

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 7:00 PM (Closed Session) 7:30 PM Regular Session

Jefferson Township High School Media Center

District Vision Statement

The district will be a leader in academic excellence while developing healthy, well-rounded, resourceful students who are positive, contributing members of local and global communities.

A. Mr. Brown, called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM, and read the Open Meeting Statement, below:

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Jefferson Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof, posted in the Jefferson Township Municipal Building, with copies of such notice delivered or mailed or electronically mailed to the following:

DAILY RECORD, NJ HERALD and posted on the Jefferson Township Board of Education website (www.Jefftp.org);

and a copy of said notice delivered to the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Jefferson and the Jefferson Township Library.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. ROLL CALL:

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

Absent London Castle, Student Representative
Aye Victor Koziol, Student Representative

D. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mrs. Small, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Jefferson Township Board of Education on this 20th day of January, 2026 at 7:05 PM, as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8). The general nature of the discussion will involve matters confidential by law, any investigations or tactics or techniques to protect persons or litigation, anticipated litigation and attorney-client matters.
2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to close Executive Session by Mrs. Ruggiero, seconded by Ms. Seugling, that the meeting is called to public session at 7:29 PM.

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Mrs. Howe presented the Good News and Progress Report.

F PRESENTATIONS

- Mrs. Jeanne Howe, Superintendent and Mrs. Rita Oroho Giacchi, Business Administrator presented information on the district’s history of Fiscal Accountability.
- Mr. Michael Lonie, JTHS Principal, Mr. Jason Kalish, JTHS Assistant Principal and Student Council Co-Presidents Jake Ciombor and Katrina Mutter honored the School Board Members for School Board Member Recognition Month.

G. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE (on agenda action items only, if applicable)

- None

H. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Student Representative Victor Koziol reported on past events such as the Winter Assembly, Jingle Ball Jam, and DECA Regionals. Mr. Koziol also highlighted some current and upcoming events like opportunities for pet therapy during this week’s mid term exams, an NJAC Leadership Conference, and an upcoming College, Trade, and Military Information fair.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Building Needs and Finance Committee** - Mrs. Mallimo-Orna reported the Committee met on January 5, 2026 and discussed a separate proposal for a potential special election.
 - ❖ New Jersey School Board Association - Mr. Natale noted there would be an upcoming NJSBA meeting in February.

J. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Motion by Mrs. Small, seconded by Mr. Natale, that the Executive Session Meeting minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted:

<u>Abstain</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Abstain</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Abstain</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

Motion by Mrs. Poulas, seconded by Mrs. Small, that the Regular Meeting minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting be approved as submitted:

<u>Abstain</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Abstain</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Abstain</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

Motion by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, that the Annual Organization Meeting minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted:

Aye Mr. Camacho Aye Mrs. Poulas Aye Mrs. Small
Aye Mr. Natale Aye Mrs. Ruggiero Aye Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, *Vice President*
Aye Mrs. Perez Aye Ms. Seugling Aye Mr. Brown, *President*

K. FINANCE AND BUILDING NEEDS

Motion by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mrs. Poulas, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions K.1 through K.9, as described below:

Aye Mr. Camacho Aye Mrs. Poulas Aye Mrs. Small
Aye Mr. Natale Aye Mrs. Ruggiero Aye Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, *Vice President*
Aye Mrs. Perez Aye Ms. Seugling Aye Mr. Brown, *President*

K.1 Motion to approve the purchase order list dated December 2025 in the amount of \$672,391.80.

K.2 Motion to approve the vendors’ bills list for release, on or after January 21, 2026, in the amount of \$551,718.14.

K.3 Motion to approve the check register as of December 2025 in the amount of \$6,125,307.24.

Fund	Amount
General Fund (10)	\$5,583,205.91
Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$542,085.08
Referendum Fund (30)	\$16.25
Total	\$6,125,307.24

K.4 Motion to approve the funds transfers in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, dated December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$44,768.78.

K.5 Motion to approve the certification by the Board Secretary that the Account Balance Report, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, as of December 31, 2025, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

K.6 Motion to certify, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), as of November 30, 2025, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Reports, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

K.7 Motion to designate the source of funding for the following individuals as the FY2026 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title IV A grant:

Account Code: 20-280-100-100-007-00						
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Grant Portion of Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
D'Antoni Smeilus, Tara	Appoint	Spring Musical: Scenery/Stage Props (Grades 6-8)	\$592	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Hoertel, Jessica	Appoint	Spring Musical: Art/Set Design (Grades 6-8)	\$592	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Hopkins, Alyssa	Appoint	Spring Musical: Drama Director (Grades 6-8)	\$2,514	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Macedo, Julia	Appoint	Spring Musical: Vocal/Instrumental Director	\$2,514	JTIS	10/15/2025	6/19/2026
Escolano, Jennifer	Appoint	Spring Musical: Publications/Tickets (Grades 6-8)	\$592	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Sarmiento, Ashley	Appoint	Spring Musical: Costumes (Grades 6-8)	\$592	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Szuskowski, Patricia	Appoint	Spring Musical: Props (Grades 6-8)	\$592	JTIS	11/18/2025	6/30/2026
Escolano, Jennifer	Appoint	Drama (per production)	\$2,012	JTIS	10/15/2025	6/30/2026

K.8 Motion to designate the source of funding for the following individuals as funded from the FY2026 IDEA Preschool Grant, as indicated:

Account Code: 20-251-100-106-000-00						
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Grant Share Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
Ferucci, Frances	Appoint	Aide	\$8,150.50	E. T. Briggs	9/1/2025	6/30/2026
Garcia Argueta, Brendalicia	Appoint	Aide	\$8,150.50	E. T. Briggs	9/1/2025	6/30/2026
Leibowitz, Marcia	Appoint	Aide	\$8,150.50	E. T. Briggs	9/1/2025	6/30/2026
Takacs, Jacqueline	Appoint	Aide	\$8,150.50	E. T. Briggs	9/1/2025	6/30/2026

K.9 Motion to accept and approve the following resolution in accordance with Travel and Work Related Expenses N.J.A.C. 6A:23B:

WHEREAS, the employees listed in Appendix A, are attending the named professional development seminar at such identified venues;

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated function was previously approved by the Superintendent, or designee, as work related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee;

WHEREAS, the attendance at the function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district and fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at this function are in accordance with the state travel guidelines established by the Department of Treasury in NJOMB circular letter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board finds the travel and related expense and the expenses particular to attendance at this previously approved function is necessary/unavoidable, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the expense is justified and therefore reimbursable.

L. PERSONNEL

Motion by Mrs. Poulas, seconded by Mr. Camacho, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions L.1 through L.5, as described below:

Mrs. Poulas recognized the retirement on the evening’s agenda.

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

L.1 Motion to take action on personnel matters, as listed below, and appoint, and submit to the Executive County Superintendent applications for emergent hiring and the applicant’s attestation that he/she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq. for those employees listed below.

All appointments are contingent upon receipt of proper teaching certification and all salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts.

A. APPOINTMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS								
Name	Nature of Action	Position/Control Number	Deg/ Step	Salary	Loc.	Date Effective	Date Termin.	Discussion
Bare, Roswitha 11-000-270-160-111	Appoint	Bus Driver BUS-BD-TSPT-AL-11	1	\$28.16/hr.	Transportation	1/26/26	6/30/26	Replacing V. Giarrusso
Council, Zhane 20-218-100-106-003	Appoint	Preschool Aide AID-BR-PRSC-BR-09	1	\$26.21/hr.	Briggs	1/5/26	6/30/26	7 hrs./day, Wednesday off, replacing D. Delserro
Cowie, Catherine 11-000-213-101-003	Appoint	Individual Nurse (0.68) NUR-BR-HLTH-NA-02	2	\$40,258	District	1/12/26	6/30/26	New position, not budgeted
Dockery, Alison* 11-140-100-101-008	Appoint	Teacher - Spanish TCH-HS-WDLG-HS-04	BA+15/9	\$66,186	High School	1/26/26	6/30/26	Replacing K. Parra
Jennings, Amanda 11-216-100-106-003	Appoint	Special Education Aide AID-BR-SPED-BR-15	2	\$26.48/hr.	Briggs	2/4/26	6/30/26	7 hrs./day, Monday off, replacing J. Glenn
Koutouzakis, Asimina 11-120-100-101-290	Appoint	Teacher - Preschool (LTS) LTS-BR-PRSC-RL-01		\$295.50/ diem	Briggs	2/9/26	6/19/26	Covering #3314
Lendis, Evagkelia 11-000-221-104-290	Appoint	Interim K-12 Supervisor of ELA, Media, Tech Ed LTS-BO-CURR-NA-01		\$461.54/ diem	District	1/21/26	1/30/26	Covering J. Brennan
Lipton, Kevin 11-000-240-103-290	Appoint	Principal - High School (LTS) LTS-HS-PRIN-HS-01		\$500/diem	High School	1/20/26	2/27/26	Covering #3296
Lolli, John 11-140-100-101-008	Appoint	Teacher - Business TCH-HS-BUSI-HS-01	BA/19	\$86,835	High School	1/27/26	6/30/26	Replacing D. Pisciotto
Lopez, Jennifer* 11-209-100-101-001	Appoint	Teacher - Special Education TCH-ST-SPED-ES-01	BA/2	\$59,600	Briggs	2/23/26	6/30/26	Replacing M. Snyder
Solicito, Nicholas 11-140-100-101-290	Appoint	Teacher - Health & Physical Education (LTS) LTS-HS-PHYS-HS-01		\$295.50/ diem	High School	11/21/25	12/23/25	Covering vacancy
Yannuzzi, Shirlane 11-213-100-101-290	Appoint	Teacher - Special Education (LTS) LTS-IS-SPED-IS-06		\$295.50/ diem	Intermediate School	1/5/26	2/10/26	Covering #673

* requires mentoring

B. SEPARATIONS					
Name	Nature of Action	Position/Control Number	Location	Date Effective	Discussion
Bahamondes, Javiera	Resignation	Special Education Aide	Briggs	1/9/26	
Glenn, Jennifer	Resignation	Special Education Aide	Briggs	1/22/26	
Migliacci, Louis	Retirement	Teacher - Computer Science/Robotics	Intermediate School	3/1/26	Retiring after 38 years in district

C. SCHEDULING/ASSIGNMENT ADJUSTMENTS							
Name	Adjustment	Position/Control Number	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
Den Uyl, Kara	Hours	Special Education Aide		Intermediate School	11/20/25	6/30/26	5.92 hrs./day
Frederick, Colleen	Hours	Bus Aide		Transportation	1/9/26	6/30/26	Not to exceed 3.67 hrs./day
Glenn, Jennifer	Dates	Teacher - Preschool - Special Education (LTS)		Briggs	12/12/25	1/21/26	Not to exceed 20 days, covering #2917
Headley, Susan	End Date	Teacher - Preschool (LTS)		White Rock		4/10/26	Adjusted end date
Kandemir, Ilyas	Hours	Bus Driver		Transportation	1/28/26	6/30/26	Not to exceed 5.67 hrs./day
Knapiak, Dirouhi	Dates	Teacher - Preschool - Special Education (LTS)		Briggs	3/16/26	4/24/26	Not to exceed 25 days, covering #2917
Miller, Natalie	Dates	Teacher - Preschool - Special Education (LTS)		Briggs	1/22/26	3/13/26	Not to exceed 36 days, covering #2917
Paz, Sarah	Day off, Location	Special Education Aide		Briggs	2/2/26	6/30/26	Not to exceed 6 hrs./day, Thursday off
Ridner, Gary	Hours	Bus Driver		Transportation	1/29/26	6/30/27	Not to exceed 5.33 hrs./day
Szarzynski, Joanna	Hours	Bus Aide		Transportation	1/9/26	6/30/26	Not to exceed 4.25 hrs./day
Tejada, Juana	Day off, Location	Special Education Aide		Stanlick	2/2/26	6/30/26	Thursday off

D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE		
STAFF ID	Nature of Action	Effective
#2619	Medical Leave	Leave of absence beginning 3/23/26 through 5/22/26, utilizing 40 personal illness days
#2619	Family Leave	Unpaid leave of absence beginning 5/26/26 through 10/23/26 (FMLA/NJFLA)
#3060*	Family Leave	Unpaid leave of absence beginning 12/8/25 through 2/27/26
#3319	Family Leave	Leave of absence beginning 3/2/26 through 4/2/26, utilizing 15 personal illness and balance unpaid days (FMLA/NJFLA)
#3436	Family Leave, Adjusted End Date	Unpaid leave of absence beginning 1/2/26 through 4/10/26 (FMLA/NJFLA)
#3469*	Medical Leave	Unpaid, intermittent leave of absence beginning 1/5/26 through 3/26/26
#3497*	Medical Leave	Unpaid leave of absence beginning 12/12/25 through 2/27/26
#3659*	Medical Leave	Leave of absence beginning 1/5/26 through 1/30/26, utilizing 7 personal illness and balance unpaid days

* Non-tenured staff, leave granted at the sole discretion of the Board.

E. SUBSTITUTES						
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.	Discussion
Alili, Hasije	Appoint	Aide	District	1/7/26	6/30/26	
Bahamondes, Javiera	Appoint	Teacher, Aide	District	1/16/26	6/30/26	
Lipton, Kevin	Appoint	Teacher	District	3/1/26	6/30/26	
O'Hara, Jamie	Appoint	Nurse	District	1/21/26	6/30/26	
Romano, Jack	Appoint	Teacher	District	1/22/26	6/30/26	
Scognamiglio, Lynne	Appoint	Teacher	District	3/1/26	6/30/26	

F. BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION					
11-150-100-101-000 – Hourly Rate: \$50.15					
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
Sarmiento, Ashley	Appoint	Bedside Instruction	District	1/20/26	6/30/26

G. EXTRA DUTY PAY							
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Level	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
JTHS - 11-401-100-101-008							
Afflerbach, Kristen	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
Maxwell, Colleen	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
Musibay, Amy	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
Neral, Molly	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
Olean, Joseph	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
Serzan, Kimberly	Appoint	Falcon PASS Tutoring	2	\$1,479	High School	1/21/26	6/30/26
JTIS - 11-401-100-101-007							
Reid, Kimberly	Appoint	Grade 8 Advisor (0.33 stipend)	3	\$739.50	Intermediate School	1/21/26	6/30/26

H. ACCOUNT CODE CHANGES						
Name	Position	Level/Step	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
D'Antoni Smeilus, Tara 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Scenery/Stage Props (Grades 6-8)	1	\$592	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26
Escolano, Jennifer 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Publication/Tickets	1	\$592	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26
Escolano, Jennifer 20-280-100-100-007 (.80) 11-401-100-101-007 (.20)	Drama (per production)	3	\$2,514	Intermediate School	10/15/25	6/19/26
Ferrucci, Frances 11-216-100-106-006 (0.77) 20-251-100-106-000 (0.23)	Special Education Aide	5	\$35,505.20	Briggs	9/1/25	6/30/26
Garcia Argueta, Brendalicia 11-216-100-106-006 (0.7) 20-251-100-106-000 (0.3)	Special Education Aide	4	\$27,236.16	Briggs	9/1/25	6/30/26
Hoertel, Jessica 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Art/Set Design (Grades 6-8)	1	\$592	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26
Hopkins, Alyssa 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Drama Director (Grades 6-8)	3	\$2,514	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26

H. ACCOUNT CODE CHANGES						
Name	Position	Level/Step	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Termin.
Leibowitz, Marcia 11-216-100-106-006 (0.77) 20-251-100-106-000 (0.23)	Special Education Aide	5	\$34,780.20	Briggs	9/1/25	6/30/26
Sarmiento, Ashley 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Costumes (Grades 6-8)	1	\$592	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26
Szuskowski, Patricia 20-280-100-100-007	Spring Musical: Props (Grades 6-8)	1	\$592	Intermediate School	11/18/25	6/30/26
Tackas, Jacqueline 11-216-100-106-006 (0.69) 20-251-100-106-000 (0.31)	Special Education Aide	1	\$26,236.21	Briggs	9/1/25	6/30/26

L.2 Motion to approve Course Reimbursements as indicated below:

FALL 2025 – ADMINISTRATORS					
Name	College/University	Course	Approval #	Credits	Total
Lonie, Michael	St. Peter’s University	Qualitative Research Design & Analysis	ADM07	3	\$3,075
		Statistics I	ADM08	3	\$3,075

L.3 Motion to recognize the following corrections to the December 15, 2025 Minutes, Personnel:

H. 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR JTHS COACHING STAFF								
Name	Nature of Action	Position	Step	Base	Longevity	Salary	Date Effective	Date Termin.
Kiely, Shawn*	Base/Salary Correction	Asst. Wrestling	3	\$6,028	-	\$6,028	12/8/25	6/30/26

* out of district coach

L.4 Motion to establish the rate of pay for the following positions, effective February 1, 2026:

Position	Rate
Substitute Bus Driver	\$28.16

L.5 Motion to approve resolution as described below:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Jefferson Township Board of Education votes to withhold the salary and adjustment increment for Employee No. 889 for the 2026-2027 school year based upon the employee’s job performance.

M. EDUCATION

Motion by Mrs. Poulas, seconded by Mrs. Ruggiero, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions M.1 through M.3, as described below:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho | <u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas | <u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small |
| <u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale | <u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero | <u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i> |
| <u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez | <u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling | <u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i> |

Mr. Camacho inquired about the issue with transportation on field trips. It was noted that field trip transportation is coordinated with the Co-operative through the transportation department.

M.1 Motion to affirm Superintendent's report of incidents of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying findings reported for November 17, 2025 through December 15, 2025.

M.2 Motion to approve the following day field trips:

School, Group/Activity	Location
JTHS Student Council	Sparta, NJ

School, Group/Activity	Location
JTHS Academic Bowl Team	Sparta, NJ
JTHS Transition Education Program	Randolph, NJ
JTHS Transition Education Program	Denville, NJ
White Rock Elementary School, Grade 3	Bronx, NY
JTHS Debate Team	Mt. Olive, NJ
JTHS Career-Based Instruction	Dover and Morristown, NJ
Stanlick, Grade 2	Boonton, NJ
White Rock, Grade 2	Boonton, NJ

M.3 Motion to approve the following overnight field trips:

School, Group/Activity	Location
JTHS Girls’ Wrestling Tournament	Atlantic City, NJ
JTHS Boys’ Wrestling Tournament	Atlantic City, NJ
JTHS Girls’ Lacrosse Spring Training	Various locations in Florida

N. RECOGNITION OF REPORTS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board recognizes the reports listed below:

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incidents (HIB) for the period of December 15, 2025 through January 20, 2026:

School	Incidents Reported	Confirmed Incidents	Unconfirmed Incidents
Ellen T. Briggs	0	0	0
Arthur Stanlick	1	0	1
White Rock	0	0	0
Jefferson Twp. Intermediate School	3	0	3
Jefferson Twp. High School	0	0	0

Enrollment as of December 23, 2025:

	December 2024	December 2025
Grades PreK	293	281
Grades K-5	1,030	1,026
Grades 6-8	548	531
Grades 9-12	797	755
TOTAL	2,668	2,593
Tuition students received	2	3
Out-of-district placement	15	13

O. COMMUNICATIONS

- None

P. PUBLIC COMMENTS *(Public participation shall be governed by Bylaw 0167, as outlined in Agenda Section G).*

- Parents representing the Class of 2026 thanked everyone who participated in the senior class tricky tray. A special shout out was given to Tom Ray.
- An audience member reported that 4th and 5th grade students bringing home laptops doesn’t make sense and inquired about the reasoning for it. They remarked that students at this grade level should be using pen and paper.
- An audience member thanked the Board and Administration for holding the public budget forum, noting they were shocked that it takes near disaster for people to realize the facts. They noted the tax increase has previously exceeded 2%. They reported that they can’t say enough good things about the district’s music program. Finally, they stated that any emergency aid received would likely be too late for the 2026-2027 school year.
- An audience member inquired about shared services and remarked that her elementary aged student has 27 students in class.

- An audience member asked about the special question timeline.
- An audience member inquired if the district could expect to see emergency funding for the 2026-2027 school year. They also remarked they did not want to see 4th and 5th grades using computers. They concluded by asking if there was an opportunity to think more creatively, considering they are not optimistic about the 26-27 budget.
- An audience member inquired if subscription bussing would be available.
- ❖ Mrs. Howe announced the discussion of 4th and 5th grade use of computers would be added to the Education Committee agenda for discussion.
- ❖ Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Giacchi addressed the availability of possible additional aid.
- ❖ Mrs. Howe noted subscription bussing has not yet been explored, but would be as part of the budget process.

Q. OLD BUSINESS

- None

R. NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Small requested discussion of leveled classes be added to the Education Committee agenda.

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2026 AS
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH**

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;

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

WHEREAS, The Jefferson Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students;

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

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;

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

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 Jefferson Township 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 Jefferson Township 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.

S. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Small, seconded by Mrs. Poulas, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Jefferson Township Board of Education on this 20th day of January, 2026, at 8:47 PM, as follows:

1. The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7,) and (8). The general nature of the discussion will involve matters confidential by law, any investigations or tactics or techniques to protect persons or litigation, anticipated litigation and attorney-client matters.
2. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The meeting was called to public session at 9:05 PM.

T. ADJOURN

Motion by Mrs. Poulas, seconded by Mr. Natale, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Aye</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

Appendix A

Name	Event Date	Location	Seminar/Function	Registration Fee	Transportation Fee	Lodging cost per night	Meal cost per day	# of Travel Days	Mileage (@ \$0.47/mi)	Misc. Fees (including parking/tolls/misc fees)	Total Expense
Camacho, Alberto	1/21, 2/2, and 2/19/26	Virtual	NJSBA LEAD Master Class Series	\$249.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$249.00
Hewitt, Todd	2/25/26	Denville, NJ	HVACR Continuing Education Classes	\$290.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$290.00
Hewitt, Todd	4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/26	Rockaway, NJ	2026 National Electrical Code License Renewal	\$1,300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,300.00
Kotek, David	3/26/26	Atlantic City, NJ	Cummins Factory Training- Mechanics Breakout Sessions 1 & 2	\$300.00	-	-	\$51.00	1	\$144.29	\$40.00	\$535.26
Rowens, Heather	Completed by 7/30/26	Virtual	Four-Part Sentence-Level Instruction Course	\$199.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$199.00
Sanchez, Vanessa	3/25-3/27/26	Atlantic City, NJ	STS Conference/NJ Pupil Transportation	\$500.00	-	\$150.00	\$68.00	2.5	\$142.41	\$40.00	\$1,070.41
Serignese, Nicholas	Completed by 6/30/26	Virtual	Excel Basic, Word Basic, and Quickbooks Online offered through NJASBO	\$435.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$435.00
Thomsen, Emily	2/19-2/21/26	Atlantic City, NJ	2026 NJ Music Educators Association Conference	\$225.00	-	-	-	-	\$130.19	-	\$355.19