

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EGG HARBOR CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Egg Harbor City, New Jersey 08215**

**MINUTES**

Reorganization / Regular Meeting

January 7, 2026

Charles L. Spragg School

Library

601 Buffalo Avenue

6:00 PM

**I. Open Reorganization / Regular Meeting**

Mrs. Ziegler called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Egg Harbor City School District, in the County of Atlantic, that adequate notice has been given of this meeting as required by the provision of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975; that notice thereof has been forwarded for publication in the District official newspapers, posted in the city Schools, and forwarded to the city Clerk within the time required by said Act.

The Board values and welcomes comments and opinions from residents as long as remarks are not personal or discourteous. The public comment portion of the meeting allows the Board to listen to community members and to hear their opinions on school policy and operations.

There are two opportunities to address the Board. The first public portion is reserved for persons wishing to speak about agenda items only. The second opportunity, following the action items, residents may address the Board on any school related issue. Once identified, a speaker is asked to limit their comments to three minutes. Yielding time is not permitted. The public comments portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes total.

**II. Flag Salute**

**III. New/Re-elected Board Members Sworn In – Board Secretary**

a. Info: 11/4/25 Election Results: *Attachment*

Full three (3) year term:

Melissa Ortiz	938 votes
Stephen Bouchard	865 votes
Janine Caudo	835 votes

b. Swearing In

Mrs. Ziegler swore in Stephen Bouchard, Janine Caudo, and Melissa Ortiz.

#### IV. Roll Call

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-P      Ms. Caudo ('28)-P      Ms. Cramer ('27)-P  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-P      Mr. Guercioni ('26)-P      Mrs. Nava ('27)-P  
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-P

Also present was Superintendent Adrienne Shulby and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Allyson Ziegler.

#### V. Election and Appointment of Officers

a. President

Mrs. Ziegler called for a Motion to open nominations for President.

**Motion:** Mr. Guercioni

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y      Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y  
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Mrs. Ziegler called for nominations for President.

Motion by Mr. Guercioni, Second by Mrs. Ortiz to nominate Mrs. Nava.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, Second by Ms. Cramer to nominate Mrs. DiGiacomo.

Mrs. Ziegler called for a Motion to close nominations.

**Motion:** Mr. Guercioni

**Second:** Ms. Caudo

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y      Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y  
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Mrs. Ziegler conducted a Roll Call in favor of Mrs. Nava for President:

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-N      Ms. Caudo ('28)-N      Ms. Cramer ('27)-N  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-N      Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y  
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Results:

Yes - 3

No - 4

Mrs. Ziegler conducted a Roll Call in favor of Mrs. DiGiacomo for President:

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y	Mr. Guercioni ('26)-N	Mrs. Nava ('27)-N
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-N		

Results:

Yes - 4

No - 3

Mrs. DiGiacomo was declared President and took the chair.

b. Vice President

Mrs. Ziegler called for a Motion to open nominations for Vice President.

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Mr. Guercioni

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y	Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y		

Mrs. Ziegler called for nominations for Vice President.

Motion by Mr. Guercioni, to nominate Mrs. Nava.

With no other nominations, Mrs. Ziegler called for a Motion to close nominations.

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Ms. Cramer

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y	Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y		

Mrs. Ziegler called for a motion to appoint Mrs. Nava as Vice President for the forthcoming year.

**Motion:** Mrs. Ortiz

**Second:** Mr. Guercioni

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y      Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y  
Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Mrs. Nava is declared Vice President.

c. Committees

Mrs. Ziegler distributed Sign-up sheets to be returned by the end of the meeting in order for committees to be approved at the February 11, 2026 BOE meeting.

*Handout*

**VI. Annual Appointments (Roll Call)**

**Motion:** Ms. Cramer

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

a. Board Secretary

Allyson Ziegler for Board Secretary

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y  
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y      Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Mr. Guercioni

b. NJSBA and ACSBA Delegates

Jessica Nava NJSBA Delegate for 2026  
Janine Caudo alternate NJSBA Delegate for 2025  
Jimmie Guercioni ACSBA Delegate 2026

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y  
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y      Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

**VII. Motions and Designations (Roll Call)**

**Motion:** Ms. Cramer

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

a. Readopt NJSBA Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics and sign-off sheet attached and handout

*Attachment*

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y      Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y      Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y

Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y      Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y      Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y  
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

## VIII. Annual Motions and Designations (Roll Call)

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Ms. Cramer

- a. Approve Depositories for School Funds

Depositories: OceanFirst Bank, NJ Asset and Rebate Management Program, or any GUDPA or federally approved depository in the state of New Jersey

- b. Approve Signatures for School Funds

Signatories – General Account (3 of 3 required)

Board President

Superintendent

Business Administrator

Signatories – Payroll (1 of 2 required)

Superintendent

Business Administrator

Signatories – Payroll Agency (1 of 2 required)

Business Administrator

Superintendent

Signatories – FDR Memorial Scholarship Fund (1 of 2 required)

Business Administrator

Superintendent

Signatories – Lunch Account (1 of 2 required)

Business Administrator

Superintendent

Signatories – Medical Plan (1 of 2 required)

Business Administrator

Superintendent

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y

Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y

Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y

Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y

Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y

Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

## IX. Executive Session

**Motion:** Mr. Guercioni

**Second: Mr. Bouchard**

Resolution of the Board of Education of the Egg Harbor City School District to permit discussion of subjects in closed sessions.

**RESOLVED:** At a public meeting of the Board of Education held on January 7, 2026 at 6:17 PM that pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, the following subjects be discussed in a session of the Board of Education closed to the public:

- (1) Litigation
- (2) Personnel
- (3) Contracts
- (4) Negotiations

**(5) Ethics**

It is presently anticipated that the items mentioned in the Resolution can be disclosed to the public when a decision is made upon the same, and in personnel matters, with the consent of the employee.

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**X. Open Floor to Public**

No comments.

**XI. Comments for the Good of the Board**

No comments.

**XII. Monthly Reports**

a. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent / Principal Report

*Attachment*

- Mrs. Shulby mentioned that approval for a coat closet through Atlanticare was on the agenda this evening. She also noted that we are approving shared services with Atlantic County Special Services School District for extra speech services and school psych evaluations. The 2026-2027 school calendar is also on for approval. We are approving additional hours outside the work day for some CST members due to workload and unfilled positions. Finally, she thanked the Board members for their service and said that it was School Board Recognition Month.

2. Business Administrator Report

- Mrs. Ziegler said that work on the 2026-2027 School Budget has begun. She then said that the advertisement for bids for the bathroom project at Spragg was in the Press of Atlantic City on 12/31. On 1/13, there will be a pre-bid meeting after school to allow contractors to visit and scope out the space and ask questions. Finally, on 1/29 we will have our bid opening and plan to award the contract at the 2/11 BOE meeting.
- 3. Director of Special Projects Report - *None* *Attachment*
- 4. EHCCS Principal Report *Attachment*
  - Dr. Forester also noted about the Community's Schools Atlanticare grant that was on the agenda this evening. She mentioned that the boys and girls basketball games begin this week, and that the new cheerleading team would also be cheering at the games. She then mentioned that NAPE testing would be taking place this year, which is a 4th grade assessment that is subject to random selection nationally each year. Finally, Dr. Forester said that she would be taking over overseeing the REACH Program. They had a call with the State and the program will be monitored by the State in February.
- 5. Supervisor of Early Childhood/LDTC Report *Attachment*
  - Mrs. Macchione discussed the preschool family event that was held before Winter Break, which included a gingerbread building activity. She reminded everyone that the LIFT Grant Baby and Me classes begin next week and that flyers have been shared on social media and throughout the community.
- 6. Board Solicitor's Report - *None*
- b. Board Committee Reports
  1. Personnel - meeting held on 1/7/2026
  2. Curriculum/Programs
  3. Finance
  4. Policy
  5. Buildings/Grounds

### **XIII. Board Minutes**

**Motion:** Ms. Cramer

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):**

- |    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | December 10, 2025 | Regular Meeting   | <i>Attachment</i> |
| 2. | December 10, 2025 | Executive Session | <i>Attachment</i> |

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XIV. Financial Items**

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Ms. Cramer

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):**
  - 1. Board Secretary’s Report – November 2025 *Attachment*
  - 2. Report of Receipts and Disbursements – November 2025 *Attachment*
  
- b. **APPROVE (roll call):** Board Certification  
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 The Egg Harbor City Board of Education certifies that as of 11/30/25 after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (Revenue and Appropriation sections) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that 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 there have been no changes in anticipated revenue sources and/or amounts so that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
  
- c. **APPROVE (roll call):** Monthly Purchase Orders/Bills *Handout*

Bills to be Approved for Payment	\$ 440,136.67
Checks to be Ratified	\$ 50,149.36
Payroll to be Ratified	\$ 775,965.81

- d. **APPROVE (roll call):** Budget transfer for the 2025-26 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2:13 and Chapter 196 Laws of 1967, as follows:
- January 7, 2026 Fund 10 - \$74,243 *Attachment*
- e. **APPROVE (roll call):** Acceptance of the Egg Harbor City Community School Atlanticare Healthy Schools Grant for CPR Training Supplies in the amount of \$1,000. *Attachment*
- f. **APPROVE (roll call):** Acceptance of the Charles L. Spragg School Atlanticare Healthy Schools Grant for a Coat Closet in the amount of \$1,000. *Attachment*
- g. **APPROVE (roll call):** 2025-2026 Itinerant/Shared Services Agreement with Atlantic County Special Services School District for the following:
1. Speech Language Pathologist Services from January 2026 through June 2026, estimated two days a week for five hours a day, at a rate of \$95/hour.
  2. Psychological Evaluations to be performed by a School Psychologist from January 2026 through June 2026, estimated two to five evaluations per month, at a cost of \$350 per evaluation.
- h. **APPROVE (roll call):** Change of Health Benefits Program, whereas the Egg Harbor City Board of Education hereby resolves effective March 1, 2026 to make the following changes relative to its group medical and prescription drug benefits programs, as follows:
1. Terminate its group medical and prescription drug programs with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey, EB Employee Solutions, LLC, and HealthNow Administrative Services;
  2. Award its group medical and prescription drug benefits program to Amerihealth Insurance Company of New Jersey;
  3. Designate MyBenefitAdvisors as broker of record for this program, with the following authority:
    - a) To ensure with Amerihealth that benefits delivered are “equal to or better than” the Board’s current group medical and prescription drug insurance plan;
    - b) To periodically market the Board’s group benefit plans; and
    - c) To assist employees and dependents in the resolution of service issues.
- i. **APPROVE (roll call):** The payment of bills between Board Meetings on a limited basis. All payments must be approved by the Superintendent and Business Administrator. All checks issued must include all required signatures, and the payment must be included in the bills list at the Board Meeting immediately following any such transactions.

Mrs. Nava wanted to discuss item G further, stating that she has asked detailed questions about the caseload of speech and has yet to receive a response. Mrs. Ortiz asked to elaborate on item G. She asked where job postings are. Mrs.

Shulby mentioned NJ School Jobs as well as Indeed. Mrs. Ortiz suggested posting the job openings to the district social media pages. Mrs. Nava further expressed concern with item G, and if it would be enough to cover the vacancy as well as increasing special ed numbers. She was concerned that the Psychological evaluations are not enough to fill the void. Mrs. Shulby stated that that was all ACSSSD could offer us at this time. Mr. Bouchard said these items were discussed in the Personnel Committee meeting held this evening. Additionally, Mr. Bouchard noted that it was great the schools were still receiving the Atlanticare grants.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XV. Non-instructional Operations Items**

**Motion:** Ms. Caudo

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):** School calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.  
*Attachment*
- b. **APPROVE (roll call):** Motion to re-adopt all current job descriptions.  
*Attachment*
- c. **APPROVE (roll call):** Submission of the Biannual Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for EHCPSD 2025-2026.  
*Attachment*

Mrs. Nava wanted to know why we were re-adopting current job descriptions when some positions have recently changed. She mentioned that REACH would be overtaken by Dr. Forester. Was her job description changed? Mrs. Shulby clarified that the REACH Director would be running the program, Dr. Forester was the administrator overseeing the program. She also mentioned that each job description has a section at the bottom that says “and any other duties as assigned by the Superintendent”. She stated that Dr. Forester was notified in December of this change, and the Personnel Committee was made aware.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y (a, c), N (b)	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XVI. Personnel Items – as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:**

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Mr. Guercioni

a. **APPROVE (roll call):** The resignation/retirement of the following personnel:

	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Resignation / Retirement
i.	Bethy Asse	.85 Aide	EHCCS	2/15/2026	Resignation

b. **APPROVE (roll call):** The appointment of the following personnel, pending proper certification and criminal history clearance as applicable:

	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Degree and Step	Salary	notes
i.	Lori Benson	Homebound Instructor	District	TBD	N/A	\$45 per hour	Start date pending fingerprint approval and on-boarding documents.

c. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Leaves of Absences for the following personnel:

	SMID#	Type Leave	Anticipated start date	Anticipated end date	Notes	Initial approval if a revision
i.	22327134	NJFLA	2/13/2026	2/27/2026	Revision	1/8/2025, and 4/9/2025

d. **APPROVE (roll call):** The following staff for case management, to work up to twenty (20) hours from January 20, 2026 to February 10, 2026, compensated at the non-instructional rate of \$40 per hour as per the EHCEA negotiated agreement:

i. Jen Connelly, Social Worker	ii. Gianna Miranda, LDTC
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Mrs. Nava asked again for caseload information for CST members. She asked why the extra hours in item D only went to February 10th? Mrs. DiGiacomo said these hours can be extended as needed, as we still have the vacant position posted and hoping at some point it will be filled.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

## XVII. Student Items

**Motion:** Mr. Bouchard

**Second:** Mr. Guercioni

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):** Motion to affirm the Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB) incidents as reported by the Superintendent and resolved by the building Principal, HIB Coordinator, or designee. *Attachment*
- b. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following Out of District Tuition contract with Atlantic County Special Services School for the following student, beginning on December 15, 2025:
  - i. #20402221 (115 days, \$27,472)
- c. **RESCIND (roll call):** Admitting the following DCP&P student from Voorhees Township Board of Education, where the prior district of residence is responsible for the estimated tuition costs:
  - i. #20402107, Grade PK, \$105 per diem, effective September 2, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (180 days, \$18,900)
- d. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Admitting the following DCP&P student from the State of NJ Division of Children and Families, who has been determined responsible for the estimated tuition costs:
  - i. #20402107, Grade PK, \$105 per diem, effective September 2, 2025 through November 28, 2025 (57 days, \$5,985)
- e. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Transportation Agreement between the State of NJ Division of Children and Families (joiner) and Egg Harbor City Board of Education to transport student #20402107 to Atlantic County Special Services from December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 at a cost of \$5,818.75.
- f. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following bus routes hosted by Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District for the 2025-2026 school year plus a 5% administrative fee:
  - i. Contract ACS-GE20 (*quoted contract*) for \$431 per diem to transport DCP&P student #20402221 to Atlantic County Special Services for the period December 18, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
  - ii. Contract EHC-B2 (*quoted contract*) for \$267 per diem to transport DCP&P student #20371918 to Egg Harbor City School District for the period December 22, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
- g. **APPROVE (roll call):** The following student to be placed on Homebound Instruction:
  - i. #20342138, effective January 8, 2026, through February 28, 2026.
- h. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following students to be placed on Homebound Instruction:

- i. #20342206, effective December 15, 2025, through March 15, 2026.
- ii. #20311625, effective December 15, 2025, through December 23, 2025.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XVIII. Program Items**

**Motion:** Mr. Guercioni

**Second:** Mr. Bouchard

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):** The Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching 2007 Edition as the foundation for the Egg Harbor City School District’s Teacher Evaluation Model to meet the requirements of Excellent Educators for NJ (EE4NJ).
- b. **APPROVE (roll call):** The Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric Ltd. as the foundation for the Egg Harbor City School District’s Principal Evaluation Model to meet the requirements of Excellent Educators for NJ (EE4NJ).
- c. **APPROVE (roll call):** All current Egg Harbor City School District curricula for all grades.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XIX. Professional Development**

**Motion:** Ms. Caudo

**Second:** Ms. Cramer

Professional development activities have been recommended by building Principals, approved by the Director of Special Projects and the Superintendent as directly related to the fulfillment of individual professional improvement plans and/or required by the New Jersey Department of Education, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), local student Individual Education Plans, or entitlement/discretionary grants. Adequate funds have been appropriated.

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):** Professional Development Workshops for the 2025-2026 school year. *Attachment*

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y

Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

**XX. Policies / Regulations Items**

No items.

**XXI. New Business**

No items.

**XXII. Informational Items**

- 12/15/2025 CLS Received “First Step” Certificate of Recognition from Cross Country Connection for the 2025 New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program
- 1/15/2026 EHCCS Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Science Presentation w/Ms. Boschetti’s Class
- 1/23/2026 EHCCS 8th Grade to Visit Cedar Creek High School
- 1/26 - 1/30/26 CLS “The Great Kindness Challenge”
- 1/30/2026 CLS Bucket Filler Pep Rally
- 2/7/2026 EHCCS Grade 4 Noodlemania Competition at Northfield Elementary School

Mrs. Diagiacomo asked if we would be having our Trivia Competition again this year. Dr. Forester said yes, on 3/14/2026.

**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 Egg Harbor City Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

**WHEREAS,** The Egg Harbor City 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Egg Harbor City 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 Egg Harbor City 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.

### **XXIII. Open to Public**

Alba McKenna wanted to know why there was such a drastic change made in the middle of the school year with children in special education classes? She referenced switching teachers for some students, particularly her grandchild who is autistic and has ADHD. Mrs. Shulby explained the rationale and said it was in the best interest of all the students involved. She said there had been an influx of special education students with various needs within our multiply disabled classrooms. Ms. McKenna asked if these teachers and aides are all qualified and equipped to manage these classrooms and their needs. Mrs. Shulby said yes, they were. She further explained that this was discussed at length with the Child Study Team and the teachers involved provided feedback that was considered in how it was all laid out. Ms. McKenna still did not understand why this had to happen mid-year and that these children are vulnerable.

Nia Thompson spoke next and wanted to know what was being given to teachers; would there be more help and support? Additionally, what is in place to help these kids transition as a result of this change? Was this change the best decision? It seemed rather chaotic to make such a change. She praised Ms. Chrystal Merrigan for how wonderful she is with her children. She really just wanted to understand how it was concluded that this was the best decision, especially with it involving autistic children. Mrs. Shulby said it was in the best interest of all the students and the teachers were involved as well. Ms. Thompson said she just didn't think such a drastic change needed to happen at this time. She wanted to know how the teachers and children would be better supported. She said it was not fair nor was it okay.

Brittany O'Malley stated that it would be difficult for her child to return to school. She stated that she has on multiple occasions asked for detailed data to show support of this switch and asked why it had to happen. Too many special education children should not be the reason. Something else should be done to address this. She wanted an answer to her questions in writing. Mrs. Shulby wanted to remind everyone that these classrooms are multiply disabled and they try to group students similarly. She also stated that

behaviors have also changed and are multi-level. Ms. O'Malley asked if this could have been conducted in a more progressive way and not have been so abrupt. We should not be doing things that are just to "get by" statutorily; we should think of the kids. Mrs. DiGiacomo added that it's not just "getting by" - this change needed to be made so it worked for all of those involved.

Ms. Thompson asked why proper people were not hired to deal with these growing issues? Mrs. Nava stated that we were discussing things related to liability, but what about the ethical concerns? Ms. Thompson said the Spragg is the foundation for these children, before they move onto the Community School. She said everyone should be working as a team; the parents and staff.

Marvin Busby spoke and said there was no communication. Mrs. Shulby said all parents/guardians were individually called before the children were told. He said parents have a right to know what's going on and be involved. He said that Ms. Merrigan and Ms. Ragona were wonderful teachers.

Mrs. Shulby said we will continue to communicate moving forward. CST is actively involved with these students, Dojo is utilized regularly. This may seem like a bump in the road but she felt the end goal this would be successful and to give it some more time. Ms. Thompson requested that we should have 1:1 meetings before a change like this occurs as it pertains to each child. Mrs. DiGiacomo said parents should email the case managers.

Mrs. Ortiz asked for clarification about what exactly occurred and how many classes it involved. Mrs. Shulby clarified it was two classes and around 13 students. Ms. Thompson asked if the teachers agreed with this change. She feels this is an administrative problem.

Christopher Cruz asked who made the decision to not involve the parents. Mrs. Shulby said the parents were notified. She said it originated with CST who came up with tentative class lists, and then the teachers made suggestions. Mrs. Nava mentioned that parents are considered a part of the CST.

Mrs. DiGiacomo stated that we have gone well over the 30 minute cap for public comment and the conversation was no longer productive. Parents should reach out to their case managers for concerns regarding individual students.

**XXIV. Calendar Dates**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| January 19, 2026  | Martin Luther King Birthday (Buildings Closed) |
| February 4, 2026  | Staff Development 12:50 Dismissal              |
| February 11, 2026 | Regular Board Meeting                          |

**XXV. Executive Session**

**Motion:** Ms. Cramer

**Second:** Ms. Nava

Resolution of the Board of Education of the Egg Harbor City School District to permit discussion of subjects in closed sessions

**RESOLVED:** At a public meeting of the Board of Education held on January 7, 2026 at 7:29 PM that pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, the following subjects be discussed in a session of the Board of Education closed to the public:

- (1) Litigation
- (2) Personnel
- (3) Contracts
- (4) Negotiations

It is presently anticipated that the items mentioned in the Resolution can be disclosed to the public when a decision is made upon the same, and in personnel matters, with the consent of the employee.

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		

**XXVI. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Ms. Caudo

**Second:** Mrs. DiGiacomo

Time: 7:50 PM

**All in Favor:**

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y	Ms. Caudo ('28)-Y	Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y	Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y	Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y		