

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

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2026 (Rescheduled to 2/26/2026)
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 7:01 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 (<i>absent</i>)	Mrs. Janette Coslop
Mr. Tim Bast	Mrs. Colleen Kendrick
Mrs. Jennifer Bowen	Ms. Alexis Rubino
Mr. Walter Bright	Mrs. Shannon Williams
Mr. John Cavanaugh	

Others Present:

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:

1. Schools to Watch

Pleasant Valley School earned the Schools to Watch distinction in 2017 and 2026.
(*Attachment A*)

2. Report on Interim Placement for NJQSAC Continuum

Dr. Peretti informed the board that we received a letter indicating that we are over 80% in instruction/program and the district passed all five area.

V. Audience Participation I:

None

VI. Approval of Minutes:

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2026 Regular Session Board of Education Meeting that was held Monday, February 2, 2026 due to inclement weather. (*Attachment: Min. #1.*)

Item 1:

Motion: Mr. Bright

Second: Mrs. Bowen

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

VII. Committee Reports:

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

VIII. Correspondence:

None

IX. Business Administrator's Report:

- A. Finance

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

1. Budget Transfer List for January 2026 – Business Administrator certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A:-13.3 et. seq., no cumulative transfers exceed 10 percent of the amount of the accounts that were included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes. (*Attachment: Fin. #1*)

2. Cash Reconciliation Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of January 2026. (*Attachment: Fin. #2*) The Cash Reconciliation Report and Secretary's Reports are in agreement for the month of January 2026.
3. Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of January 2026. (*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. January 2026 Ratified Bill List \$1,953,124.44 (*Attachment: Fin. #6a*)
 - b. February 2026 Bill List \$271,404.41 (*Attachment: Fin. #6b*)
7. Accept the Consolidated Food Services Report for the month of January 2026. (*Attachment: Fin. #7*)

Items 1-7:

Motion: Ms. Rubino

Second: Mrs. Coslop

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

X. Resolutions:

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

1. Approve Resolution 2025-26#7: Long Range Facilities Plan Update – Major Amendment (*Attachment: Res. #1*)

Item 1:

Motion: Mr. Bright

Second: Mrs. Kendrick

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

XI. Superintendent's Report:

A. Personnel

Motion: For the Board of Education to approve 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.

Withdrawn

2. ~~Approval of the employment of Megan Ziller, of Vineland, as LDT C for the District, effective April 13, 2026 through June 30, 2026, at a salary established at MA+30, Step 12 (\$92,156.00, pro-rated), plus benefits, 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. #2)~~
3. Approval of the employment of Michelle Baron, of Mullica Hill, NJ, as Part-time (5.0 hours/day) General Aide at Harrison Township School, effective February 9, 2026 through June 30, 2026 with a salary at Step 1 (\$16.02/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. #3)
4. Approval of the employment of Maria Rodriguez, as Part-Time Custodian at Pleasant Valley School, effective as soon as possible through June 30, 2026 with a salary at Step 3 (\$17.09/hour) in accordance with the 2025-2028 contract between H.T.E.A. and H.T.B.O.E., pending receipt of required clearances.
5. 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.

Patricia Medori Dickler - Teacher	Craig Gilbert - Teacher
Zakirah Wade – Bus Driver	Agnieszka Wiernasz - Nurse
Deborah Michel – General Aide	Zoey Lowe – Transportation Aide
Stephanie Keller - Teacher	Erika Stahl - Nurse

Items 1, 3-5:

Motion: Mrs. Coslop

Second: Ms. Rubino

Roll Call: (8-0)

Carried: Yes

B. Education

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

1. Ratify and affirm the approval of a tuition and 1:1 aide contract with Bancroft for Student #28006 for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year commencing February 18, 2026 at the following costs:
 - a. Regular school year tuition at \$476.86 per diem for 75 days = \$35,764.50
 - b. Regular school year 1:1 aide at \$275.00 per diem for 75 days = \$20,625.00
2. Approval of the homeschooling of student #32125 for the 2025-2026 school year per parent request received February 6, 2026

Items 1-2:

Motion: Mrs. Bowen

Second: Mr. Bright

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 and Kristi Gimpel to attend *LRC-South 2026 Inclusion Institute* on March 17, 2026 at no cost to the District.
2. Approval of Kristi Gimpel to attend *NSPA/FEA Workshop: Hot Issues in Special Education Law* virtually on February 24, 2026 a no cost to the district.
3. Approval of Second Grade Classrooms to visit the Mullica Hill Historical Society during the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approval of the reimbursement of graduate tuition cost to Olivia Langerhans following successful completion of the following course through Rowan University, according to terms in the negotiated agreement, requested amounts stated, with reimbursement June 2026:
 - a. Dissertation Research to be completed Spring 2026 - \$4,243.38
5. Acknowledgement of safety drills conducted in the district schools:
 - a. Hold Drill
 - 1) Pleasant Valley School – January 14, 2026 (AM)
 - 2) Harrison Township School – January 29, 2026 (PM)
 - b. Fire Drill
 - 1) Harrison Township School – February 3, 2026 (AM)
 - 2) Pleasant Valley School – February 4, 2026 (PM)
 - c. AED Drill
 - 1) Pleasant Valley School – February 3, 2026 (AM)
 - c. Secure Drill
 - 1) Harrison Township School – February 6, 2026 (AM)
 - d. Lockdown Drill
 - 1) Pleasant Valley School – February 11, 2026 (AM)

Items 1-5:

Motion: Mrs. Kendrick
Roll Call: (8-0)

Second: Mrs. Coslop
Carried: Yes

D. Policy

None

E. Transportation

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

1. Ratify and affirm the Joint Transportation Agreement with West Deptford School District to transport Student #28006 from home to The Bancroft School in Mount Laurel and back home again at a per diem of \$155.00 for the remaining 79 days of the school year beginning February 17, 2026 for a total of \$12,245.00. (**Attachment: Trans. #1**)

Item #1:

Motion: Ms. Rubino
Roll Call: (8-0)

Second: Mr. Bast
Carried: Yes

F. Buildings & Grounds

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

1. Approval of the following groups to utilize the facilities for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years as outlined below:

<u>Name/Organization</u>	<u>Location/Date</u>	<u>Type of Use</u>
Schulze/Boy Scouts	PVS Cafeteria 6/5/2026	Meeting
Coakley/OKKA Karate	PVS Gym 6/27/2026	Black Belt Graduation
Coakley/Harrison Kids	HTS Gym 3 & Activity Center 2026-2027 School Year	Before & After Care Program
Heitman/Math Club	PVS Room A110 Tuesdays 3/17/26-4/28/26	Math Club
Heitman/Heitman Hoops	PVS Gym Mondays 3/16/26-4/27/26	Basketball Clinic

Dr. Peretti indicated that youth soccer reached out and requested an extension of facility use through March 13th. The board members mutually agreed to allow the extension.

Item #1:

Motion: Mrs. Bowen
Roll Call: (8-0)

Second: Ms. Rubino
Carried: Yes

XII. New Business:

1. 2026-2027 School Calendar

Dr. Peretti presented the draft of the 2026-2027 School Calendar. School will be starting before the Labor Day holiday. (**Attachment B**)

➤ There was discussion regarding the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Additionally, Dr. Peretti indicated that the February 23rd snow day will be made up on Monday, June 15, 2026. (**Attachment C**)

2. School Bus Advertising

Mr. DeSanto informed the Board about the advantages of placing advertisements on the buses. The moderate revenues will help offset some fuel costs.

3. Referendum 2026

Dr. Peretti briefed the board and the public about projects and estimated costs.

4. March BOE Meeting

The March BOE meeting is moving to Monday, March 23, 2026.

XIII. Old Business:

None

XIV. Audience Participation II:

Mr. Kevin French cautioned the board with regard to bus advertising as it pertains to first amendment lawsuits (forum analysis).

XV. Adjournment:

There was no further business. A motion was made to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

Motion: Ms. Rubino
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Mrs. Coslop
Carried: Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher C. DeSanto
Board Secretary