Andover Regional Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 21, 2026

Attendance:

Present: Ms. Jane Byron, Dr. Maria Dunbar, Mr. James Fetcho, Mr. Brian Hertenstein, Mr. Steven Minnick, Mr. William Porter, Ms. Kelsey Shalinksy, Ms. Margaret Widgren and Dr. Robert Koroski

Also Present: Mr. John Fritzky, Superintendent
Ms. Nicole Sylveter, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
19 members of the public

Not Present: None

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS:

President Koroski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Koroski led the flag salute.

Mission Statement: Dr. Koroski read the 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!

Public Meeting Notice: President Koroski read the following public meeting notice:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure 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 clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting."

I A. INDUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE for Ms. Jane Byron.

Administered by Nicole Sylvester, SBA/BS per (N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2.1, R.S.41:1-3).

II. PRESENTATION:

- Mr. Fleming & Mrs. Dilkes introduced and congratulated the GEOY & GESP recipients, Mrs. Nicole Smith, Mrs. Audrey D'Angleo, Ms. Jenny March and Mrs. Paige Ortega.
- Mr. Fleming gave his SSDS Report update that was uploaded to the DOE.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Fetcho moved adoption of the following resolution:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Andover Regional Board of Education, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter; 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: negotiations, legal and personnel matters; 3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matters will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed; 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately; the Board anticipates being approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel & board matters and no action will be taken.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Porter at 8:00 p.m. and unanimously CARRIED in a voice vote.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Mr. Porter moved to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Minnick and unanimously CARRIED in a voice vote at 8:35 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Minnick moved and Mr. Hertenstein seconded, that the Andover Regional Board of Education approve the minutes as amended of the following Board of Education meeting, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Ms. Byron, Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Fetcho, Mr. Hertenstein, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Porter, Ms. Shalinksy, Ms. Widgren and Dr. Koroski

No: None

Abstain: None

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Ms. Sylvester thanked the board members for their dedication and time away from their families to help support Andover Regional.

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	Dr. Koroski	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

Mr. Porter reported on the Personnel/Policy committee stating that they met to discuss policies, personnel, tuition adjustments and staff updates, discussion ensued.

Ms. Sylvester reported on the Finance/Operations committee stating that they met to discuss the FMB septic update, FMB Playground upgrade, and the 2026-2027 budget, discussion ensued.

Dr. Koroski reported on the Curriculum/Instruction committee stating they discussed the Newton tuition, Hour of Code, budget season, Andover NAAP, teacher in-service and the Pre-K parent night, discussion ensued.

Dr. Koroski reported that the Sussex County Educational Services is only having a 3% increase on rates this year and is slowly growing as they are looking to purchase the building next to them for an ERI program, discussion ensued.

Ms. Widgren reported on the Newton board meeting stating that they are looking to do an athletic field and press box update, they held a band/chorus recognition, they received certificates for School Board recognition month, they had their GEOY & GESP recognition, reported on the new course offerings coming up, they are working on their Shrek production, the BA is creating a new budget handbook, they had fraud so they had to close their checking account, they are working on asbestos abatement, discussion ensued.

Ms. Widgren gave an update as the Township Liaison stating that Mr. Mosner (committeeman) & Ms. Gilchrist (Deputy Mayor) were appointed. She also stated they are making upgrades to Hillside Park. She also noted that the cannabis locations did not generate the expected revenue so they are changing their terms. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Koroski gave a negotiations update indicating they are hopeful to have a contract settled before the end of this school year.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. Mr. Fritzky thanked the PTA for hosting Candy Bar Bingo.
B. Mr. Fritzky thanked Mrs. Dilkes, Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Cotto for hosting a parent Pre-K night that focused on communication.
C. Mr. Fritzky stated that rehearsals for the spring musical Matilda Junior have begun and the show will take place April 17th and 18th.

D. Mr. Fritzky said the new PA systems have been successfully installed in both buildings.
E. Mr. Fritzky informed everyone that the budget process is moving along and we had gained a great deal of input from our administrative team.
F. Mr. Fritzky stated we had a staff professional development day on January 19, 2026.
G. Mr. Fritzky stated they have continued staff observations.
H. Mr. Fritzky stated that earlier this evening, Mr. Fleming gave his SSDS Report update.
I. Mr. Fritzky stated the new NJSLA information has been made available to the public.
J. Mr. Fritzky gave his monthly Suspension/HIB Report.

Mr. Porter moved and Ms. Byron seconded, that the Andover Regional Board of Education approve the resolution below as presented:

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Ms. Byron, Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Fetcho, Mr. Hertenstein, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Porter, Ms. Shalinksy, Ms. Widgren and Dr. Koroski

No: None

Abstain: None

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.

F. Principal's Reports

VII. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT:

- Ms. Sylvester stated we are waiting on approval from NJDOE for FMB Septic approval.
- Ms. Sylvester indicated that she was not able to provide the public with budget expenses by line item as this was not available until the advertised budget is published.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Below are the comments from the Public, all questions were answered and discussed, if applicable.

Mr. Ordile- Thanked the board for their time and dedication to the district. He also asked why the digital sign didn't have the board meeting advertised the day of the board meeting. Mr. Ordile asked for an expense budget line by line before the budget presentation was presented and indicated he disagreed and thinks that the board should reconsider and not have to do what other schools do. He also asked why the board motion states we would pay $705,000 for a new playground along with $60,000 for an architect. Lastly, he asked if we have outside organizations come into the district to teach kids about differences for the Fun Fair.

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

A. PERSONNEL/POLICY:

Mr. Porter moved and Dr. Dunbar seconded, that the Andover Regional Board of Education approve resolutions #1-4 as amended:

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. **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. #1262 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.

3. **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)

4. **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)

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Ms. Byron, Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Fetcho, Mr. Hertenstein, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Porter, Ms. Shalinksy, Ms. Widgren and Dr. Koroski

No: None

Abstain: None

B. FINANCE/OPERATIONS:

Mr. Fetcho moved and Mr. Hertenstein seconded, that the Andover Regional Board of Education approve resolutions #1-14 as amended:

1. **Treasurer & Board Secretary's Certification and Report**: 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. **Transfers**: Approve/accept the Transfer Report for December 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

3. **Bills List**: Approve/accept the Bills List from December 17, 2025 through January 21, 2026 for a total of $1,941,218.34 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

4. **Building Use for 2025-2026 School Year**: 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
Jessie Seaton (PTA)	PTA	Mondays in February	Dine-to-Donate Sheridan's to fund PTA Activities

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.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Ms. Byron, Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Fetcho, Mr. Hertenstein, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Porter, Ms. Shalinksy, Ms. Widgren and Dr. Koroski

No: Ms. Widgren on resolution #14

Abstain: None

C. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION:

Mr. Porter moved and Dr. Dunbar seconded, that the Andover Regional Board of Education approve resolutions #1-2 as presented:

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 Kindergarten	May 1, 2026 Tranquility Farms, Green Township, NJ A hands-on experience learning about planting and the life cycle of a plant.	$28.54	$400.40 (Bus) $250.00 (Nurse)
Ryan Zuccheri Concert Band/Select Choir	May 22, 2026 Dorney Park Allentown, PA High Note Music Festival-Music Performance	$119.00	$250.00 (Nurse)
Jen Bogert First Grade	May 19, 2026 Turtle Back Zoo West Orange, NJ To observe animal behavior in many ways.	$34.00	$702.00 (SE Bus) $250.00 (Nurse)

2. **Fun Fair:** 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.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Ms. Byron, Dr. Dunbar, Mr. Fetcho, Mr. Hertenstein, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Porter, Ms. Shalinksy, Ms. Widgren and Dr. Koroski

No: None

Abstain: None

X. COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD: None at this time.

XI. OLD and NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hertenstein congratulated the GEOY & GESP recipients and stated he was happy to see such a great turn out for this.

Ms. Widgren stated she was excited to be the new Newton representative as it is nice to see when the kids are older.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Below are the comments from the Public, all questions were answered and discussed, if applicable.

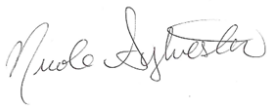
Mr. Ordile- Asked the board if they were aware of the new State administration and asked if there were any concerns or discussion within the district, discussion ensued.

Mrs. Bilancia- Asked if Dine to Donate and Penny Wars was going to be on a future agenda, discussion ensued.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None at this time.

Adjournment: Mr. Porter moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Minnick and approved at 9:20 p.m. and carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote call by all members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Sylvester

Business Administrator/Board Secretary