

LAWNSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
August 14, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at **7:01 PM** in person by the Board President, Ms. Still following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the following members were present during roll call.

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Austin;Arterbridge;Cauthorne;Harper(7:07pm);Hurley;Kittles;8 Present
Catlett;1 Absent

Also present were Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, Jennifer Johnson, Board Secretary, and Darryl Rhone, Board Solicitor.

OPENING STATEMENT

President Still read that public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been provided by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

- Posting written notice on the official school bulletin board at the Lawnside School
- Sending notice to the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers
- Posting on the district website

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Kittles, seconded by Austin to approve the July 10, 2025 board minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Austin;Arterbridge;Cauthorne;Hurley;Kittles;8 Present
Catlett;1 Absent

Motion Carried

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Motion by Arterbridge, seconded by Kittles to approve the Superintendent's Report as written:

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lawnside School District is to educate our students, through mastery of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), to become independent thinkers and problem solvers so they will be empowered to meet the challenges of and achieve success in tomorrow's emerging world community. The educational community will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered and diversity is respected.

Annual School Plan Goals:

To address the academic and social needs of our students, the Stakeholder Group of the district developed our Annual School Plan. The following Annual School Plan Goals will be a priority for the 2025-2026 school year:

Area of Focus #1: ELA

By June 2026, 31% students will show proficiency of grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the Linkit Benchmark Assessment.

Area of Focus #2: SEL

90% of the staff will utilize the PBSIS goal of a 3:1 ratio of positive student-staff interaction for every one corrective action as documented through ClassDojo and teacher observations/walkthroughs.

Area of Focus #3: Math

By June 2026, 16.9% will show proficiency of grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the LinkIt Benchmark assessment.

Area of Focus #4: Writing

50% of students will achieve a proficient score, "3" for grades 3-8 and a "2" for grades K-2, as measured by common rubric by the end of 2025-2026 school year.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Informational Items:

School Business Administrator's Approval letter
Comprehensive Equity Plan Certification Approval Letter
School Cybersecurity Scorecard as conducted by the NJ State Police
Proposed Technology & Media Club
Tentative Meal Plan Offerings

Student Enrollment-N/A

ADA- N/A

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 1 reported (Unfounded)

Suspensions for June~ 0

The Superintendent is not in receipt of any parental request for a Board Hearing at this time.

School Safety Drills:

Fire Drill- 7/31/25 @ 12:45 pm

Safety Drill- 7/30/25 @11am Lockdown with instruction

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PERSONNEL - It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1-8 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the 2025-2026 School Business Administrator's contract for Ms. Jennifer Johnson (#395) be approved per the Executive County Superintendent.
2. It is recommended that Jennifer James (#407) be approved as an Elementary School Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$60,864 (BA 1).
3. It is recommended that Robin Polinski (#408) be approved as a Special Education Teacher, MA +20, Step 3, \$65,364 for the 25/26 school year.
4. It is recommended that Jennifer Griggs (#409) be approved as a Special Education Teacher, MA +20, Step 8, \$70,839 for the 25/26 school year.
5. It is recommended that Patricia Cobia (#151), Basic Skills Teacher, be approved for a guide change from BA step 15 \$82,989 to BA+20 step 15 \$84,189.
6. It is recommended that Portia Harris (#366), Psychologist, be approved for a guide change from MA Step 8 \$69,639 to MA+20 step 8 \$70,839.
7. It is recommended that Stephen Klemash (#326), Special Education Teacher, be approved for a guide change from MA Step 8 \$69,639 to MA+20 step 8 \$70,839.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

8. It is recommended that Isaiah Michel (#410) be approved as a Building -Based Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$125 per diem for the 2025-2026 school year.
9. It is recommended that Geralyn Kelly (#359) be retroactively approved to work as a BCBA during ESY 2025, July and August M-F up to 25 hours per week at the rate of \$75 per hour.
10. It is recommended that Geralyn Kelly (#359) be approved as the part-time District Board Certified Behavior Analyst for the 25/26 school year at the rate of \$75 per hour at a maximum of 25 hours per week.
11. It is recommended that Ms. Ashley Ortiz (Horta)'s #381 Letter of Resignation as an Elementary School Teacher be approved effective July 17, 2025.
12. It is recommended that Dr. Carmen Henderson (#252) be approved as the district Affirmative Action Officer and Homeless Liaison for the 2025-2026 school year.
13. It is recommended that Niphon Kirk (#120) be approved as the district Anti-Bullying/HIB Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year.
14. It is recommended that Jessica Harper (#366) be approved as the district HIB Specialist, Educational Stability, and DCP&P liaison for the 2025-2026 school year.
15. It is recommended that Jessica Harper (#366) be approved to work two additional days during the Summer to cover the Child Study Team at her per diem rate.
16. It is recommended that William Plenty (#387) be approved as the District Investigator for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$300 per investigation.
17. It is recommended that the following staff members be approved as administrators in charge of the " After school Program" at the hourly rate of \$47.00. (*The program will be funded using Title I funds*)

Alyssa Miller

Carmen Henderson Niphon Kirk
18. It is recommended that the following after school position be approved for posting for the 2025-2026 school year as a contract stipend of \$1200. Curriculum Writing Leads (7 Teachers).
19. It is recommended that the following positions be posted for the " After school Program". The program will operate for 3 days (Tuesday-Thursday), and will run from September 16, 2025 -May 28, 2026. *The program will be funded using Title I funds*

Teachers (9) Instructional Assistant(2)

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

MANAGEMENT- It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1-15 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the Annual School Plan for the 2025-2026 school year be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education (*Board Resolution will be required*).
2. It is recommended that the following after school clubs be approved for posting for the 2025-2026 school year at the agreed upon contracted stipend. (*Stipends to be paid June 2026 as all clubs must maintain membership of at least 10 students*)

PBSIS Coordinator	Student Council.	8th Grade Advisor
Honor Society	Yearbook	Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball	Cheer Coach	Safety Patrol
Band/Instrument	Horticulture	

3. It is recommended that the Activities Coordinator position for the 2025-2026 school year be approved for posting at a stipend of \$2,500. (*Stipend to be paid in June 2026*)
4. It is recommended that the proposal for a Technology & Media Club advisor for the 2025-2026 school year at the contracted stipend of \$1,200 be approved. (*Stipend to be paid June of 2026*)
5. It is recommended that the position of Saturday School coverage be approved for posting for the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate of \$47.00 (certificated staff) or \$25.00 (non-certificated staff).
6. It is recommended that the Lawnside District Mentoring Plan and District Professional Development Plan be approved for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. It is recommend approval of submission and acceptance of the Safety Grant Award for the fiscal year 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$2,000.
8. It is recommend approval to renew the student accident policy for the FY 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$975 with Federal Insurance Company.
9. It is recommended that the Mt. Zion Mentoring program be approved to conduct their 8th grade Male Rites of Passage program during the 2025-2026 school year.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED
MANAGEMENT

10. It is recommended that the SJ LINKS be approved to implement their "Can You Imagine Me" program for 8th grade females during the 2025-2026 school year.
11. It is recommended that Elevate Health and Therapeutic Services be approved to provide AAC evaluations and consultation services for the 25/26 school year.
12. It is recommended student ID's 3437902030 and 7317124805 be removed from the rolls effective August 15, 2025 due to the findings of a residency investigation.
13. It is recommended that Gwynedd Mercy University doctoral student Thomas Orlando be approved to conduct his dissertation research at Lawnside School during the 25/26 school year.
14. It is recommended that Dr. Carmen Henderson be approved to attend the National Alliance of Black School Educators Conference in Chicago, IL from December 9-14, 2025.
15. It is recommend did that the following Professional Development opportunities be approved for the 2024-2025 school year:

Staff Name/ID#	Workshop/Training	Date	Cost
Dr. Ronn Johnson	NJ School Boards Conference	October 20-23	NJSBA fees
Alyssa Miller Dr. Carmen Henderson	NJ School Boards Conference	October 21, 2025	NJSBA fees
Tomika Wilson	NJ School Boards Conference	October 22-23	NJSBA fees
Kevin Farrington	NJ School Boards Conference	October 22, 2025	NJSBA fees
Jennifer Johnson	CPE Cluster Accounting Seminars	August 18-20	\$339 per day

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED
FIELD TRIPS

Class/Group	Trip Location	Date	Cost
PreK and Kindergarten	Storybook Land	TBD. (September)	TBD by Transportation and Admission

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Austin;Arterbridge;Cauthorne;Harper(Abstain Personnel #14&15);
Hurley;Kittles;8 Yes
Catlett;1 Absent

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS on ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Still, seconded by Kittles, and unanimously approved by all present to open the floor to public comment.

No comments.

Motion by Still, seconded by Kittles, and unanimously approved by all present to close the floor to public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from the Lawnside Scholarship Club for supporting the first in-person event on Sunday, June 8, 2025 honoring the 2025 graduating class.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committees meet to discuss Board Business between meetings. The committee chairperson will update the full board on their meeting and present any recommendations for approval.

POLICY:

The committee met and discussed doordash, an AI (artificial intelligence) policy, and updates to the code of conduct to be distributed on the first day of school.

Motion by Austin, seconded by Harper to approve the first reading for the following policies:

Use of Artificial Intelligence
State Funds; Federal Funds

Informational: The committee reviewed the code of conduct and provided the Superintendent with language to ensure accurate record-keeping and tracking of the student's absence due to a suspension in powerschool. The updated code of conduct will be added to the student handbook for distribution on the first day of school.

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Austin;Arterbridge;Cauthorne;Harper;Hurley;Kittles;8 Yes
Catlett;1 Absent

Motion Carried

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CURRICULUM:

The committee met and reviewed the annual school plan prior to submission, discussed possible names for the afterschool program formerly called targeted, and all curriculum will be up to date by the end of September.

OUTREACH:

Ms. Hurley provided an update to the Board on the Back to School Bonanza scheduled for August 23rd.

HADDON HEIGHTS:

Ms. Hayes updated the board; 9th grade orientation is scheduled for August 26th; union contracts went to fact finding and the contract is settled; AP African American class may not be offered due to only three students signing up for the class.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Austin to open the floor to public comment.

Jasmine and Brittany Martin presented an eight week mentorship program to support the personal, academic, and athletic development of Lawnside students in exchange for the use of gym space three evenings for two hours between September and November. Extensive discussion took place.

Mr. Harper motioned to approve the mentorship program pending availability of the gymnasium and proper insurance. Mr. Austin seconded the motion, all in favor was unanimous.

Motion Carried

Motion by Ms. Harper, seconded by Mr. Austin to close the floor to public comment.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Extensive discussion continued regarding food deliveries to school, and development of a policy.

Motion by Ms. Still, seconded by Ms. Kittles for the policy committee to develop a policy from the existing procedures outlined by the Superintendent for outside food deliveries.

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Cautherone;Hurley; Kittles; 5 Yes

Austin;Arterbridge;Harper 3 No

Catlett:Absent

Motion Carried

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NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Ms. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Kittles to approve:

Resolution #225	Payment of Bills.
Resolution #226	Line Item Transfers for the month of June 2025.
Resolution #227	Draft Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for June 2025.
Resolution #228	Approve the facility use application from Nana Cauthorne for the purpose of a drill/dance team.
Resolution #229	Approval of the FY 2025-26 safety grant award from New Jersey School Insurance Group.
Resolution #230	Approve Tax Levy Schedule for the FY 2025-26 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

Still;Hayes;Austin;Arterbridge;Cauthorne;Harper;Hurley;Kittles;8 Yes
Catlett;1 Absent

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Harper, seconded by Ms. Hurley, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at **8:37pm.**

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Johnson
Board Secretary