

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 29, 2025

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT (6:00 P.M.)

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, adequate public notice of this meeting has been given by the Business Administrator in the following manner:

- A. Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Eastampton Community School on April 4, 2025.
- B. Mailed written notice to the *Burlington County Times* and *Courier Post* on April 4, 2025.
- C. Filed written notice with the Clerk of Eastampton Township on April 4, 2025.
- D. Posted official notice on the district’s website.
- E. Mailed written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.

ROLL CALL:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Late Arrival Time
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		
Florencia Norton, Vice President	X		
Edward Besko	X		
Edward Hill		X	
Walter Maluchnik	X		6:37 pm
Stephanie McHugh	X		
Jamie Smith	X		

- Lianne Kane, Superintendent of Schools
- Joseph A. Firetto, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FIRE EXITS

1. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:06 p.m.:

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Kerry Douglas	Florencia Norton	X	

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

Eastampton Township Board of Education
Resolution 2024-2025
Authorizing Executive Session

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Eastampton Township School District has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately _____ this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Eastampton Township School District will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public;

_____ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____ Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body (Specify contract: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026);

_____ Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____ Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. Under certain circumstances, if public disclosure of the matter would have a potentially negative impact on the Board's position in the litigation or negotiation, this information may be withheld until such time that the matter is concluded or the circumstances no longer present a potential impact);

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective employee or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless all individual

employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting;

_____Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastampton Township Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastampton Township Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

2. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION 7:05 p.m.:

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Kerry Douglas	Florncia Norton	X	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion Carries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Fails			

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

All meetings must be open to the public at all times except for those meetings at which certain excepted matters are discussed. However, the right of the public to be present at the meeting should not be confused with public participation. The public body retains the right to permit, regulate or prohibit active participation of the public at any meeting. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)).

This meeting will now be open to the public; however, if your questions or comments pertain to litigation, students, personnel or negotiations, we ask that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since we do not discuss these items in public.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (24-25-117)

March 17, 2025 (Tentative Budget Meeting)

April 10, 2025 (Special Meeting)

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X (3/17)		X (4/10)	
Edward Besko		X	X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			

Jamie Smith			X (3/17)		X (4/10)	
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- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Student Recognitions – Mrs. Kane, Superintendent/Principal

B. The following students were recognized as Golden Knight of the Month:

- February
- K- Cooper Lebak
- 1st- Lucas Bak
- 2nd- Cateleya Reyes
- 3rd- Eleanor Oppermann
- 4th- Ava Johnson
- 5th- Lucas Wallace
- 6th- Ella Gardner
- 7th- Nikola Bartlett
- 8th- Julissa Martinez

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Lianne M. Kane, Superintendent/Principal)

A. Information Item(s):

- 1) HIB Report dated April 16, 2025 (24-25-118)
- 2) Department Reports
- 3) 2024-2025 School Calendar (24-25-119)
- 4) 2025-2026 School Calendar (24-25-120)
- 5) Liaison Reports
 - 4/11 – Ordinance updates – Township
 - 4/28 – Road Improvement Programs

B. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the action items on the HIB Report dated April 16, 2025 as initially presented at the March 17, 2025 meeting. (24-25-118)
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. (24-25-119)
- 3) Recommend the Board approve the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented. (24-25-120)
- 4) Recommend the Board amend the Calendar Year 2025 Board Meeting Schedule. (24-25-121)

- Only moving May 20, 2025 to May 13, 2025, all other changes are tabled and remain the same for now

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			

Stephanie McHugh		X	X			
Jamie Smith			X			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion Carries						
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Fails						

6. BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Information Item:

- 1) Budget Hearing Presentation – Joseph A. Firetto

B. Action Items: (Stephanie McHugh, Chairperson)

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following 2025-2026 budget with revised general fund expenditures, withdrawal from maintenance reserves, and withdrawal from capital reserves figures:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education developed a school budget for the 2025-2026 School Year according to the guidelines as set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Burlington has reviewed and approved the budget documents on April 17, 2025; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board certify the approved **tentative** 2025-2026 Budget.

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	TOTAL
2025-2026 Total Expenditures	10,927,421	1,586,754	783,858	13,298,033
Less Anticipated Revenues	5,014,311	1,586,754	-	6,601,065
Taxes to be Raised	5,913,110	-	783,858	6,696,968
Pilot Payments	200,000	-	-	200,000
Withdraw From Tuition Reserves	170,000	-	-	170,000

- 2) Recommend the Board approve the following 2025-2026 resolution for a Tuition Reserve Withdrawal:

Be it resolved that the general fund appropriations include a \$170,000 withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve Account which was deposited into the account in the 2022-2023 school year and will be withdrawn to pay tuition obligations in the 2025-2026 school year, per NJDOE guidelines.

- 3) **Additional Expenditures and Tax Incentive Aid Implementation**

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

Whereas, Eastampton Board of Education is below local fair share and spending below adequacy to be eligible to participate in this program, and

Whereas, Eastampton Board of Education is eligible to increase expenditures by up to \$2,707,374 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of up to \$128,923, and

Whereas, Eastampton Board of Education has requested to increase expenditures by \$199,736 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of \$9,511 and

Whereas, the (District) has requested and is **pending state approval** to increase expenditures based on the following reasons: to maintain bussing for hazardous transportation routes/offer pre-k bussing to an expanding program.

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

Increase in Revenues:

Revenue Budget Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
10-1210-000	Tax Levy	\$5,913,110	\$6,103,335	\$190,225	Tax Levy Incentive Program
10-3190-000	Other State Aid	-	\$9,511	\$9,511	Tax Levy Incentive Aid

Increase in Appropriations:

Budget Appropriation Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
11-000-270-511	Contracted Services – Transportation	\$118,624	\$318,360	\$199,736	Hazardous Transportation/PEA Transportation

Now, Therefore, Be it resolved, that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts and certify the following budget for the 2025-2026 school year **pending state approval**.

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	TOTAL
2025-2026 Total Expenditures	11,127,157	1,586,754	783,858	13,497,769
Less Anticipated Revenues	5,023,822	1,586,754	-	6,610,576
Taxes to be Raised	6,103,335	-	783,858	6,887,193

Pilot Payments	200,000	-	-	200,000
Withdraw From Tuition Reserves	170,000	-	-	170,000

- 4) The Tax Payment schedule and request the same from Eastampton Township for the 2025-2026 school year:

Aug 2025	\$ 783,863.00
Sept	\$ 610,333.00
Oct	\$ 610,333.00
Nov	\$ 610,333.00
Dec	\$ 610,333.00
Jan 2026	\$ 610,333.00
Feb	\$ 610,333.00
Mar	\$ 610,333.00
Apr	\$ 610,333.00
May	\$ 610,333.00
June	\$ 610,333.00
Total	\$6,887,193.00

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President			X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik		X	X			
Stephanie McHugh	X		X			
Jamie Smith			X			

Motion Carries

Motion Fails

7. PERSONNEL: (Edward Hill, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the reappointment of district staff for the 2025-2026 school year. (24-25-122)

- 2) Recommend the Board retroactively approve an intermittent leave of absence with a start date of March 17, 2025 for staff member #4075 using nine sick days and three personal days, as needed, and unpaid FMLA leave, as needed.
- 3) Recommend the Board retroactively accept the resignation of recess aide, Donna Skeenes, effective March 21, 2025.
- 4) Recommend the Board retroactively approve the employment of Danielle Ricci as a recess aide effective April 1, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$15.49.
- 5) Recommend the Board approve the following individuals as district substitute teachers effective April 30, 2025, pending completion of paperwork:

Danielle Ricci
Taylor McGann

- 6) Recommend the Board retroactively approve an IT internship with the district for Isaiah Aimable. The internship began March 31, 2025 and will last for five weeks. Isaiah's hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. There will be no cost to the district.
- 7) Recommend the Board approve Brian Leibowitz as a member of the district Behavioral Threat Assessment Team.
- 8) Recommend the Board accept the resignation of teacher, Alexis Davis, effective June 30, 2025.
- 9) Recommend the Board accept the resignation of teacher, Meaghan Roshetar, effective June 30, 2025.
- 10) Recommend the Board accept the resignation of teacher, Mary Walpole, effective June 30, 2025.
- 11) Recommend the Board approve the following staff members to serve on the Affirmative Action Team for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year:

Lianne Kane
Nicole McGann
Jenna Carrell
Kati Rutkowski
Corinne Katrina
Dawn Dilliplane

- 12) Recommend the Board amend the approval of a leave of absence for staff member #4813 to read as follows:

Recommend the Board approve a paid leave of absence for staff member #4813 commencing May 5, 2025 through May 30, 2025, using accrued sick and vacation days; followed by an unpaid leave of absence commencing June 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025; followed by a paid leave of absence commencing July 1, 2025 with a tentative return date of August 5, 2025, using accrued sick and vacation days.

13) Recommend the Board approve the following breakdown of Substitute Hours and Rates:

SUBSTITUTE HOURS AND RATES

Substitute Custodians	6:30 am to 2:30 pm	
	Hourly Rate	\$ 15.49
Substitute Teachers	Full Day - 8 am to 3:30 pm	\$ 125.00
	1/2 day up to 4 hours	\$ 62.50
	Anything over 4 hours paid hourly	
	\$125/7.5 Hourly Rate up to \$125.00 per day	\$ 16.67
Substitute Para-Professionals	Full Day - 8 am to 3:30 pm	\$ 125.00
	1/2 day up to 4 hours	\$ 62.50
	Anything over 4 hours paid hourly	
	\$125/7.5 Hourly Rate up to \$125.00 per day	\$ 16.67

B. Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President		X	X			
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith			X			

Motion Carries

Motion Fails

8. FINANCE: (Stephanie McHugh, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

1) Recommend the Board approve the following payrolls:

- a. March 28, 2025 – \$317,007.42
- b. April 15, 2025 – \$314,602.44
- c. April 30, 2025 – \$304,351.80

2) Recommend the Board approve the following invoices for payment: (24-25-123)

- a. Regular Bills: \$488,504.33

3) Recommend the Board approve Line Item Transfers dated March 31, 2025. (24-25-124)

4) Recommend the Board approve the Treasurer’s Report dated February 28, 2025. (24-25-125)

- 5) Recommend the Board approve the Board Secretary’s Report dated February 28, 2025. **(24-25-126)**
- 6) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4*, we certify that as of February 28, 2025 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with 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:23-2.12(c)3* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is also certified that the Board Secretary’s report matches the Treasurer’s Report. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)8*, I certify that as of February 28, 2025 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, and repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

- 7) Recommend the Board approve the following Cafeteria expenses:

1682	SIN001647C	(\$81.86)
1684	INV-10905	(\$1,595.00)
1685	1526-04082584146; SIN002247	(\$23,628.38)

- 8) Recommend the Board approve the attached Student Activity expenses. **(24-25-127)**
- 9) Recommend the Board approve the attached request for professional development. **(24-25-128)**
- 10) Recommend the Board approve the following 2024-2025 Mckinney Vento Tuition – Sending:

Placement	Student(s)	Tuition per Student	1:1 Aide	District of Responsibility
Pemberton Township	ZYC	\$48,700 (79 days at \$616.46 per day)	-	Eastampton – February 20, 2025 to June 30, 2025
Pemberton Township	ZAC	\$19,100 (79 days at \$241.77 per day)	-	Eastampton – February 20, 2025 to June 30, 2025

- 11) Recommend the Board approve the Agreement for Professional Services with the Burlington County Special Services School District/Educational Services Unit (ESU) for the 2025-2026 school year, on file in the Business Office.
- 12) Recommend the Board approve the Agreement for Nonpublic Chapters 192/193 Services with Burlington County Special Services School District Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year, on file in the Business Office.
- 13) Recommend the Board confirm and approve the Amendment to the current Agreement for Professional Services with Care Solace from April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 at the rate not to exceed \$9,375.00, on file in the Business Office.

- 14) Recommend the Board approve the Registration with the Burlington County Special Services School District Board of Education for the Burlington County School Crisis Response Team Registration for the 2025-2026 school year, on file in the Business Office.
- 15) Recommend the Board approve the amendment to the agreement with ESS Support Services, LLC to extended substitute services from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, on file in the Business Office.
- 16) Recommend the Board confirm and approve the Contract with Bayada Home for nursing services for Student JM for the period of April 15, 2025 through June 30, 2025 at the rate of \$70/hr, on file in the Business Office.
- 17) Recommend the Board Approve the Contract with Bayada Home for nursing services for Student CR for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 at the rate of \$75/hr, on file in the Business Office.
- 18) Recommend the Board approve the Master Contract with Phoenix Advisors for Municipal Advisor and Continuing Disclosure Services for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, on file in the Business Office.

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President			X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko		X	X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh	X		X			
Jamie Smith			X			

Motion Carries

Motion Fails

9. CURRICULUM: (Jamie Smith, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the district’s participation in the CommonLit Research Partnership Opportunity, a two-year research study. By participating in the study, the district will receive CommonLit 360, ELA curriculum for grades 6-8, for two years at no cost to the district.
- 2) Recommend the Board approve homebound instruction for student #12255 beginning April 29, 2025, with a return date pending a Child Study Team evaluation. Walsh Legacy will be providing five hours of home instruction weekly.
- 3) Recommend the Board authorize the Affirmative Action team to conduct a Needs Assessment and to develop the Comprehensive Equity Plan (CEP).

- 4) Recommend the Board accept the letter from the New Jersey Department of Education approving our 2025-2026 Preschool Operational Plan (on file in the Superintendent’s Office).

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President			X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik		X	X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith	X		X			

- Motion Carries
 Motion Fails

10. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: (Walter Maluchnik, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the 2024-2025 lead testing results. (24-25-129)

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President			X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko		X	X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik	X		X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith			X			

- Motion Carries
 Motion Fails

11. POLICY: (Kerry Douglas, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board the first reading of the following policies and regulation: (sent via email)

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President	X		X			
Florencia Norton, Vice President			X			
Edward Besko			X			
Edward Hill						X
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Jamie Smith		X	X			

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

All meetings must be open to the public at all times except for those meetings at which certain excepted matters are discussed. However, the right of the public to be present at the meeting should not be confused with public participation. The public body retains the right to permit, regulate or prohibit active participation of the public at any meeting. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)).

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Kerry Douglas	Walter Maluchnik	X	

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Firetto

Joseph A. Firetto
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary