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The following items are contained in the March 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes:

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24. Adjournment

The Regular Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on March 5, 2025 by Board President, Mr. Joseph Pepe, at the Eugene A. Tighe Media Center.

Certification of Notice:

Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary, announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

On May 21, 2024 a notice of this meeting was posted on the district website, the bulletin board in the Board of Education Administration Office, the Eugene A. Tighe School, the William H. Ross III School and emailed to the City Clerk and advertised in *The Press*.

<u>Roll Call</u> - Members Present:	Mr. Joseph Pepe; Mr. Jack Sorensen; Mrs. Amy Brog; Mrs. Shannon Wray-Norris; Mrs. Danielle Gomes-Chapman; Mr. Nicholas Palmisano; Mr. Steve Swift
Others Present:	Mr. Ryan Gaskill, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; Mrs. Samantha Dulude, Principal; Mrs. Bonnie Marino, Principal; Mr. Eric Goldstein, Solicitor; Mr. Clete Schwegman, Longport

Special Recognition - No Place for Hate Committee:

Mrs. Dulude welcomed members of the Tighe School No Place for Hate Committee. Layla Koch spoke about the committee and their responsibility to participate in three projects annually to maintain the school status as a No Place for Hate School. The recent project at Tighe was to create board games. The project was referred to as Games for a Kinder World. Charlie Dicker added that one game was about being an upstander. She explained that this club is a place of action and responsibility. Fotini Thalassinou explained that this club served to bring students together and for them to be kind to one another. The game her class created was a card game with bullying scenarios that the students would act out. Alex Coughlin spoke about the game his class created which was based on the Shoots and Ladders board game. This game served to teach students how their actions could not only impact themselves, but others as well. Mr. Gaskill thanked these students for sharing their recent projects and for their participation in the No Place for Hate Program. He also thanked them and their families for attending the meeting.

Public Comment:

No members of the community commented.

Fire Drill and Security Drill Report:

Mr. Gaskill distributed the Fire and Security Drill Reports for Eugene A. Tighe School & William H. Ross School for the month of February 2025 attached as Exhibit # 1, pages 30,118-30,119.

Superintendent's Report & Principals' Updates:

Mr. Ryan Gaskill shared that the Spring Conferences were scheduled for next week.

Mrs. Skwarek shared a presentation on the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year, attached as Exhibit # 2, pages 30,120-30,123.

Mrs. Marino shared information on current activities at the Ross School.

Mrs. Dulude shared information on current activities at the Tighe School.

MEF Report:

Cheryl Marciante, Vice President of the MEF, shared that they would be hosting a food truck lunch for the teachers. The Decadence food truck would be serving the meals. She added that the MEF recently sponsored the DJ for the NJHS dance. She also reminded teachers to submit requests through the MEF form.

MEA Report:

Kelly Crawford thanked the MEF and the Board of Education for their support.

Personnel Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Personnel matters:

1. Approve the updated 2024-2025 District Calendar
2. Approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Instructional Support Activities:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Instructional Support Activities request:

1. Approve fundraising project "Hoops for Heart" for all students at Ross to encourage heart health and community service. The program will culminate with special activities tentatively planned for March 21, 2025.
2. Approve a morning assembly at Ross to promote recycling on March 27, 2025.
3. Approve Tighe Student Council Hygiene Drive to run from March 31, 2025 - April 11, 2025. Each grade will collect items to be put in Hygiene Kits to be donated to the Beacon of Hope Homeless Shelter in Atlantic City. Date of packaging kits TBD. Staff: Tracy Magel, Danielle Ujcich, Samantha Dulude and Tighe Staff as needed.

Instructional Support Activities (Continued):

4. Approve the 8th Grade NJHS students to walk to Ross to read books to the younger grades on March 7, 2025.
5. Approve the Ross School Autism Acceptance month activities during the month month of April:
 - Bubbles for Autism - assemble and bubbles outside on April 1, 2025
 - Autism Acceptance Pretzel Sale on April 16, 2025. Money will be distributed to local charity to support Autism Awareness
 - Autism Acceptance Walk Run, schoolwide, on April 30, 2025 / Rain date May 1, 2025

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Field Trips:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Field Trip request:

1. Approve the 5th Grade field trip to the Museum of the American Revolution and Independence Hall in Philadelphia on June 5, 2025 from 8:15 am to 3:05 pm. Staff: Jen Carey, Amber Fitzgerald, Kristie Cafiero, and chaperones as needed. Transportation: District School Bus. Costs: \$432.00 Entrance Fee, Substitutes as needed, Substitute Bus Driver at \$25.00 per hour.
2. Approve the Kindergarten field trip to the Cape May Zoo on June 9, 2025. Staff: Christa Toner, Amy Hughes, Jaime Collins, 2-3 educational assistants as needed. Transportation: District School Bus. Costs: \$125.00 Pavilion Rental, \$80.00 Bus Permit, \$250.00 Zoo Educational Program. Total Cost: \$455.00 plus Substitute Bus Driver at \$25.00 per hour.
3. Approve the 8th Grade field trip to Stockton University to the Holocaust Resource Center and Campus Tour on April 15, 2025. Staff: Michael McMenamin, Sherry Scott, Michelle Cossaboon. Transportation: District School Bus. Costs: \$400.00 Dining Hall, Substitute Bus Driver at \$25.00 per hour.
4. Approve the 8th Grade trip to Brigantine to Chris Singleton, an inspirational speaker on Monday, March 24, 2025 from 9:15-11:00 am. Staff: Sherry Scott, Michael McMenamin, Michelle Cossaboon, Samantha Dulude. Transportation: District School Bus.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Workshops:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Workshop matters:

1. Approve Bonnie Marino or Ryan Gaskill to attend a training with the Crisis Prevention Institute on verbal and physical de-escalation strategies on April 1,2,3, 2025. Costs: \$4,599.00 Registration, Travel (tolls, parking, mileage).
2. Approve Ryan Gaskill to attend the webinar Responding to School Bomb Threats and Bomb Threat Drilling on March 10, 2025.
3. Approve Ryan Gaskill to attend the webinar FBI Training on 764 Violent Extremism Network on March 6, 2025.
4. Approve Dr. Jacque Jones to attend the webinar “Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses: Analyzing Difficult Cases” on Friday, April 11, 2025 from 9:00-11:00 am. Costs: \$60.00 Registration.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to accept the February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Financial Reports:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen to accept the Secretary’s Financial Reports for the month of January 2025 as attached to these minutes and certifying that no budgetary account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(a). See Exhibit # 3, pages 30,124 - 30,147. The Secretary’s Reports agree with the Report of Receipts and Disbursements.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Board of Education Certification:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11, the Margate City Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2025 after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Reports (Revenue and Appropriation Sections) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge there have been no changes in anticipated revenue

Board of Education Certification (Continued):

sources and/or amounts and no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)2-3 so that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Bills and Payrolls:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the payment of bills and payrolls, as listed on Exhibit # 4, pages 30,148 - 30,164.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Transfer of Funds:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Transfer of Funds:
Transfer of Funds within the General Current Expense Account

Ratified Budget Transfers for 2024-2025

TO:	20-280-200-320-00-00-010	Title IV CPI Training	\$680.61
		TOTAL	\$680.61
FROM:	20-280-200-100-00-00-010	Title IV CPI Training	\$82.50
	20-280-200-100-00-00-025	Title IV CPI Training	\$550.00
	20-280-200-200-00-00-025	Title IV CPI Training	\$48.04
	20-280-200-600-00-00-010	Title IV CPI Training	\$0.07
		TOTAL	\$680.61

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Report of Receipts and Disbursements:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to accept the Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of January 2025, attached as Exhibit # 5, pages 30,165 – 30,176.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Cash Report:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to accept the Cash Report for the month of January 2025, attached as Exhibit # 6, page 30,177.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Unfinished Business:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Unfinished Business:

- A. WHEREAS, New Jersey school districts are required by New Jersey statutes, administrative codes, and New Jersey Department of Education mandates to develop and adopt policies and regulations regarding school district operations; and

WHEREAS, the Margate City Board of Education and administrative staff, working with Strauss Esmay Associates, L.L.P, have developed a complete Policy and Regulation Manual that updated all policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the process is completed and the Margate City Board of Education Policy and Regulation Manuals are finalized and prepared for Board approval: and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Margate City Board of Education adopts the policies and regulations included in the new Policy and Regulation Manual on first reading at the Board Meeting on February 26, 2025;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the policies and regulations included in the new Policy and Regulation Manuals shall be effective upon Board adoption on second reading at this March 5, 2025 Board Meeting.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

New Business:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following New Business:

- A. Approve submission of the proposed 2025-2026 Margate City School District Budget to the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent for review.
- B. Approve a resolution fixing the sum to be raised by Local Tax Levy for the 2025-2026 School District budget Exhibit # 7, page 30,178.
- C. Approve a resolution to set maximum travel expenditure limits as required by Section 15, Chapter 53, P. L. 2007 Exhibit # 8, page 30,179.
- D. Approve a resolution to set maximum dollar limits for professional services for the 2025-2026 school year as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A 5.2 Exhibit # 9, page 30,180.
- E. Approve a cap adjustment for enrollment increases on the Prebudget Year Levy for the 2025-2026 budget year in the amount of \$423,936.
- F. Approve a cap adjustment for increase in health care costs for the 2025-2026 budget year in the amount of \$21,702.
- G. Approve a tuition contract with Longport Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$684,692 plus a tuition adjustment for the 2023-2024 school year of (\$48,953.18) for a total cost of \$635,738.82 calculated as follows:

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Revenue
Preschool Disabled	0	\$50,725	\$0
Kindergarten	1	\$25,242	\$25,242
Grades 1-5	12	\$28,305	\$339,660
Grades 6-8	10	\$31,979	\$319,790
Total	23		\$684,692
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			\$ (48,953.18)
Budgeted Total			\$635,738.82

- H. Approve a tuition contract with Atlantic City Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$659,820 for regular education students and \$230,769 for special education students less a tuition adjustment for the 2023-2024 school year of (\$579,800) for a total cost of \$310,789 calculated as follows:

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Expense
Grades 9-12	30	\$21,994	\$659,820
Resource	7	\$32,967	\$230,769
Total	37		\$890,589
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			<u>\$ (579,800)</u>
Budgeted Total			\$310,789

- I. Approve a tuition contract with the Atlantic County Vocational School Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year for 7 students to attend the Academy Program at a cost of \$3,200 per student and 3 special education students at a cost of \$6,500 per student plus a tuition adjustment from the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$1,152 for a total cost of \$43,052.
- J. Approve resolution to appoint Siracusa Kaufmann Insurance Agency as the Risk Management Consultant for the 2025-2026 school year with compensation for services rendered equal to 4% of the district's annual assessment.
- K. Approve a services contract with Tri-State Light and Energy for electrical services, as needed, not to exceed \$15,000.00 from February 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025 (Educational Services Commission Cooperative pricing system #65MCESCCPS BID #ESCNJ 23/24-27).
- L. Approve the opening of the application to non-resident tuition students in grades K-4 for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$7,000.00 per school year.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe
Nays: None

Other Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Swift, to approve the following Other Matters:

- A. Approve Chris Bruscato and Pete Davis to attend STEM and ELL's: How to Teach English Learners in the STEM Classroom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 hosted by New Jersey Consortium for Excellence Through Equity at Absecon Schools. Costs: Travel and Substitutes.
- B. Approve the revised FMLA/NJFLA leave for Mindi Ermelin from March 26, 2025 through an anticipated return of September 29, 2025.
- C. Approve an extended leave of absence for Mindi Ermelin (revised) from September 29, 2025 through a return date of December 1, 2025.

Other Matters (Continued):

- D. Approve Cheryl Marciante as a part time educational assistant starting March 10, 2025 for up to 5 hours at MEA contracted hourly rate for educational assistants. Costs: \$19.28 per hour X 5 hours = \$96.40 per day.
- E. Approve Bernadette Southard as an elementary teacher for a leave replacement teacher from March 17, 2025 through the end of the 2025 school year. Costs: Step 1 MEA Contract \$67,000.00 prorated from March 17, 2025.
- F. Approve a medical leave for Wilson D. Pendleton from March 21, 2025 through an anticipated return date of June 16, 2025.
- G. Approve Melina Skwarek to attend the NJASA Annual Women's Leadership Conference 2025, on April 7 & 8, 2025, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ. Costs: \$459.00 Registration Fee.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Public Comment:

No members of the community commented.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator