

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUDUBON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2024
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, the Audubon Board of Education transmitted notice of this meeting, scheduled at 7:00 P.M. in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Library Media Center to the Retrospect newspaper and the Borough Clerk and by postings on the Audubon Public School District website and at the Main and the Pine Street entrance of the Junior-Senior High School.

SY 2022-2024

 X James Blumenstein X Allison Cox X Andrea Robinson

SY 2023-2025

 X Ammie Davis X Stephen Wilson

SY 2024-2026

 X Alison Lipsky X Mark Gatti X Bill Wilson

SY 2024 Mt. Ephraim Representative

 X Johnathan Maxson

Student Representative to the Board

Apprentice Student Representative

 A Monica Coller

 A Jane Poponi

- III. **Call Meeting to Order**

- IV. **Flag Salute**

- V. **Presentation(s):** **Presentation of the 2024-2025 Budget**

- VI. **Participation:** (Agenda Items Only) None

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board has set aside two portions of this Board meeting for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of interest to the residents of the school district.

For the first portion, public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda for tonight's meeting. For the second portion, public comments are invited on all matters pertaining to the school district.

Participants should announce their name, address, and any group they may represent, if applicable. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion. Public discussion of a topic will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and

individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. Reference bylaws #0167 of the Audubon Public Schools Board of Education Manual.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen. Not all issues brought to a Board meeting will be resolved at that particular meeting. Complaints stated or actions requested by the public may be taken under advisement by the Board for investigation, discussion, actions, or disposition at a later date or time. The public comments sessions are an opportunity for citizens to share their opinions and remarks with the Board; it is not a question and answer session. The Board may or may not respond to public comments at the time they are made and is under no obligation to do so.

The Board does not endorse public comments nor will the Board be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Any individuals who may be the subject of public comments, including district employees, shall retain all rights against defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

All motions are voted on by all members unless otherwise marked with a +.

VII. OPERATIONS: Chairperson: Mrs. Cox – Committee Members: Ms. Butrica, Ms. Davis, Mr. Miller and Alternate: Mr. Wilson

Board of Education Goals

- ❖ To continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing the achievement gaps.
- ❖ To maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages and facilitates long-range facility improvements.
- ❖ To foster a positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 1

Motion by Mr. Maxson and seconded by Ms. Lipsky

1. Motion to approve the following resolution for the Adoption of the 2024/2025 School Budget:

WHEREAS, the Audubon Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 20, 2024 and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 18, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Retrospect Newspaper in April 26, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Library Media Center on May 1, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has now determined to make modifications to the Tentative Budget as follows:

Budget Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
11-1XX-100-XXX	Total Regular - Instruction	8,728,317	8,832,521	104,204	The original submission included the release of three teachers and included additional supplies. The team decreased supply expenditures and reinstated the monies for staffing. No staff are being released.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE AUDUBON BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY 1, 2024

11-2XX-100-XXX	Total Special - Instruction	2,816,924	2,791,924	(25,000)	The district was able to secure an in-house special education paraprofessional in lieu of contracted services. This hire is a cost savings.
11-230-100-XXX	Total Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction	616,261	616,011	(250)	This reduction reflects a decrease in intervention supplies.
11-401-100-XXX	Total School-Spon. Co/Extra Curr. Actvts. - Inst	370,990	298,577	(72,413)	This reduction reflects a decrease in stipend positions, e.g. inactive & active clubs, decrease in numbers of staff serving, etc. The services provided under these positions will either occur with less staff or through other means.
11-402-100-XXX	Total School-Sponsored Athletics - Instruction	624,129	589,164	(34,965)	This reduction reflects the removal of unnecessary athletic trainer stipends and the collapse in freshman sports. All freshman athletes will and have had the opportunity to compete at the Junior Varsity or Varsity level.
11-000-213-XXX	Total Undist. Expenditures - Health Services	286,632	285,232	(1,400)	This reduction reflects a decrease in health services supplies. The budgeted monies reflect actual expenditures over time.
11-000-218-XXX	Total Undist. Expenditures - Guidance	775,319	836,851	61,532	The original budget included the elimination of a Jr-Sr High School Counselor; this position will remain for the 2024-2025 school year.
11-000-219-XXX	Total Undist. Expenditures - Child Study Teams	827,805	799,805	(28,000)	The District anticipates some breakage in retirements over the 2024-2025 school year.
11-000-221-XXX	Total Undist. Expend.-Improv. Of Inst. Serv.	538,321	531,281	(7,040)	This change reflects reductions in curriculum committees and workshop attendance.
11-000-222-XXX	Total Undist. Expend.-Edu. Media Serv./Library	357,761	355,761	(2,000)	This reduction reflects a decrease in library media supplies. The budgeted monies reflect actual expenditures over time.
11-000-223-XXX	Total Undist. Expend.-Instr. Staff Training Serv.	33,340	32,340	(1,000)	This reduction reflects a decrease in out-of-district professional development presenters.
11-000-240-XXX	Total Undist. Expend.-Support Serv.-School Admin.	826,316	824,816	(1,500)	This reduction reflects a decrease in administrative supplies. The budgeted monies reflect actual expenditures over time.
11-000-26X-XXX	Total Undist. Expend.-Oper. And Maint. Of Plant Serv.	2,171,504	2,179,336	7,832	The original budget included the elimination of a Jr-Sr High School Hallway Monitor. With additional cost savings measures, this position will remain for the 2024-2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following FINAL Budget for the 2024/2025 school year

	2024/2025 Budget	Audubon Borough Tax Levy	Audubon Park Tax Levy
General Fund	27,534,166	13,615,968	301,798
Special Revenue Fund	1,972,980	0	0
Debt Service Fund	2,245,437	1,719,244	17,361
Total	31,752,583	15,335,212	319,159

WHEREAS, the Audubon Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1,1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, that the Audubon Board of Education established \$ 49,490.00 as the allotted maximum expenditures for 2023/2024 school year and has expended \$ 13,751.00 as of this date.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audubon Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursement in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A: 23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$ 45,140.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audubon Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$ 94,079.00.00 for the purpose of adjustment for increase in health care costs. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audubon Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increased costs of Health Benefits in the amount of \$ 144,207.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 1: J. Maxson Second: A. Lipsky

Roll Call

<u>X</u> Ammie Davis	<u>X</u> Stephen Wilson	<u> </u>	<u>X</u> Johnathan Maxson
<u>X</u> Alison Lipsky	<u>X</u> Mark Gatti	<u>X</u> Bill Wilson	
<u>X</u> James Blumenstein	<u>X</u> Allison Cox	<u>X</u> Andrea Robinson	

VOTE FOR ITEM 1

Motion approved by unanimous roll call (9-0)

- XIII. GOVERNANCE: Chairperson – Alison Lipsky; Committee Members – James Blumenstein, Mark Gatti, William Wilson; and Alternate – Andrea Robinson**
- XIV. OPERATIONS: Chairperson – Allison Cox; Committee Members – , Ammie Davis, Stephen Wilson; and Alternate – Mark Gatti.**
- XV. EDUCATION: Chairperson – Andrea Robinson; Committee Members – James Blumenstein, Alison Lipsky, Johnathan Maxson; and Alternate – William Wilson.**
- XVI. HUMAN RESOURCES: Chairperson – Ammie Davis; Committee Members – Johnathan Maxson, Alison Cox, Stephen Wilson, and Alternate Mark Gatti**

Board of Education Goals

- ❖ To continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing the achievement gaps.
- ❖ To maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages and facilitates long-range facility improvements.
- ❖ To foster a positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 1

Motion by Ms. Lipsky and seconded by Mr. S. Wilson

1. Motion to approve the employment contract for Sandra Allen, Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, as approved by the County Executive Superintendent.

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 1: A. Lipsky Second: S. Wilson

Roll Call

<u>X</u> Ammie Davis	<u>X</u> Stephen Wilson	<u>X</u> Johnathan Maxson
<u>X</u> Alison Lipsky	<u>X</u> Mark Gatti	<u>X</u> Bill Wilson
<u>X</u> James Blumenstein	<u>X</u> Allison Cox	<u>X</u> Andrea Robinson

VOTE FOR ITEM 1

Motion approved by unanimous roll call (9-0)

VIII. Public Participation: (Open Discussion)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board has set aside two portions of this Board meeting for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of interest to the residents of the school district.

For the first portion, public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda for tonight's meeting. For the second portion, public comments are invited on all matters pertaining to the school district.

Participants should announce their name, address, and any group they may represent, if applicable. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion. Public discussion of a topic will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. Reference bylaws #0167 of the Audubon Public Schools Board of Education Policy Manual.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen. Not all issues brought to a Board meeting will be resolved at that particular meeting. Complaints stated or actions requested by the public may be taken under advisement by the Board for investigation, discussion, actions, or disposition at a later date or time. The public comments sessions are an opportunity for citizens to share their opinions and remarks with the Board; it is not a question and answer session. The Board may or may not respond to public comments at the time they are made and is under no obligation to do so.

The Board does not endorse public comments nor will the Board be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Any individuals who may be the subject of public comments, including district employees, shall retain all rights against defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Media Center.
2. Motion by Mr. Maxson seconded by Ms. Lipsky to adjourn meeting at approximately 7:50pm.

Motion approved by unanimous roll call (9-0) Member Blumenstein was absent.

Motion to Approve: J. Maxson Second: A. Lipsky

Roll Call

<u>X</u> Ammie Davis	<u>X</u> Stephen Wilson	<u> </u>	<u>X</u> Johnathan Maxson
<u>X</u> Alison Lipsky	<u>X</u> Mark Gatti	<u>X</u> Bill Wilson	
<u>X</u> James Blumenstein	<u>X</u> Allison Cox	<u>X</u> Andrea Robinson	

The Audubon Board of Education reserves the right to add and/or delete motions or make changes to motions in this agenda up to the time of the meeting and during the actual meeting.

Deborah Roncace
Business Administrator/Board Secretary