

Wildwood Crest Board of Education
Special Meeting: Board Vacancy
Crest Memorial School
Media Center
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Flag Salute
3. Open Public Meeting Statement
 - a. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and Board of Education meeting schedule, with notice requirements have been satisfied as to the time, place, and date of holding this meeting by posting notice in the main office of Crest Memorial School, placement of advertisement in The Cape May County Herald February 10, 2026.
4. Roll Call -
 - Leonard Bernstein
 - Nicholas Holland
 - Bud Morey
 - Joseph Cusella
5. PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thank you for attending tonight. Our process is designed to give all candidates fair and equal consideration for the one open Board seat.

The process:

- **Interviews:** Mr. Del Conte will ask questions to assess each candidate's ability to represent our community in accordance with NJSBA recommendations. Board members may ask follow-up questions aligned with the original topics. We ask everyone to respect our candidates' time and avoid superfluous discussion.
- **Executive Session:** After all interviews, the Board will enter a brief executive session. The Board will discuss which candidates are best suited for the positions.
- **Board Action:** Upon returning to open session, the Board:
 - May make recommendations for the open positions
 - Will provide public comment on the vacancy
 - May conduct a roll call vote
- **Per Policy 0143,** candidates will be voted on in the order nominated. The first candidate receiving a majority vote of remaining Board members will be appointed. If no candidate receives a majority, a runoff will be conducted between the two highest vote-getters.

If the Board cannot make a determination tonight, we will repost and hold interviews before the March 17th meeting. The Board has 65 days from the vacancy date to fill these seats, or the Executive County Superintendent will appoint.

Are there any questions regarding tonight's procedures?

6. CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS (OPEN SESSION)

The Board will interview the following candidates in alphabetical order. Each candidate will be allotted approximately 15 minutes for their interview.

Candidates to be Interviewed:

- Eileen Gianakopoulos
- Denise Bannon
- Kyle Morey
- Mandy Voisard
- Jay Maher
- Kate O'Connell

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

All statements are limited to 3 minutes.

Statements addressing specific personnel or specific student(s) should not be raised in the public session but rather in private with the Superintendent. All questions should be addressed to the Board President.

8. RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)) permits the Board to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to discuss matters relating to personnel matters regarding the Board vacancy appointment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wildwood Crest Board of Education enter into closed session to deliberate regarding the candidates interviewed for the Board vacancy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of these deliberations will be made public at the conclusion of closed session when the Board reconvenes in open session, as no action may be taken in closed session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board expects to reconvene in open session no later than 6:00 p.m.

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Roll Call Vote:

9. CLOSED SESSION - BOARD DELIBERATIONS

The Board will deliberate regarding the qualifications of the candidates interviewed. No vote may be taken in closed session.

10. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

11. BOARD ACTION - APPOINTMENT TO BOARD VACANCY

Motion to appoint [Candidate Name] to fill the Board of Education vacancy for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Roll Call Vote:

12. ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AND OPENING OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Roll Call Vote:

Wildwood Crest Board of Education
Work Meeting/ Regular Meeting
Crest Memorial School
Media Center
Tuesday, February 17 , 2026 at 6:00

Work Session:

1. Committee Reports:
 - a. Curriculum
 - b. Facilities
 - c. Extracurricular
 - d. Policy
 - e. Finance
 - f. Liaison to Wildwood Board of Education
 - g. Mr. Del Conte, Superintendent
2. Correspondence
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

All statements are limited to 3 minutes.
Statements addressing specific personnel or specific student(s) should not be raised in the public session but rather in private with the Superintendent. All questions should be addressed to the Board President.
Please state your name and address for the record.
4. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn work session and begin regular session.

Regular Session:

1. Business Administrator’s Report- see attached
2. Superintendent’s Report- see attached
3. Closed Session (if necessary) -

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Wildwood Crest Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion;
- Any matter pertaining to student confidentiality;
- Any matter pertaining to personnel or negotiations;
- Any matter pertaining to litigation;
- Confidential financial matters;
- Other: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will/ will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

4. Public Comment

All statements are limited to 3 minutes.

Statements addressing specific personnel or specific student(s) should not be raised in the public session but rather in private with the Superintendent. All questions should be addressed to the Board President.

Please state your name and address for the record..

5. Board Comment
6. Adjournment

**WILDWOOD CREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Any member of the Board of Education may have any of the items on the agenda removed for discussion merely by so indicating by making a motion prior to the vote to be taken on the agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, a motion was made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following agenda by roll call:

- Leonard Bernstein -
- Nicholas Holland -
- William Morey -
- Joseph Cusella -

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S CERTIFICATION

As Business Administrator, pursuant to Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(3), I certify that as of **January 2026** no budgetary line item account had obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2, and no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(3), it is further certified that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts and sources for the month of **February 2026**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4), the Board of Education certifies that as of **January 2026** and after review of the Business Administrator's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate school district officials, to the best of the Board's knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a)(1) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFERS

No appropriations transfers completed in the month that require reporting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

To approve the financial reports of the Business Administrator (A-148) and the Treasurer (A-149), which are in agreement, for **January 2026**.

BILL PAYMENTS

To approve bill payments for **February 2026** as listed.

APPROVE MINUTES

To approve and release minutes of the following meeting:
Regular Meeting - **January, 20, 2026**

RENEWAL OF JOINT INSURANCE FUND (JIF) MEMBERSHIP

I recommend that the Board of Education approve the Resolution and Indemnity & Trust Agreement, which is available for your review, to renew membership in the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund (ACCASBO JIF) for the three year membership term commencing on July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY COUNTIES ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS JOINT INSURANCE FUND

WHEREAS, the Wildwood Crest Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as “Board”, is a member of the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as “JIF”, and has reviewed the Bylaws and Plan of Risk Management of the JIF; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes in the safety of its employees and the public who participate in the life of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees with the risk management disciplines inherent to membership in said JIF which are explicit in the JIF’s Bylaws and Risk Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees that the statement below is consistent with its own philosophy: “It is the goal of the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) and its member Boards of Education to achieve the best and most practical degree of freedom from accidents and/or injuries. The JIF and its members also endeavor to insure that all employees are provided with a safe and healthy environment, free from any recognized hazard as defined by applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Loss prevention, which is the responsibility of the Board, should succeed in providing a safe, healthful and pleasant working environment;” and,

WHEREAS, the JIF is a legally authorized and constituted joint insurance fund as permitted by Chapter 108, Laws of 1983 (N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et.seq.), and has operated successfully on behalf of area school districts since its formation on July 1, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the statutes regulating the conduct of the JIF contain elaborate safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to said JIF; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that continued participation as a member of the JIF is in the Board’s best interest;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby agrees to renew its membership in the JIF for a three year membership term which shall commence on July 1, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will participate in all lines of coverage the JIF provides as defined by the JIF's Risk Management Program, which are generally described herein as follows:

1. Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability
2. General Liability and Automobile Liability
3. Educator's Legal Liability, including Employment Practices Liability
4. Property Damage, including Automobile Physical Damage
5. Employee Dishonesty (Crime) Insurance
6. Boiler & Machinery/Equipment Breakdown
7. Cyber Liability
8. Pollution and Mold Legal Liability
9. Crisis Protection Program
10. Unmanned Aerial Systems Liability
11. Student Accident on an Annual Elective Basis (check district)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board appoints James J. Lushok, School Board Administrator, as its Commissioner to the JIF and empowers said Commissioner to; exercise the voting rights provided in the JIF's Bylaws to Commissioners in a manner which best protects the Board and JIF, to implement and strengthen the Board's safety and risk management efforts, to participate fully and with efficiency in the JIF to comply with all conditions of membership as defined in the JIF Bylaws and Risk Management Program, and to execute all agreements, including but not limited to an Indemnity & Trust Agreement in order to implement membership by the Board in the JIF.

BY: _____ TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

James J. Lushok - Business Administrator

**WILDWOOD CREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Any member of the Board of Education may have any of the items on the agenda removed for discussion merely by so indicating by making a motion prior to the vote to be taken on the agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, a motion was made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following agenda by roll call:

- Leonard Bernstein -
- Nicholas Holland -
- William Morey -
- Joseph Cusella -

ENROLLMENT (188):

Attached is a list of the present enrollment.

PRACTICE LOCKDOWN AND FIRE DRILL:

The practice lockdown and fire drill for January were January 21st, and January 29th, respectively.

2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION:

To approve the revised 2025/2026 school calendar * Snow day on 1/26/2026, will now make March 13, 2026 a 1:10 Dismissal from School being closed*.

SPEECH SERVICES:

To approve Martina Villarson as a Speech Services vendor at a daily rate of \$700, for 2 times a week.

RETIREMENT:

To approve the retirement of Evelyne Silver, effective July 1, 2026.

SPRING SPORTS:

To approve the following coaches for the 2026 Spring Sports Season:

Jared Degroff	Head Coach- Baseball
Anthony Samartino	Asst. Coach- Baseball
Courtney Gingrich	Head Coach- Softball

Melissa Raucci	Asst. Coach- Softball
Nick Zimmerman	Coach-Running Club
Claudia Gentzow	Coach- Running Club

2025/2026 SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

To approve the following individuals to be substitute teachers for the remainder of the 205/2026 school year:

Susan Murphy	Teacher
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HIB REPORTS:

0 reported/ 0 found

David J. Del Conte, Jr., Superintendent

**CREST MEMORIAL SCHOOL
2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Number of Teaching Days</u>
AUGUST	26 (Tuesday) - New Teacher Orientation 27 (Wednesday)-Teacher Professional Day 28 (Thursday)-Teacher Professional Day 29 (Friday)-School Closed	0
SEPTEMBER	2 (Tuesday) First day of School Students 2-3 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 1:10 Early Dismissal 25 (Thursday) Back to School Night	21
OCTOBER	10 (Friday) School Closed- Teacher's Professional Day 13 (Monday) Columbus Day- School Closed 31 (Friday) Halloween- 1:10 Dismissal	21
NOVEMBER	6-7 (Thursday-Friday) School Closed (NJEA Convention) 19-21 (Wednesday-Friday) 1:10 Dismissal-PT Conferences 26- (Wednesday) 1:10 Early Dismissal 27-28 (Thursday-Friday) School Closed Thanksgiving Break	16
DECEMBER	19 (Friday) 1:10 Early Dismissal 22-2 (Monday-Friday) Winter Break	15
JANUARY	5 (Monday) School Opens 19 (Monday) Martin Luther King Day School Closed 26 (Monday) SNOW DAY	18
FEBRUARY	13 (Friday) School Closed Presidents' Weekend 16 (Monday) School Closed Presidents' Weekend	18
MARCH	13- (Friday) Snow Day Make up -1:10 Dismissal	22
APRIL	2 (Thursday) 1:10 Dismissal 3-10 (Friday-Sunday)- School Closed (Spring Break) 13 (Monday)- School Reopens	16
MAY	22 (Friday)- 1:10 Early Dismissal 25 (Monday) School Closed- Memorial Day	20
JUNE	15-17 (Monday-Wednesday) 1:10 Dismissal 17 (Wednesday) Last Day of School- Students 18 (Thursday) Teachers PD (Teachers Last Day)	13
		<u>180 total School Days</u>

NOTE: Early closing for additional teacher in-service will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis. Should an alteration of the school calendar be necessary, days will be taken from the Winter and/or Spring breaks, as well as other days not established as official state holidays, including Saturdays. Should it be necessary, professional days will be rescheduled at the end of the school year. (May be subject to change). **This calendar was approved by the Wildwood Crest Board of Education on 2/17/2026**

<u>CMS February 2026 Enrollment Totals</u>	
PreSchool 3 Bren	13
PreSchool 4 Gent	14
Kindergarten B/M	14
First Grade H/O	12
Second Grade C	8
Second Grade M	8
Third Grade D/M	13
Fourth Grade C	9
Fourth Grade Z	9
Fifth Grade G	10
Fifth Grade S	10
Sixth Grade A	11
Sixth Grade M	9
Seventh Grade K	15
Seventh Grade P	14
Eighth Grade H	10
Eighth Grade M	9
TOTAL IN DISTRICT	188
TOTAL PREK-8 OOD	9
<i>WWH</i>	25
<i>CMTECH</i>	14
<i>MIDDLE</i>	11
<i>LOWER TOWNSHIP</i>	2
TOTAL	249