**ANDOVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**REGULAR MEETING**

**LONG POND SCHOOL**
**707 LIMECREST ROAD, NEWTON, NEW JERSEY 07860**
**JANUARY 21, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Brian Hertenstein** | **James Fetcho** | **William Porter** |
| **Jane Byron** | **Robert Koroski** | **Margaret Widgren** |
| **Maria Dunbar** | **Steven Minnick** | **Kelsey Shalinsky** |

**Mission Statement**

Andover Regional Schools prepare students to successfully meet the challenges of today and tomorrow by fostering a love of learning. Our safe, supportive, and stimulating environment encourages students to reach their full potential. It is an expectation that all students shall achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels. In Andover Regional, every child catches the learning spirit!

## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- •Call Meeting to Order
- •Pledge of Allegiance
- •The District Mission Statement and Notice of Public Meeting are listed for the Board and the public:

Notice of Public Meeting

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in the New Jersey Herald, posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerks of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

**Swearing in of Ms. Byron.**

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

## II. PRESENTATION:

- GEOY & GESP Recipients (Ms. Dilkes & Mr. Fleming)

## III. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if needed)

The Andover Regional Board of Education, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey will adjourn into closed session meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

1. Matters rendered confidential by State or Federal law.
2. Matters which could impair the right to receive federal funds.
3. Matters which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in public.
4. Negotiations.
5. Discussions involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property, the setting of bank rates, or the investment of public funds, where disclosure could adversely affect the public interest.
6. Discussions of tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public.
7. Discussions of pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, and matters falling under attorney-client privilege.
8. Personnel.
9. Deliberations after a public hearing.

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

Be it resolved that the Andover Regional Board of Education will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential according to the aforementioned specific exceptions.
Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. All appropriate persons who may be discussed in private session have been notified.

Expected Length: _____ Convene Time: _____

M _____ 2nd _____

All Those in Favor: Ayes _____ Opposed: No _____

1. **RECONVENE**: Time: _____

M _____ 2nd _____

All Those in Favor: Ayes _____ Opposed: No _____

Motion by:_____ Second by: _____ Final Call Vote: _____

**IV. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES:</u>** Approve the minutes of the following Board of Education meetings, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2026 Reorganization Meeting Minutes

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

**<u>SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH</u>**

**WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and**

**WHEREAS, The Andover Regional Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and**

**WHERAS, The Andover Regional Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and**

**WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and**

**WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and**

**WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and**

**WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and**

**WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores,**

**and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, That the Andover Regional Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the Andover Regional Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.**

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Board Committees:**

| **Personnel/Policy** | **Finance/Operations** | **Curriculum/Instruction** |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Porter (Chair) | Mr. Fetcho (Chair) | Ms. Byron (Chair) |
| Dr. Dunbar | Ms. Widgren | Mr. Hertenstein |
| Dr. Koroski | Mr. Minnick | Ms. Shalinsky |

**Special Committees/Ad Hoc Assignments:**

| WHAT | DELEGATE | ALTERNATE(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Sussex County School Boards Association | Dr. Koroski | Ms. Byron/Ms. Widgren/Dr. Dunbar |
| NJSBA Delegate Assembly | Mr. Minnick | Ms. Widgren/Dr. Dunbar |
| Newton Board of Education Rep. | Ms. Widgren | Mr. Hertenstein/Dr. Koroski |
| Sussex County Educational Services | Ms. Byron | Ms. Widgren/Mr. Hertenstein |
| Andover Regional PTA | Ms. Shalinsky | Ms. Widgren/Dr. Dunbar |
| Township Liaison | Ms. Widgren | Dr. Dunbar |
| Negotiations/Sick Bank | Dr. Koroski | Mr. Fetcho/Ms. Widgren/Mr. Hertenstein |
| QSAC Committee | Dr. Koroski | Mr. Minnick/Ms. Widgren |
| SEPAG Liaison | Mr. Hertenstein | Dr. Koroski/Mr. Fetcho/Ms. Widgren |
| Andover Regional Education Foundation | Dr. Dunbar | Dr. Koroski |

## VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. Thank you to the PTA for hosting Candy Bar Bingo
B. Thank you to Ms. Dilkes, Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Cotto for hosting a parent Pre-K night that focused on communication
C. Rehearsals for the spring musical Matilda Junior have begun and the show will take place April 17th and 18th
D. New PA systems have been successfully installed in both buildings
E. Budget process is moving along and gained a great deal of input from our administrative team
F. Staff professional development day - January 19, 2026
G. Continued staff observations
H. SSDS Report was uploaded to the DOE - Update from Mr. Fleming
I. New NJSLA information has been made available to the public
J. Suspension/HIB Report - Approval of HIB Report (Monthly)

Motion by:_____ Second by: _____ Final Call Vote: _____

Resolve that the Board of Education accepts the attached HIB Report**,** as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____ Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

**B. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:** Listed below is the report from **Jennifer Reynolds,** Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- 21st Century Teachers hosted an Hour of Code event in each school. A very special thank you to Ms. Sautter and Mrs. Cotter for an engaging and community building event.
- Held an Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
- Hosted a Parent Workshop for Preschool Parents titled "Fostering Communication in Preschool Students." A very special thank you to Mrs. DelDuca for an informative presentation and a special thank you to Mrs. Publik and her NJHS students for providing childcare.
- Working with the administrative team on the 26-27 Budget Process
- Working with the preschool teachers on the 26-27 preschool budget
- Working with the LPS Social Studies team to plan our participation in America 250's Field Trip Contest. A special thank you to the AREF for supporting our event.
- Worked with the administrative team to organize meaningful professional development activities on January 19, 2026.
- Working with our NAEP state representative to organize our participation in 2026 NAEP testing for grade 8.
- Working with Mrs. Dilkes to prepare for preschool and kindergarten registration/orientation.
- Working with Mrs. Dilkes to host an FMB Literacy Night on March 26.
- Worked with Mr. Fritzky to analyze county wide NJSLA scores.
- Completed both formal and information evaluations

**C. Technology Report:** Listed below is a report from **Joseph DeLuca**, Technology/Network Systems Administrator.

- Hosted an ARSD Technology Committee Meeting.
- Coordinated new PA systems installations at each school.
- Prepared the technology budget for the 26-27 school year.

**D. Child Study Team Report**: Listed below is a report prepared by **Suzanne Ross**, Supervisor of Special Services/LDTC.

- Ongoing collaboration with the administrative team regarding operations and programs, for the 25/26 school year.
- Worked with Ms. Sylvester and the administrative team on the 26/27 budgeting process.
- Attended the Sussex/Warren Special Education Directors group. Discussion focused on procedural updates regarding universal literacy screenings with students in approved out of district placement, updates to paperwork, personnel and procedural documentation, as well as the updates on the NJSLEDS reporting system.
- Met with all grade level teaching teams at both LPS and FMB to discuss special education updates and identify struggling students.
- Attended virtual session of NJDOE Special Education updates
- Reached out to our SEPAG co-presidents to share a DOE Lunch and Learn opportunity
- Collaborated with the administrative team to plan the January 19 Inservice Professional Development Day for all staff.
- Conducted monthly CST/grade level team meetings at both LPS & FMB.
- Conducted CST/LPS special ed monthly teacher meeting.
- Ongoing formal and informal teacher observations, including pre and post conferences

**E. HIB Findings**: None at this time.

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

**F. Principal's Reports**

## VII. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT:

- FMB Septic Update: 3/1 for approval
- Budget Expenses by line item

## VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

**** Members of the public are requested to keep their comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.****

## IX. ACTION ITEMS:

### A. PERSONNEL/POLICY:

**Be it resolved that resolution numbers 1-5 be adopted, as presented:**

Motion by:_____ Second by: _____ Final Call Vote: _____

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

1. **Leave Replacement Teacher**: Approve Marian Smith as leave replacement teacher for Employee ID #1327 from January 5, 2026 through May 15, 2026 at 60 days leave replacement substitute pay of $150/day, pending certification and criminal history clearance, going on guide (Policy #3125.2) at BA Step 1, at a prorated salary of $61,572 for the remainder of the leave, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

2. **Paraprofessional Decrease in Hours 2025-2026 School Year:** Approve, retroactively, the decrease in hours/pay for following Paraprofessional staff member(s) effective January 20, 2026 through June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| NAME | EFFECTIVE DATE | SCHOOL | FORMER HOURS | NEW HOURS | STEP | FORMER SALARY | NEW SALARY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peyton Coye | 1/20/26 | FMB | 28.75 | 17.25 | 2 | $27,751 | $16,651 |

* pro-rated

3. **Personnel:** RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14, that the employment and adjustment salary increments for Employee I.D. #1260 are hereby withheld for the 2026-2027 school year; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that within ten (10) days, the Superintendent shall notify the employee of this action and the reasons for same.

4. **Substitutes:** Approve the following substitute(s) for the 2025-2026 school year pending receipt of all required paperwork, including criminal history clearance, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Alena Picinic - Substitute Teacher and ParaProfessional
Kiersten Coughlin - Substitute Teacher
Marian Smith - Substitute Teacher & Leave Replacement
Patrick Reardon - Substitute Custodian (retro)

5. **Second Reading of Policies & Regulations:** Approve the second reading of the following (and attached) policies and regulations, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

P 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
R 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
P 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
R 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
P 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)
R 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)

**B. <u>FINANCE/OPERATIONS</u>:**

**Be it resolved that resolution numbers 1-14 be adopted, as presented:**

Motion by:_____ Second by: _____ Final Call Vote: _____

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

1. **<u>Treasurer & Board Secretary's Certification and Report</u>**: Approve the December 2025 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of December 2025 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, *and reflects all audit adjustments to date,* to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

2. **<u>Transfers</u>**: Approve/accept the Transfer Report for December 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

3. **<u>Bills List</u>**: Approve/accept the Bills List from December 17, 2025 through January 21, 2025 for a total of $1,941,218.34 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

4. **<u>Building Use for 2025-2026 School Year</u>**: Approve the following building use for the Long Pond and/or Florence M. Burd schools, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| NAME OF ORGANIZATION | PURPOSE | DATE REQUESTED | INSURANCE CERTIFICATE | BUILDING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PTA | Father Daughter Dance | Feb. 20, 2026 | Yes | LPS |
| PTA | Scholastic Book Fair | March 13-20, 2026 | Yes | LPS |
| PTA | Scholastic Book Fair | Feb. 27- March 6, 2026 | Yes | FMB |

5. **Contract with Blue Diamond Disposal:** Approve the contract with Blue Diamond Disposal for 36 months at a monthly cost of $1,772 for garbage disposal services for the district, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

6. **Contract with Delta-T Group:** Approve, retroactively, the contract with Delta-T Group for substitute custodian services for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly cost of $30/hour for a custodian and $35/hour for a custodian with a black seal, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

7. **ParaProfessional Statement of Assurance:** Approve the Statement of Assurance regarding the use of the ParaProfessional staff for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

8. **2026 Extended School Year:** Approve the Extended School Year program (ESY) for the period of July 6, 2026 through August 6, 2026 running 4 days/week M-Th from 8:45-12:15, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

9. **Tuition Reimbursement**: Approve the following tuition reimbursement, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

| Name | Program | Credits | Location | Cost per Credit | Reimbursement Cost | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alyssa Garretson | ELRL-6240 Organization & Supervision of Literacy Programs | 3 | William Paterson University | $625.80 | $1,877.40 | Spring 2026 |

10. **Revised 2026-2027 School Calendar**: Approve the attached revised Andover Regional District School 2026-2027 school calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

11. **Revised 2026-2027 School Year Holiday Schedule for 10- & 12-Month Employees**: Approve the attached holiday schedules calendar for the 2026-2027 school year for the 10 and 12 month employees, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

12. **Fundraising**: Approve the following fund raising events, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| Advisor/Coach/Organization | Class/Club/Team/Group | Date(s) | Activity |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jessie Seaton (PTA) | PTA | March 2-20, 2026 | Read-a-Thon to fund PTA Activities |
| Jessie Seaton (PTA) | PTA | February 23-27, 2026 | Coin Drive - Scholastic All for Books to help FMB students in need get book at the Book Fair |

13. **Volunteers**: Approve the attached volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year pending required Vector Training, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

14. **Playground Grant** :Whereas, the Andover Regional Board of Education desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately $700,000 to carry out a project to replace the current elementary playground and surfacing due to safety purposes for students.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

1) that the Andover Regional Board of Education does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Andover Regional Board of Education and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith: Ms. Nicole Sylvester, School Business Administrator and Mr. John Fritzky, Superintendent.

## C. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION:

**Be it resolved that resolution numbers 1-2 be adopted, as presented:**

Motion by:_____ Second by: _____ Final Call Vote: _____

**Roll Call:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____Ms. Byron | _____Dr. Dunbar | _____Mr. Fetcho |
| _____Mr. Hertenstein | _____Mr. Minnick | _____Mr. Porter |
| _____Ms. Shalinsky | _____Ms. Widgren | _____Dr. Koroski |

1. **Activities/Trips**: Approve the following student activities/class trip, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| Grade/ Teacher | Date/ Destination/ Purpose | Student Cost | Board Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jill Johnson<br>Kindergarten | May 1, 2026<br>Tranquility Farms,<br>Green Township, NJ<br><br>A hands-on experience learning about planting and the life cycle of a plant. | $28.54 | $400.40 (Bus)<br>$250.00 (Nurse) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ryan Zuccheri Concert Band/Select Choir | May 22, 2026<br>Dorney Park<br>Allentown, PA<br><br>High Note Music Festival-Music Performance | $119.00 | $250.00 (Nurse) |
| Jen Bogert First Grade | May 19, 2026<br>Turtle Back Zoo<br>West Orange, NJ<br><br>To observe animal behavior in many ways. | $34.00 | $702.00 (SE Bus)<br>$250.00 (Nurse) |

2. Approve a Fun Fair with a focus on the diverse make up of students at FMB on, April 2, 2026 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**X. <u>COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD</u>**: None

**XI. <u>OLD and NEW BUSINESS:</u>**

A. OLD BUSINESS
B. NEW BUSINESS

**XII. <u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS</u>**:

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

**** Members of the public are requested to keep their comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.****

**XIII. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed)</u>**:

The Andover Regional Board of Education, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey will adjourn into closed session meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

1. Matters rendered confidential by State or Federal law.
2. Matters which could impair the right to receive federal funds.
3. Matters which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in public.
4. Negotiations.
5. Discussions involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property, the setting of bank rates, or the investment of public funds, where disclosure could adversely affect the public interest.
6. Discussions of tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public.
7. Discussions of pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, and matters falling under attorney-client privilege.
8. Personnel.

9. Deliberations after a public hearing.

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

Be it resolved that the Andover Regional Board of Education will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential according to the aforementioned specific exceptions.
Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. All appropriate persons who may be discussed in private session have been notified.

Expected Length: _____ Convene Time: _____
M _____ 2nd _____
All Those in Favor: Ayes _____ Opposed: No _____

1. **RECONVENE**: Time: _____
M _____ 2nd _____
All Those in Favor: Ayes _____ Opposed: No _____

2. **ADJOURNMENT**: Time: _____
M _____ 2nd _____
All Those in Favor: Ayes _____ Opposed: No _____