

LAWNSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 12, 2025

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at **7:09 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; Catlett; Harper; Kittles; Hurley; **8 Present**
Cauthorne; **1 Absent**

Also present were Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, Mark Gordon, Assistant Business Administrator 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 Ms. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Austin to approve the May 7, 2025 Public Hearing and Regular Minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Motion by Ms. Catlett, seconded by Ms. 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.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

District Goals:

The following District Goals were established in collaboration with the Lawnside Board of Education members at the Board Retreat on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Goal #1: English Language Arts

By June 2025, 25% of students will show proficiency of grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the LinkIt Benchmark assessment.

Goal #2: Social Emotional Learning

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 Class DoJo and teacher observations/walkthroughs.

Goal #3: Math

By June 2025, 11.4% of students will show proficiency on grade level standards by achieving a score of "Meets Expectations" as measured by the Linkit Benchmark assessment.

Goal #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 a common rubric by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Informational Items:

Lawnside Education Foundation Golf Flyer
Alumni Spotlight in School Newsletter

Student Enrollment- 332

ADA- 312

**Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 1 Unfounded
Suspensions for May~ 2**

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

School Safety Drills:

Fire Drill- 5/25/25 @ 10:32 am

Safety Drill - 5/28/25 @ 2:13 pm (Shelter In Place w/Instruction)

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

PERSONNEL - It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1-10 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that Ms. Ayree Stevenson's/Staff ID# 280 Letter of Resignation be approved effective June 8, 2025.
2. It is recommended that Alan Kramer (employee #402) be approved as an Instructional Assistant for the 2025-2026 school year starting at Step 5 - \$32,057.
3. It is recommended that Andrew Coke-Buntin (employee #403) be approved as an Instructional Assistant for the 2025-2026 school year starting at Step 5 - \$32,057.
4. It is recommended that Ms. Portia Harris/Staff ID# 366 be approved as a PBSIS Co-Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend of \$965. *(Stipend will be split between advisors in June)*
5. Rescinded
6. It is recommended that Steve Pollard/Staff ID# 377 be approved to attend Advanced K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training on June 24, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$36.87.
7. It is recommended that Isaiah Forrest/Staff ID# 401 be approved as a Substitute Security Guard at an hourly rate of \$25 per hour for the 2025-2026 school year including the Summer Enrichment Program. *(Pending Criminal History Review)*
8. It is recommended that Alan Kramer/Staff #402, be approved to work as an Instructional Assistant during ESY 2025 M-F 8:10 to 12:30 pm at the LEA Instructional Assistant contracted hourly rate July 7 - August 15, 2025.
9. It is recommended that the following staff members be approved as Substitute Teachers for the 2025 Summer Enrichment Program. Funds will be paid using Title I funds. *(The rate will be based upon the negotiated agreement between the school board and teacher's union)*

Staff ID: 189 Antoinette Davis

Staff ID: 196 Alexis Backus

Staff ID 120: Niphon Kirk

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

- 10.** It is recommended that the following staff members be approved to participate in the Restorative Circle Training from June 30, 2025-July 3, 2025 from 9:00am-4:00pm. Funds will be paid using the Title I funds. *(The rate will be based upon the negotiated agreement between the school board and teacher's union)*

Staff ID 136: Colleen DiSandro
Staff ID 294: Chantelle Davis
Staff ID 326: Stephen Klemash
Staff ID 366: Portia Harris
Staff ID 196: Alexis Backus
Staff ID 351: Samantha Kehner
Staff ID 358: Brielle Gibson
Staff ID 367: Kiley Thornburg
Staff ID 386: Kisha Barr
Staff ID 384: Mariela Carrion
Staff ID 322: Alisa Ratliff
Staff ID 120: Niphon Kirk

MANAGEMENT- It is recommended by the Superintendent item 1-12 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the 2025-2028 Comprehensive Equity Plan be approved for submission to the NJ Department of Education.
2. It is recommended that the COLA increase of 3% in the contract for school medical services between Rowan University's School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Lawnside School District be approved for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. It is recommended that the Marzano Evaluation Center's observation platform be approved for use to evaluate staff during the 2025-2026 school year.
4. It is recommended that Global Compliance Network be approved to provide online tutorials to meet the mandated professional development requirements for staff during the 2025-2026 school year.
5. It is recommended that the Educational Resource Network (E3) be approved to provide professional development training at a cost of \$4,500 for the 2025-2026 school year.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

6. It is recommended that the following positions be approved for posting for the 2025-2026 school year:

Middle School English Language Arts
School Library/Media Specialist
Writing Lab Teacher
World Language Teacher
Substitute Custodian (Daytime)

7. It is recommended that a contract between the Lawnside Board of Education and New Behavior Network be approved to provide behavioral support services during the 2024-2025 school year.
8. It is recommended that a contract between the Lawnside Board of Education and Amazing Transformations be approved to provide behavioral support services during the 2024-2025 school year.
9. It is recommended that Genesis Soto be approved as a School Social Work intern from Rutgers during the 2025 - 2026 school year.
10. It is recommended that Piano Dude be approved to provide music therapy services for the 2025/2026 school year with a not to exceed of \$4000.
11. It is recommended that student # 2798040383 is removed from the school roll effective June 19, 2025 due to the student not being a Lawnside resident. (*Residency investigation conducted and substantiated*)
12. 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
Colleen DiSandro/136 Stephen Klemash/326	Autism New Jersey Annual Conference	10/16/25	\$300

FIELD TRIPS- N/A

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Roll Call Vote:

Still y; Hayes y recuse 6; Austin y; Arterbridge y; Catlett y; Harper y; Kittles y; Hurley y; 8

Yes

Cauthorne; 1 Absent

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS on ACTION ITEMS

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

No comments.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY:

No update.

CURRICULUM:

Ms. Hayes, Chair, reported the ASP team has met several times, on May 27, June 3rd, and again on June 11th. One of the meetings was with the district's state representative. They discussed updating the district's SMART goals to make sure that they are in compliance. They also discussed that funding had not been released from the state yet. The state representative stated that she was unsure when the funds would be released. There are a number of programs that are in the works for next year; however, the money from the state has not been released, and those items are on standby for when the money is available. Ms. Hayes stated that we are making good progress, but we need to see what our test scores look like. "Hopefully, the programs they implement next school year, such as the targeted tutoring program, enrichment program this summer, PBSIS, and restorative practice program, will all help us make achievements towards our academic goals." Mr. Harper stated that the students are performing better academically. Ms. Hayes added that she appreciated the commitment of the staff and community members who participate on the ASP team.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

OUTREACH:

No update

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE:

Ms. Catlett stated that her committee, in conjunction with school administration and union representatives, has been conducting negotiations for 3 weeks and has reached a tentative agreement.

HADDON HEIGHTS:

Ms. Hayes stated that the Haddon Heights board meets on the 16th of June to conduct the superintendent evaluation. She also stated that the Haddon Heights union contract has not been settled yet. There were several recognitions of staff members. Academically, the school appears to be on track, but she has concerns about the climate and culture of the school due to the unsettled contract. They also discussed the passing of one of their former staff members.

CAMDEN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION:

Mr. Harper attended the CCESC meeting on June 4th to elect the board of directors for the county. Mr. Harper was elected to serve on the county board. Two employees were not renewed, and there was a discussion and a presentation regarding their dismissal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurly commented on the following:

Camden County Gateway to College was held. Eight students from Lawnside who previously attended Haddon Heights High School graduated on June 12, 2025.

Two graduated one year earlier than they were supposed to.

Ny'Asia Dickens received a scholarship to attend Camden County College.

A huge shoutout to Ms. Michelle Mendenhall for all the support and care that she gives to our students.

Thank you to Dr. Lovell Pugh-Bassett (President of Camden County College) for her continued support and partnership with the students, parents, and residents of Lawnside. We as a community have to begin to hold Haddon Heights School District responsible for how they treat our children.

Congratulations to our Lawnside Little League Teams. They went to the Championship Games. It was an exciting time. Thank you to the coaches, volunteers, and parents.

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Congratulations to the Lawnside Scholarship Club recipients. This was the first time that the luncheon was back in person since the pandemic. It was held at Tavistock Country Club.

What is the policy for registration/re-registration of students entering Lawnside School or Haddon Heights? There have been some residents inquiring because of their taxes. There was discussion in the past of students using addresses in Lawnside but not residing here. Is there any way the Policy Committee can take a look at the process, if this topic falls under them?

She suggests training for staff over the summer on how to treat, mentor, and nurture our students. They need to be shown love because they will face a different world once they leave Lawnside. Please, as staff members, they should be mindful of how they treat the students and what is discussed around them because they hear things, and it does affect the students.

Status on the lunch program for September. What is the company going to do? There are some parents who will continue to choose DoorDash because of the food situation. Has the school looked at other options or vendors?

She thanked Dr. Henderson for her hard work in the Community section of the June Jamboree. Congrats and thank you to all the staff and volunteers for a successful June Jamboree.

She wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

Brett Hoover and Tomika Wilson, the co-presidents of the Lawnside Education Association, thanked the board for another successful year and for the negotiations, which were a very productive conversation between both parties that led to a tentative agreement.

Mrs. Taylor, PTO President suggests that there needs to be greater focus on Haddon Heights to ensure that Lawnside students graduate, and that it should use every program at its disposal, such as the Gateway program, to ensure that students graduate. She also stated that she would like to be a member of any committee that would address the concern of Lawnside students' graduation from Haddon Heights.

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

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Hayes asked if Ms. Kirk's position was 12 months or 10 months. Dr. Johnson stated that her position is a 10-month position.

Mr. Harper asked why the superintendent gives potential employees a number prior to the board voting on them. Dr. Johnson responded that the business office needs the number to start the onboarding process so the office can begin the criminal history background checks, the healthcare benefits, and other items pertaining to their onboarding process. If, for some reason, the board does not hire that person, the number becomes null and void and the number is retired.

Mr. Harper wanted to know why one person recommended for hire in one section of the superintendent's report appears to have already been recommended to carry out a function in the district in another section of his report. Dr. Johnson informed the board member that both are recommendations that need to be carried out by the board today, as one is for the potential employee to work over the summer, and the other is for the same employee to work in the fall of the upcoming year. Mr. Harper followed up and asked if there were any employees who were already on staff available to fill the position. Dr. Henderson informed the board member that all employees who were interested were hired, but there was still a need for additional staff.

Ms. Arterbridge asked why the district did not place the job description on the website with the posting of the job. Dr. Johnson informed Ms. Arterbridge that the district had just become aware of changes in state law that affected how jobs should be posted. He went on to state that the district is currently reviewing the law to make sure that we are in compliance with the law, and that she would see additional changes in how items were posted after the law was reviewed. Moreover, descriptions of the positions would be posted as well as other required items by law. It was also shared that job positions were posted on several different media to ensure that they received visibility.

Mr. Harper asked if the hiring of a substitute security guard was advertised. Dr. Johnson responded that it was posted since the previous security guard left the district.

Ms. Arterbridge wanted to know if there were any requests for proposals that would be approved. Mr. Gordon responded that she would start to see these requests at the next board meeting for her approval. He also discussed that some of our current vendors are being reapproved with no cost increase, and others at the state-specified percentage rate.

Mr. Austin asked if there were caps on these renewed contracts. Mr. Gordon responded that there were no caps on the renewed contracts and that all costs would be seen by the board and would always need their approval. He also stated that if there were any questions or concerns about any items related to contracts, the business office would be happy to meet with any board member to answer any question or concern.

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Mr. Harper asked if there was a typo on what months the board secretary's report and the treasurer's report were approving. Mr. Gordon informed him that it was correct. Mr. Harper asked if they were missed. Mr. Gordon informed Mr. Harper that the district was in compliance with the statutory law of having these reports approved within 90 days.

Mr. Harper asked for clarification on the functions of Brown and Brown, the insurance broker. Mr. Gordon discussed the services they provided.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Resolution #197	Line Item Transfers for the month of April 2025.
Resolution #198	Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for April 2025.
Resolution #199	Payment of Bills
Resolution #200	Approval to contract with Pixel Electronic Repair for
Computer	Repair Services for the FY 25-26 school year.
Resolution #201	Approval to extend contracts for behavioral services for the
	25-26 school year.
Resolution #202	Approval to extend contracts for nursing services for the
	25-26 school year.
Resolution #203	Approval to contract with Ford Scott Kenndy for auditing
	services for the FY 2025-26 school year. There is no increase
	in the contract.
Resolution #204	Approval to contract with Nash Law Firm for attorney
	services for the FY 2025-26 school year. There is no increase
	in the contract.
Resolution #205	Approval of Brown & Brown LLP and renewal of Medical,
year	Prescription, Dental, and Vision for the FY 2025-26 school
	with Public Employers Trust.
Resolution #206	Approval to contract with TLC Landscaping for
groundskeeping	services for the FY 2025-26 school year.
Resolution #207	Approval of Truist Bank as the designated current depository
	for school district funds for FY 2025-26
Resolution #208	Approval of the FY 2025-26 Tax Levy.
Resolution #209	Approval of Newspapers of Record for FY 2025-26.

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Resolution #210 | Approval of FY 2025-26 Tuition Rates. |
| Resolution #211 | Approval of Tuition Reserve up to \$200,000 to be available for the next two budget cycles if needed. |
| Resolution #212 | Approval of Maintenance reserve up to \$250,000 to be available for future budgets if needed. |
| Resolution #213 | Approval of Annual Temporary Facilities for FY 2025-26 |
| Resolution #214 | Approval to contract with Pritchard Industries for Custodial Services for the FY 2025-26 school year. |
| Resolution #215 | Facility Use Application for the Borough of Lawnside & Intergenerational Dream Team to hold mini camps. |
| Resolution #216 | Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement and Tentative Agreements between the Lawnside Education association and the Lawnside Board of Education. |

Roll Call Vote:


Still y; Hayes y recuse 216; Austin y; Arterbridge y; Catlett y; Harper y recuse 216; Kittles y; Hurley y recuse 215; **8 Yes**
Cauthorne; 1 **Absent**

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Ms. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Arterbridge and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at **8:45pm.**

Respectfully submitted,


Mark Gordon
Assistant Business Administrator

