

**HARRISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
120 N. MAIN STREET
MULLICA HILL, NEW JERSEY**

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2026 (Reschedule to 2/2/2026)
7:00 PM**

Mrs. Shannon Williams, Board President, called the meeting of the Harrison Township Board of Education to order in the music room at Pleasant Valley School at 7:02 p.m. It was announced that the Board might adjourn into Executive Session during the meeting to discuss personnel, student issues, property, or any other matter appropriate for this session, the results of which would be made public at a later date.

I. Call to Order: The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975 was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, Harrison Township Board of Education has caused notice of the meetings to be published by having the dates, time, and place thereof posted on the Harrison Township School District website, at the Harrison Township School Building, and mailed to the Township Municipal Clerk, the South Jersey Times, and the Courier Post.

II. Roll Call:

Mr. Todd Baron	Mrs. Janette Coslop (<i>absent</i>)
Mr. Tim Bast	Mrs. Colleen Kendrick
Mrs. Jennifer Bowen	Ms. Alexis Rubino
Mr. Walter Bright	Mrs. Shannon Williams
Mr. John Cavanaugh	

Attendance:

Dr. Missy Peretti, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Christopher DeSanto, Business Administrator /Board Secretary.

III. Flag Salute:

Led by Shannon Williams, Board President of the Harrison Township Board of Education.

IV. President's Welcome:

Student Counsel Ambassadors

- Students updated everyone about activities that are going on at Harrison schools.

BOE President's Report of 2026 Committees

- The organization list was distributed to Board members (*see Attachment A*)

V. Audience Participation I:

None

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of the minutes of the December 16, 2025 Regular Session (*Attachment: Min. #1.*)
2. Approval of the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Reorganization Session Board of Education Meeting (*Attachment: Min. #2.*)

Items 1 - 2:

Motion: Mr. Bright

Second: Ms. Rubino

Item 1:

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

Item 2:

Roll Call: (7-0-1)

Carried: Yes

Abstained: Mr. Cavanaugh

VII. Committee Reports:

1. Standing Committees
 - a. Finance – Walter Bright (No report at this time.)
 - b. Curriculum – John Cavanaugh (No report at this time.)
 - c. Personnel – Shannon Williams (No report at this time.)
 - d. Negotiations – Jennifer Bowen (No report at this time.)
 - e. Board Development – Todd Baron (No report at this time.)
2. Ad Hoc Committees
 - f. Public Relations – Janette Coslop (No report at this time.)
 - g. School Safety – Shannon Williams (No report at this time.)
 - h. Shared Services – John Cavanaugh (No report at this time.)
 - i. Transportation – Tim Bast (No report at this time.)
3. Delegate/Representative Reports (No report at this time.)

VIII. Correspondence: (*Copies of Correspondence are included in backup materials*)

1. Letter from Christine Gallagher received December 22, 2025 re: resignation.
2. Letter from Sarah Fitzgerald received January 6, 2026 re: leave of absence.
3. Email from Jennifer Sedlak received January 9, 2026 re: resignation.
4. Letter from MaryAnn Young received January 12, 2026 re: retirement.
5. Letter from Richard McGee received January 12, 2026 re: leave of absence.
6. Email from Shakoya Rivera received January 20, 2026 re: resignation.
7. Letter from Catherine Eastlack received January 23, 2026 re: resignation.

IX. Business Administrator’s Report:

A. Finance

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Budget Transfer List for December 2025 – There were no transfers in the month of December.
2. Cash Reconciliation Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of December 2025. (*Attachment: Fin. #2*) The Cash Reconciliation Report and Secretary’s Reports are in agreement for the month of December 2025.
3. Board Secretary’s Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of December 2025. (*Attachment: Fin. #3*) The Board Secretary certifies that no line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
4. Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
5. Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4. We certify that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
6. Payment of Bills:
 - a. December 2025 Ratified Bill List \$1,987,143.61 (*Attachment: Fin. #6a*)
 - b. January 2026 Bill List \$675,361.34 (*Attachment: Fin. #6b*)
7. Acceptance the Consolidated Food Services Reports for the months of November and December 2025 (*Attachment: Fin. # 7a & 7b*)

Items 1 – 7:

Motion: Mrs. Bowen

Second: Mrs. Kendrick

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

Motion: To add the addendum to the agenda.

Motion: Ms. Rubino

Second: Mr. Baron

Roll Call: Voice

Carried: Yes

X. Superintendent’s Report:

A. Personnel

Motion: For the Board of Education the approval of the following action items:

1. When necessary, the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to hire personnel to directly replace a staff vacancy occurring between Board of Education meeting dates to ensure uninterrupted operation of the school district. As always, employment is contingent upon criminal history review clearance and issuance of appropriate certification.
2. Acceptance of the resignation of Christine Gallagher, General Aide at Harrison Township School, effective January 5, 2026.
3. Approval of a leave of absence for Sarah Fitzgerald, Special Education Teacher at Harrison Township School, effective June 1, 2026 utilizing 10 accumulated sick days concurrent with FMLA continuing with unpaid leave under NJFLA through November 27, 2026 with an anticipated return date of November 30, 2026.
4. Acceptance of the resignation of Jennifer Sedlak, Learning Disabilities Teacher – Consultant for the District, effective February 9, 2026.
5. Acceptance of the retirement of Mary Ann Young, Third Grade Teacher at Harrison Township School, effective July 1, 2026.
6. Approval of a medical leave of absence for Richard McGee, Transportation Aide for the District, effective January 29, 2026 through February 16, 2026, utilizing accumulated sick time, with an anticipated return date of February 17, 2026.
7. Acceptance of the resignation of Shakoya Rivera, Special Education Aide at Harrison Township School, effective February 9, 2026.
8. Acceptance of the resignation of Catherine Eastlack, Transportation Aide with the District, effective January 23, 2026.
9. Approval of the employment of Jamie Prostko, of Sewell, NJ, as Part-time Special Education Aide at Harrison Township School, effective February 17, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with a salary established at Step 3 (\$23.73/hour) in accordance with the 2025-2028 contract between H.T.E.A. and H.T.B.O.E, pending receipt of required clearances. (**Attachment: Pers. #9**)
10. Approval of the employment of Lisa Pomante, of Mullica Hill, NJ, as Part-time Special Education Aide at Harrison Township School, effective January 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with a salary established at Step 1 (\$23.33/hour) in accordance with the 2025-2028 contract between H.T.E.A. and H.T.B.O.E.
11. Approval of the employment of the following individuals as substitute teachers, nurses, general aides, bus drivers, bus aides and custodians for the district on an as-needed basis, effective through June 30, 2026, at the currently-approved hourly and daily rates, pending receipt of required clearances.

Sara DeVoe – Teacher

Caragh Cassidy - Teacher

12. Approval of the employment of Joanne Dorofy, of Mantua, NJ, as Part-time Special Education Aide at Harrison Township School, effective March 2, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with a salary established at Step 1 (\$23.33/hour) in accordance with the 2025-2028 contract between H.T.E.A. and H.T.B.O.E., pending receipt of required clearances.

Items 1 – 12:

Motion: Mr. Bright

Second: Ms. Rubino

Dr. Peretti thanked all those who submitted retirement or resignation letters for their service and wished them all good luck in their future endeavors.

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

B. Education

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Accept the HBI Services Proposal from GCSSSD – Cress for Student #28006 for the following services:
 - a. Homebound Instruction – up to 84 hours @ \$104.00 per hour for a total of \$8,736.00
 - b. Speech Therapy – up to 13 hours @ \$112.00 per hour for a total of \$1,456.00
 - c. Occupational Therapy – up to 13 hours @ \$112.00 per hour for a total of \$1,456.00

Item 1:

Motion: Mr. Baron

Second: Mrs. Bowen

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

C. Administration

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of Lori Hynes to attend *NSPA/FEA Workshop: Hot Issues in Special Education Law* virtually on February 24, 2026 a no cost to the district.
2. Approval of Michelle Giuliano of MG Educational Consulting to provide LDTC testing, as needed, at a cost of \$500.00 per evaluation.
3. Approval of the placement of Victoria Hummel as mentor teacher to Emily Kupsey at Harrison Township School for a period of 20 weeks during the 2025-2026 school year under the auspice of the NJ Provisional Teacher Program.
4. Retroactive approval of Author, Karen Lobascio and her dog, Maggie to visit a third-grade classroom on January 15, 2026.
5. Approval of the reimbursement of tuition cost to John Berkett following successful completion of the following courses through Rowan University, requested amounts stated, with reimbursement after completion according to the terms of the established contract:
 - a. Financial Institutions Management – March 2026 through May 2026 - \$3,450.00

6. Acknowledgement of safety drills conducted in the district schools:
 - a. Lockdown Drill
 - 1) Pleasant Valley School – December 17, 2025 (AM)
 - 2) Harrison Township School – January 21, 2026 (PM)
 - b. Fire Drill
 - 1) Pleasant Valley School – December 23, 2025 (AM)
 - 2) Pleasant Valley School – January 7, 2026 (PM)
 - 3) Harrison Township School – January 14, 2026 (AM)
 - c. Table Top Drill
 - 1) Harrison Township School – December 23, 2025 (AM)
7. Approval of the Sixth Grade Choir students to visit Clearview Regional High School to attend their theatre performance on March 10, 2026.
8. Approval of Melissa Glaze, student of Clearview Regional, doing classroom practicum in Speech and Language Pathology with Mrs. Melinda DeVoe on February 5, 2026.

Item 1 – 8:

Motion: Ms. Rubino

Second: Mr. Bast

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

D. Policy

None

E. Transportation

None

F. Buildings & Grounds

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of the following groups to utilize the facilities for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as outlined below:

<u>Name/Organization</u>	<u>Location/Date</u>	<u>Type of Use</u>
Mancini/PTA	PVS Cafeteria February 6, 2026	Valentine Bingo
Hulmes/CYFC	PVS Cafeteria January 28, 2026	Equipment Returns

Motion: Mrs. Kendrick

Second: Mr. Bright

Mr. Bright thanked Mr. Wasilewski, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, for fixing a gym floor issue with a very quick response.

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

XI. New Business:

Dr. Peretti suggested a calendar change to make March 16th a school day instead of an in-service day.

The two make-up days for the snow days will be:

- Friday before Memorial Day will be a school day (1st snow day)
- March 16th will be a school day (2nd snow day)

Motion: To make the changes to the calendar.

Motion: Mrs. Bowen
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Mr. Bast
Carried: Yes

XII. Old Business:

None

XIII. Audience Participation II:

None

XIV. Adjournment:

There was no further business. A motion was made to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Motion: Ms. Rubino
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Mr. Bright
Carried: Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher C. DeSanto
Board Secretary