.00
	May 2027	\$2,668,395.00
	June 2027	\$2,668,395.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	\$16,010,368.00
<b>Total</b>		\$32,020,737.00

- j. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the continuation of the following Cooperative purchasing agreements for the 2027-2027 school year:

Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (E.S.C.N.J.)
New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance
Educational Services Commission of Morris County
Omnia Partners
SourceWell
U.S. Commodities
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC)
PC America

**Motion to approve 11a – 11l:**

(ACTION) Motion by Cappello. Seconded by Polowchena

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

**12. PERSONNEL**

Approval of the following personnel items, **12a – 12r**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval to accept the resignation with regret, for the purpose of retirement, of **Mary Burns** from her position as High School Science Teacher effective June 15, 2026. Mary has worked for the Hopatcong School District for 22 years.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

- b. Approval of the resignation of **Briana Kutty** from her position as a Paraprofessional effective May 1, 2026.
- c. Approval of the resignation of **Stephanie Vitale** from her position as Durban Avenue School Psychologist effective June 30, 2026.
- d. Approval of **Employee #81551** to take a 12-week unpaid leave of absence using FMLA/NJFLA beginning August 26, 2026 with a return date of November 23, 2026.
- e. Approval of **Megan Nardone** as High School Math Temporary Assistance Position, for the purpose of lesson planning and grading at a rate of \$35 per hour for 1-2 hours per week/per class period. (7 hours total a week)
- f. Approval of **Jonathan Rischawy** as Middle School Art Temporary Assistance Position, for the purpose of lesson planning and grading at a rate of \$35 per hour for 1-2 hours per week/per class period. (3 hours total a week)
- g. Approval of the employment of **Kelly Galinkin** as Middle School ERI Teacher at a salary of \$91,090 which represents MA+15, step 9 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026.
- h. Approval of the employment of **Julia Hagedoorn** as Middle School MD Teacher at a salary of \$72,140 which represents BA, step 1 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026, pending NJDOE teaching certification.
- i. Approval of the employment of **Jessica Coello-Eresman** as Middle School/High School MLL Teacher at a salary of \$91,090, which represents MA+15, step 9 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026.
- j. Approval of the employment of **Christy Brennan** as Middle School Physical Education Teacher at a salary of \$72,140, which represents BA, step 1 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026.
- k. Approval of the employment of **Ryan Tatarka** as High School Science Teacher at a salary of \$81,140, which represents BA, step 8 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026.
- l. Approval of the employment of **Matthew Robinson** as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, at an annual salary of \$176,325 effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. In addition, he shall receive a stipend of \$100 per day for additional duties performed as Director of Special Services during the term of this agreement, calculated on a 260-day per diem basis as approved by the Sussex County Executive Superintendent.
- m. Approval of the following staff for the **Extra Duty/Extra Pay** Positions for the 2026 – 2027 school year:

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

Name	Nature of Action	Duty/Position	Salary
Alana Benninger	Appoint	MS Lunch Monitor - Grade 4	\$2,400
Yanet Guevara	Appoint	MS Lunch Monitor - Grade 5	\$2,400
Luis Mendez	Appoint	MS Lunch Monitor - Grade 6	\$2,400
Leeanne Juliano	Appoint	MS Lunch Monitor - Grade 7	\$2,400
Amanda Maliszewski	Appoint	TT Cafeteria/Recess Duty -split	\$1,425
Jenn Neu	Appoint	TT Cafeteria/Recess Duty -split	\$1,425
Noelle D'Amato	Appoint	8th Grade Class Advisor - split	\$379
Kelly Rafferty	Appoint	8th Grade Class Advisor - split	\$379
Craig Vallaro	Appoint	Freshman Class Advisor	\$758
Laura Tykowski	Appoint	Sophomore Class Advisor	\$909
Austin Brown	Appoint	Junior Class Advisor	\$1,722
Megan Nardone	Appoint	Senior Class Advisor	\$2,456
Austin Brown	Appoint	Winter Weight Room Instructor	\$1,100
David Campagna	Appoint	Spring Weight Room Instructor	\$1,100

n. Approval of the following **Coach/Advisor** Positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary
Vincent Marinoni	Resign	Asst. Football Coach	B	4	\$5,034
Luis Mendez	Appoint	Intramural Sports	C	4	\$2,858
Christopher Bove	Appoint	Summer Athletic Trainer	A	4	\$7,712
Christine Kalemba	Appoint	NHS	A	4	\$2,181.50
Heather DelBagno	Appoint	NHS	A	4	2,181.50
Heather Delbagno	Appoint	NJHS	C	4	\$1,429
Christine Kalemba	Appoint	NJHS	C	4	\$1,429
Nancy Duffy	Appoint	Academic Bowl	E	4	\$1,566
Christine Kalemba	Appoint	Literary Magazine	C	4	\$2,858
Nick Schiavone	Appoint	Yearbook	A	4	\$4,363
Peter Oesen	Appoint	HS Student Council	B	4	\$1,643.50
Ken Olsen	Appoint	HS Student Council	B	4	\$1,643.50
Ken Olsen	Appoint	Quest	C	4	\$2,858
Hank Fattorusso	Appoint	Quest	C	4	\$2,858
Kerri Batche	Appoint	Fall Play Director	B	4	\$3,287
Megan Nardone	Appoint	Fall Play Costume Makeup	D	4	\$1,782
Kerri Batche	Appoint	Spring Vocal Director	D	4	\$1,782

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

Megan Nardone	Appoint	Fall Drama Club Advisor	D	4	\$1,782
Kerri Batche	Appoint	Spring Play Director	B	4	\$3,287
Megan Nardone	Appoint	Spring Drama Club Advisor	D	4	\$1,782
Megan Nardone	Appoint	Spring Play Costume Makeup	D	4	\$1,782
Nicole Rizzo Deluca	Appoint	HS Spring Play Choreographer	D	4	\$1,782
Jean Marsicovete	Appoint	Music Advisor	B	2	\$2,151
Jean Marsicovete	Appoint	Tri-M	D	2	\$1,175
Jean Marsicovete	Appoint	Jazz Band	D	2	\$1,175
Jean Marsicovete	Appoint	Spring Music Director	D	2	\$1,175

- o. Approval for **High School Counselors** to work up to a total of 21 days during the summer, not to exceed 7 days per individual, at a per diem rate of 1/200th of their annual 25-26 salary, pending administration approval.
- p. Approval of **Susan Pallotta** to work for Summer Case Management and Scheduling, not to exceed 15 days at a per diem rate of 1/200th of their annual 25-26 salary, pending administration approval.
- q. 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
Siobhan Winkler	The Special Needs Brain: Helping it Learn	EDUC_718B	3	\$420
	Implementing Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom	EDUC_718W	3	\$420
Tracey Talmadge	Advanced Accounting	ACC-4201-OL	4	\$2,234.65
Christina Belfiore	The Special Needs Brain: Helping it Learn	EDUC_718B	3	\$420
	Implementing Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom	EDUC_718W	3	\$420
Erica Strzepek	Understanding & Dealing with Difficult Parents	EDUC_712X	3	\$420

**\*The maximum rate of reimbursement per credit for the 25-26 school year is \$512.04.**

- q. Approval of the following 2026 Extended School Year (ESY) Programs:

NOTE: Programs and staffing recommendations are made in order to remain in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 14 (Special Education Code).

**The following teachers are recommended for employment:**

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

- Amanda Maliszewski
- Michael Farrell
- Katlin Cadavid
- Julie Wilson
- Christine Braun
- Diana Pinto
- Emily Pappas
- Jennifer Gigantino
- Karylin Ireland
- Craig Vallaro

\*Rate of pay for each teacher above will be \$40 per hour. Teachers will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **The following paraprofessionals are recommended for employment as a classroom paraprofessional or bus aide:**

- Mary Aufiero
- Wanda Brown
- Cecilia Collantes
- Marynoel Daino
- Christine Egbert
- Julie Gesregan
- Theresa Giordano
- Nicole Gricenko
- Wanda Guardiola
- Judith Maitland
- Patti Mott
- Kirk Mueller
- Francheis Vidal
- Marguerite Wallace
- Christine Wiemer
- Jessie Locascio
- Kathryn Onipenco
- Kara Sowell
- Isabella Kestenholz
- Autumn Reeves
- Amitzelly Chiquito
- Ann Merkle
- Joanne Pagan
- Melissa Vater
- Nubia Komt Giraldo
- Elizabeth Petrock
- Gail Moriarty

\*Rate of pay for each paraprofessional will be \$17 per hour. Paraprofessionals will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

### **The following school nurses are recommended for employment:**

- Mamta Patel

\*Rate of pay for each school nurse will be \$50 per hour. These school nurses will be sharing one position which has a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **The following case manager is recommended for employment:**

- Jennifer Valenti

\*Rate of pay for the case manager will be \$50 per hour. The case manager will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **The following Physical Therapist is recommended for employment:**

- Melanie Piereth

\*Rate of pay for the physical therapist will be \$65 per hour. The physical therapist will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **The following Speech/Language Specialist is recommended for employment:**

- Christi Dougherty

\*Rate of pay for the SLP will be \$65 per hour. The SLP will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **Occupational Therapist,**

These related service providers will be employed on an as needed basis with an hourly rate as per an independent contract with each professional. The hours are to be determined by student IEPs.

- Tasneem Abouelmagd– Occupational Therapist

### **The following substitute paraprofessionals are recommended for employment:**

- Nicole Finland

\*Rate of pay will be \$17/hour. The substitute paraprofessional will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **The following substitute paraprofessionals/teachers are recommended for employment:**

- Jami Cerrato

\*Rate of pay will be \$17/hour as a paraprofessional and \$40/hour as a teacher. the substitute teacher/para will work a maximum of 72 hours over 12 days.

### **Substitute Staff**

- All staff members, approved substitute teachers, and approved substitute paraprofessionals from the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years are recommended to be utilized on an as-needed basis as substitutes during the Extended School Year 2026 program.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

- All appropriately certified staff members of the 2026 Extended School Year Program are recommended to be utilized on an as-needed basis as substitutes during the Extended School Year 2026 Program.

### r. **Summer Evaluations**

These positions are required in order to complete identification meetings, evaluations of students, and eligibility/IEP meetings as required by N.J.A.C. 6A: 14 (Special Education Code).

#### **Learning Disability Teacher Consultants**

Jennifer Valenti

Nancy Stephens

#### **School Psychologists**

Jaclyn DiBrienza-Cikovic

Stacey Montefusco

Stephanie Vitale

#### **Social Workers**

Dawn Hersh

Susan Pallotta

#### **Speech/Language Specialists**

Gabrielle Cardosa-Schnabel

Kristine Kester

Christi Dougherty

Emily Taylor

Siobhan Winkler

#### **Physical Therapist**

Melanie Piereth

#### **Occupational Therapist**

Christina Belfiore

#### Rates of Pay for Evaluations/Meetings:

- Psychological and Educational Evaluations – flat rate of \$300.00 each
- Social Histories – flat rate of \$200.00 each
- Speech/Language – flat rate of \$250.00 each
- OT/PT –flat rate of \$250.00
- Case managers will be paid an extra \$150.00 per case
- Teachers/Case managers/Related Service Providers – flat rate of \$50.00 to attend each meeting

All staff members from the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years are recommended to be utilized on an as needed basis as certificated staff

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

members at special education code required meetings on an as needed basis.

**Motion to approve 12a-12r:**

ACTION) Motion by Cappello seconded by Polowchena

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

**13. 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
Jeff Hallenbeck	NJASBO Annual Conference	Registration Fee, Hotel \$557.21 + \$473.88 Meals/Mileage/Parking Reimbursement	6/2/26-6/5-26
Tracey Talmadge	Preparing for Audit by Nisivoccia	\$0 + mileage	6/18/26

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

**14. STUDENT AND SERVICES**

Approval of the following items, 14a-14c as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval for the extension of home instruction services for student no. 14229. Five hours per week of instruction will be provided by Hopatcong certificated staff at the Board approved rate of \$40.00 per hour beginning 5/6/26 until 6/15/26.
- b. Approval for a maximum of 10 hours per week of educational instruction services for student no. 413078 beginning 5/6/26. The anticipated duration of services is approximately 30-60 days. Instruction will be provided by Learnwell at a rate of \$56.70 per hour.
- c. Approval of the following field trips:

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

Trip	School
Treescape Adventure Park	Middle School
Chilis	High School

### 15. **RESOLUTIONS**

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

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the agreement between the Hopatcong Borough Schools District and Sussex County Educational Services for the 2026-2027 school year for ancillary educational services
- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the existing Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls (updated 2023) be approved for the 2026/2027 school year.

### 16. **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 April 28, 2026 through May 18, 2026 in the amount \$417,392.48 for Regular bills and \$5,009,594.99 for Contractor bills.
- b. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval of the contract renewal for the following Sussex County Regional Cooperative Office Staff*** for the 2026-2027 school year:

Employee	Salary \$	Longevity \$
Margaret Byrnes	72,018.87	3,000.00
Lori Bruder	84,460.00	3,000.00
Danielle Iadarola	67,161.15	1,200.00
Dana Jones	72,018.87	4,000.00
Evelyn Lavin	54,901.58	450.00
Sandra Mangrella	73,202.10	0.00
Nicholas Fairchild	100,425.00	0.00

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

- c. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of the contract renewal for the following Sussex County Regional Cooperative Administrators** for the 2026-2027 school year:

Employee ID #	Salary \$	Longevity \$
Janine Byrnes	177,095.58	6,000.00
Kathleen Schwab	123,966.91	9,000.00
Christopher Verdi	122,533.95	0.00

- d. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of Nancy Rosikiewicz, Substitute Receptionist** for the 2026-2027 school year at an hourly rate of \$20.00.
- e. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of Merit** to be paid by June 30, 2026 as follows:

Employee ID #	Merit \$
Margaret Byrnes	2,500.00
Danielle Iadarola	2,000.00
Dana Jones	2,000.00
Evelyn Lavin	2,500.00
Sandra Mangrella	2,000.00
Nicholas Fairchild	3,000.00
Janine Byrnes	5,500.00
Kathleen Schwab	4,500.00
Christopher Verdi	4,500.00

- f.
1. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations for Special Education School Year Routes** for the 2025-2026 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 School Year Routes** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2025-2026 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
  3. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of route contract addendums** for the 2025-2026 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

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 approval of Parent Transportation Contract** for the 2025-2026 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
7. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the acceptance of bids submitted from the April 15, 2026 Bid #2026-27-01** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
8. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the rejection of bids submitted from the April 15, 2026 Bid #2026-27-01** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
9. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the acceptance of bids submitted from the April 16, 2026 Bid #2026-27-02** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
10. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the rejection of bids submitted from the April 16, 2026 Bid #2026-27-02** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
11. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the acceptance of bids submitted from the April 22, 2026 Bid #2026-27-03** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
12. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation **recommend the award of bids submitted from the April 22, 2026 Bid #2026-27-03** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor company for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
13. The Superintendent and the Director of **Transportation recommend the rejection of bids submitted from the April 22, 2026 Bid #2026-27-03** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

**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

14. The Superintendent and the Director of *Transportation recommend the acceptance of bids submitted from the May 5, 2026 Bid #2026-27-04* for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
15. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation **recommend the award of bids submitted from the May 5, 2026 Bid #2026-27-04** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor company for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
16. The Superintendent and the Director of *Transportation recommend the rejection of bids submitted from the May 5, 2026 Bid #2026-27-04* for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
17. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **renewal of 2025 Extended School Year Routes for the 2026 Extended School Year** at State issued CPI increase of 3.58% or less as listed on Exhibit A.
18. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **renewal of 2025-2026 School Year Routes for the 2026-2027 School Year** at State issued CPI increase of 3.58% or less as listed on Exhibit A.
19. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **renewal of 2024-2025 School Related Activity Routes for the 2025-2026 School Year** at State issued CPI increase of 3.57% or less as listed on Exhibit A.
20. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation **recommend the approval of the following Member Districts** for the 2025-2026 School Year:  
**Neptune**  
**Unity Charter**
21. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **approval of the following Member Districts** for the 2026-2027 School Year:  
**Somerset Hills School District**  
**Neptune Township School District**

**Motion to approve items 13 – 16:**

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. seconded by Cappello

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

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

## ADDENDUM

### 1. RESOLUTIONS

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the sale of selected District buses (as outlined on the fleet roster) to the highest bidder(s).

**Motion to approve 1a :**

(ACTION)Motion by Schram. Seconded by Cappello

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

### 2. SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE

- a. **WHEREAS**, after due consideration, in order to effectuate a change in the organization of the Board, which is desired, and for reasons of economy and efficiency, the Board finds it advisable to implement a reduction in force as to certain provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes the approval of the recommended reorganization is in the best interests of the Cooperative;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Hopatcong Board of Education that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Transportation, effective July 1, 2026 the following positions are abolished:

1. Bus Driver
2. Bus Aide

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary and/or Director of Transportation to notify all affected employees of their employment status, to update the Cooperative's position control roster to reflect the status of the abolished positions, and to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

# HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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

### Motion to approve 2a:

(ACTION) Motion by Daviau. Seconded by Polowchena

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

### 17. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Cappello – Thanked everyone that came out and offered best wishes to all our students taking finals. Some difficult decisions had to be made this year and it was very hard.

Jennifer Polowchena – Thanked everyone.

James Warin – Noted that the Books & Beyond ceremonies were very nice.

Veronica Schram – Wished the best of luck with finals to our students and offered congratulations to Mary Burns on her retirement. Mrs. Schram also thanked our board liaisons for their outstanding contributions this year.

Kevin Daviau – Expressed the same as Mrs. Schram.

Nicole Falconi-Shubert – This was a year of hard decisions; we are unable to offer many extras to our students because of the financial strain put on us by the state budget cuts, ever increasing healthcare contributions and economic crisis in our country. Our focus is on academics and student and staff safety. Thank you to anyone who would like to help our district develop more opportunities for revenue enhancement.

### 18. ADJOURNMENT

#### Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. seconded by Daviau

All in favor: Yes Time: 7:39pm

Respectfully submitted by,



Jeff Hallenbeck, Board Secretary