

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Reorganization Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

1. REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD SECRETARY (7:00 P.M.)

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. 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 January 8, 2025.
- B. Mailed written notice to the *Burlington County Times* and *Courier Post* on January 12, 2025.
- C. Filed written notice with the Clerk of Eastampton Township on January 8, 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.

4. FIRE EXITS

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		
Stephanie McHugh	X		
Jamie Smith	X		

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (25-26-62)

December 9, 2025 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Roll Call on Action Item(s)

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

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

6. FINAL ELECTION RESULTS – November 4, 2025:

A. Board of Education Candidates:

(2) Three Year term seats were available:

Candidates	Total Votes
Eddie Besko	2,286
Kerry Douglas	2,063
Write-In	37
Total	4,383

7. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:

The Board Secretary will administer the Oath for School Board Members elected to the Eastampton Township Board of Education:

- A. Eddie Besko – Three Year Term ending 12/31/2028
- B. Kerry Douglas – Three Year Term ending 12/31/2028

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

A. Call for nominations for Board President by Board Secretary

The Secretary of the Board of Education will accept nominations for President of the Board of Education. After nominations have been closed, the Secretary will have the ballot cast.

Roll Call

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

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

B. Call for nominations for Board Vice-President by Board President

The President of the Board of Education will accept nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education. After nominations have been closed, the Secretary will have the ballot cast.

Roll Call

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

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

C. Appointment of Committee Chairs

The President of the Board of Education will appoint committee members.

- a. Curriculum – Walter Maluchnik
- b. Buildings and Grounds – Edward Hill
- c. Policy – Kerry Douglas
- d. Personnel – Jamie Smith
- e. Finance – Edward Besko
- f. Borrough Liaison – Edward Besko

Roll Call

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

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

D. Designation of Board Members to N.J.S.B.A.:

The President of the Board of Education will designate a Board member to the following positions with New Jersey School Board Association through the Reorganization meeting in January 2027:

- a. Delegate to N.J.S.B.A. – Edward Hill
- b. Alternate Delegate to N.J.S.B.A. – Jaime Smith

Roll Call

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Edward Besko		X	X			
Kerry Douglas	X		X			
Edward Hill			X			
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Florencia Norton			X			
Jamie Smith			X			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion Carries					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion Fails					

E. Reading and signing of New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics. (2023-2024 NJSBA School Ethics PowerPoint presentation sent via email)

9. MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

Open Public Meetings Act – Establish Meeting Dates, Time and Place

RESOLVED that the Eastampton Board of Education, pursuant to Chapter 231, PAL. (Open Public Meetings Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Library at the Eastampton Community School, 1 Student Drive, Eastampton, NJ 08060 at 7:00 p.m. **and an executive session to begin at 6:30pm** as set forth below unless indicated otherwise:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the Board of Education and any other items brought to the Board’s attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby designate the *Burlington County Times* and the *Courier Post* as official newspapers to receive notices of meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notices of meetings of the Board of Education will be posted in the Front Office showcase and on the District website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and, as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
- The Board vests in its President, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals or organizations desiring notification of Board Meetings shall request such notification through the Board Secretary’s Office and be charged an annual fee of \$25.00, paid in advance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will meet on the following dates:

January 27, 2026	August 25, 2026 – 6:00 pm
February 24, 2026	September 29, 2026
March 10, 2026 (Tentative Budget Adoption)	October 27, 2026
April 14, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing)	November 16, 2026 (Monday)
May 12, 2026	December 8, 2026
June 9, 2026	January 5, 2027 (Reorganization)

Roll Call

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Edward Besko			X			
Kerry Douglas	X		X			
Edward Hill			X			
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh			X			
Florencia Norton		X	X			
Jamie Smith			X			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion Carries					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion Fails					

10. REORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS/DESIGNATIONS:

A. Action Items:

1) Recommend the board approve the following reorganization items for the 2026 calendar year:

a. POLICY:

- i. Adopt Existing bylaws and policies for continuity of operation of the Board and the school system.
- ii. Adopt Code of Ethics established by New Jersey Department of Education 18A:12-21 et. Seq.
- iii. Adopt Robert’s Rules of Order as the basis for the conduct of all meetings of the Board.

b. APPOINTMENTS/DESIGNATIONS:

i. Personnel:

- 1. Joseph A. Firetto as Board Secretary, Public Agency Compliance Officer, Custodian of Records, Workers Compensation Coordinator.

ii. Finance:

- 1. Recommend the Board approve Capehart Scatchard as district solicitor through the re-organization meeting 2027.

iii. Curriculum:

- 1. Continuation of existing curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials through the Reorganization meeting in January 2027.
- 2. Authorization of pupil records to be collected and maintained by authorized certified school personnel as outlined by State rules and regulations.

Roll Call

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Edward Besko			X			
Kerry Douglas	X		X			
Edward Hill			X			
Walter Maluchnik			X			
Stephanie McHugh		X	X			
Florencia Norton			X			
Jamie Smith			X			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion Carries					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion Fails					

11. PERSONNEL: (Jaime Smith, Chairperson)

A. Action Item(s):

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following candidate as a district substitute teacher effective January 7, 2026, pending completion of paperwork:

Gary Malinoski

- 2) Recommend the Board approve an amended 2025-2026 contract for the following employee to reflect the 2026 increase in the New Jersey state minimum wage, effective January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026:

Danielle Ricci

- 3) Recommend the Board retroactively accept the resignation of recess aide, Tiffany Williams, effective December 18, 2025.

12. 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)).

- Mayor Don Santillo sent welcome and congratulations to the board members.

13. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:24 pm:

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

Eastampton Township Board of Education
Resolution 2025-2026
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 8:00 pm 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: _____);

_____Any matter involving the purchase, 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);

 X 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.

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION 7:47 pm:

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

15. ADJOURNMENT 7:48 pm:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Firetto

Joseph A. Firetto
 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary