

**MINUTES
ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE
KEANSBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.
JOSEPH R. BOLGER MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Sette, Board Secretary, called the Organization Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

SUNSHINE LAW

Be advised that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (Sunshine Law) and that adequate notice of the date, time and agenda has been sent to the Asbury Park Press and has been posted and filed with the Municipal Clerk of Keansburg. Copies have also been sent to each district school and posted on the district website in accordance with the law.

STATEMENT OF VIDEOTAPING OF PUBLIC PORTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Please note that the public portion of all Board of Education meetings are videotaped and available for public viewing on our website. Therefore, members of the public should have no expectation of privacy in any statements that they make when addressing the Board/Administration.

NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please be advised that there is no smoking on school grounds - inside or outside - at any time.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Michael Sette led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMERGENCY EXITS

Michael Sette pointed out the emergency exits.

Christopher Hoff asked for a minute of silence for Thomas Lopes.

RESULTS OF ELECTION

Mr. Michael Sette read the results of the School Board Election conducted on November 4, 2025, General Election Ballot from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm by the County Board of Elections:

CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS

THREE YEAR TERM	
CANDIDATE	TOTAL VOTES
Brooke Clayton	1602
Kenneth Cook	1499
Michael Mankowski	1504
Write-In	74

TWO-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM	
CANDIDATE	TOTAL VOTES
Catherine Ryan	1657
Write-In	30

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. John Bennett administered the prescribed oath of office to re-elected Board members Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Patricia Frizell, Judy Ferraro, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Christopher Hoff, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matthew Kitchen

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen O'Hare, Superintendent, Michael Sette, Board Secretary and John O. Bennett, Attorney.

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

According to Bylaw 0152, Mr. Michael Sette, Board Secretary, opened up the nomination for the position of President.

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Mr. Michael Sette explained that if there was more than one nomination for President or Vice President, candidates will be voted on in the order in which they were nominated.

Kim Kelaher-Moran nominated Christopher J. Hoff for President.
No other nominations were made.

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT	
MOVED BY	Michael Mankowski
SECONDED BY	Patricia Frizell
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

ROLL CALL VOTE

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT	
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

ASSUMPTION OF THE CHAIR

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

According to Bylaw 0152, the Board President, Christopher Hoff opened up the nomination for the position of Board Vice President.

Judy Ferraro nominated Michael Mankowski for Vice President.
No other nominations were made.

ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT	
MOVED BY	Kenneth Cook
SECONDED BY	Patricia Frizell
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

ROLL CALL VOTE

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT	
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ORGANIZATION MATTERS

1. ATTENDANCE OFFICER

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Tara Smith, Supervisor of Special Education, to be appointed Keansburg Board of Education Attendance Officer through the January 2027 Organization Meeting.

2. 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Keansburg Board of Education hereby adopts the following schedule of meetings, to be held at 7:00 pm, on the Third Tuesday of each month, in the Joseph R. Bolger Middle School, Media Center, Keansburg, NJ (unless otherwise noted):

January 20, 2026	January Monthly Meeting
February 17, 2026	February Monthly Meeting
March 10, 2026	March Monthly Meeting - Tentative Budget
April 28, 2026	April Monthly Meeting - Budget Hearing and Adoption
May 19, 2026	May Monthly Meeting
June 16, 2026	June Monthly Meeting
July 21, 2026	July Monthly
August 18, 2026	August Monthly Meeting
September 15, 2026	September Monthly Meeting
October 27, 2026	October Monthly Meeting
November 17, 2026	November Monthly Meeting
December 15, 2026	December Monthly Meeting
January 5, 2027	Organization Meeting

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ORGANIZATION MATTERS	
MOVED BY	Kenneth Cook
SECONDED BY	Brooke Clayton
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	Michael Mankowski Rescues on #1

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS MATTERS

1. APPROVAL OF DEPOSITORIES

BE IT RESOLVED that the Keansburg Board of Education authorizes the use of the following depositories:

1. Bank of America
2. New Jersey Cash Management
3. New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management (NJ ARM)

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS MATTERS	
MOVED BY	Brooke Clayton
SECONDED BY	Kim Kelaher-Moran
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS MATTERS

1. ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS

BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21, the Keansburg Board of Education must minimally adhere to the following "Code of Ethics":

CODE OF ETHICS

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

2. GOVERNANCE MANUAL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Keansburg Board of Education approve the current governance manual containing all policies, bylaws, mandated regulations and job descriptions specifically requiring Board approval through the January 2027 Organizational Meeting.

DISCUSSION - None

ROLL CALL VOTE

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS MATTERS	
MOVED BY	Patricia Frizell
SECONDED BY	Kenneth Cook
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	
ABSTAIN/RECUSE	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tami Alt: Parkside Place - She spoke on a couple of matters that she was previously unable to discuss and also played a recording from a prior Board Meeting.

OLD/NEW COMMUNICATIONS:

Kenneth Cook: Congratulations to the President and Vice President, and to all newly elected members. Happy New Year.

Kim Kelaher-Moran: Congratulations to the President and Vice President—looking forward to another good year.

Patricia Frizell: Congratulations to the newly elected members and new officers.

Judy Ferraro: Congratulations to the newly elected members and new officers.

Catherine Ryan: Congratulations to the newly elected members and new officers.

John Bennett: Congratulations to the sworn-in members and two new officers.

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Michael Sette: Congratulations to the newly elected members and new officers, and Happy New Year.

Michael Mankowski: Thank you to my fellow Board members for your support, and thank you to everyone who voted for us. We do our best to fairly represent all students.

Christopher Hoff: I'd like to thank everyone for showing up and thank the newly elected board members for all they do. Thank you all for your support—it is truly an honor. I have the hardest job in the world, and you make it look easy. We are fortunate to have the best board, administration and staff. I am grateful to the Mayor, Council, and especially my family for their continued support. I did not know Mr. Lopes well, but he was a huge influence on my older siblings, and he will be greatly missed. Winter sports are well underway, with many successes to celebrate. Bolger basketball continues to shine, and Ms. Lee should be named Coach of the Year for the incredible work she has done with the team. We also had a student place in wrestling, and the girls' basketball team won the holiday tournament. Finally, our Buildings and Grounds team deserves recognition for the beautiful work done in the gym and cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

MOTION TO ADJOURN	
MOVED BY	Kenneth Cook
SECONDED BY	Judy Ferraro
AYE	Brooke Clayton, Kenneth Cook, Judy Ferraro, Patricia Frizell, Christopher Hoff, Kim Kelaher-Moran, Michael Mankowski, and Catherine Ryan
NAY	

Moved by Kenneth Cook, seconded by Judy Ferraro, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Sette
Board Secretary