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The following items are contained in the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes:

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The Regular Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on January 14, 2026 by Board President, Mr. Joseph Pepe, at the Eugene A. Tighe Media Center.

Certification of Notice:

Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary, announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

On May 17, 2025 a notice of this meeting was posted on the district website, the bulletin board in the Board of Education Administration Office, the Eugene A. Tighe School, the William H. Ross III School and emailed to the City Clerk and advertised in *The Press*.

Roll Call - Members Present: Mr. Joseph Pepe; Mr. Jack Sorensen; Mrs. Amy Brog;  
Mrs. Shannon Wray-Norris; Mrs. Danielle  
Gomes-Chapman; Mr. Nicholas Palmisano; Mr. Steve Swift  
Others Present: Mr. Ryan Gaskill, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Melina  
Skwarek, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; Mrs.  
Samantha Dulude, Principal; Mrs. Bernadette Marino, Principal;  
Mr. Eric Goldstein, Solicitor

Presentation of the June 30, 2025 Audit:

Mrs. Nancy Sbrolla, with Ford, Scott & Associates presented the Margate City School District's June 30, 2025 audit. Mrs. Sbrolla is the government partner with the firm and shared that there was an unmodified opinion with no audit finding. The District saw an increase of approximately \$347,000 in the tax levy for the 2024-2025 school year budget. There was an increase in Extraordinary Aid over the budgeted figure in the amount of \$87,000. Additional highlights include increases in tuition costs, utilities costs and health benefit expenses.

Public Comment:

A member of the community asked when he would be able to address the Board with his client, and it was confirmed the discussion would occur in Executive Session following the Regular Session meeting.

Fire Drill and Security Drill Report:

Mr. Gaskill distributed the Fire, Security, and Bus Evacuation Drill Reports for Eugene A. Tighe School & William H. Ross School for the month of November 2025 attached as Exhibit # 1, pages 30,896-30,897.

Superintendent's Report & Principals' Updates:

Mr. Ryan Gaskill shared that January is School Board Member appreciation month. He thanked the Board members for their voluntary time and commitment to the District. He shared that there was a very engaging professional development day held earlier in the afternoon for the staff. He added that the Tighe School musical would be held on January 15, and 16, 2026, in the Performing Arts Center. There would be morning and evening performances. He thanked the business office staff for their time and work to assist the auditors while they were in the district reviewing all documents and reports to complete the June 2025 audit. He shared that the district received \$8,500 in awards back to the district from the JIF, for outstanding reporting procedures and prioritizing safety within the district.

Mrs. Marino shared information on current activities at Ross School.

Mrs. Dulude shared information on current activities at Tighe School.

MEF Update:

Ms. Natasa Coughlin shared that the MEF would again sponsor the DJ for the 8th Grade Dance. She shared information about the upcoming fundraisers including the Waterpark tickets to be sold in March, the Margate Night Out at the movie theater, and the Spring Fling. She also shared that the Fishing and Boating club would be having their first meeting in the upcoming weeks. The students are very excited.

MEA Update:

In honor of Board Appreciation month, Ms. Danielle Ujcich thanked the Board for all they do for the schools.

Personnel Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Personnel matters:

1. Approve the retirement of employee 99294217 effective June 30, 2026.
2. Approve the retirement of employee 99763088 effective June 30, 2026.
3. Approve the retirement of employee 31352958 effective June 30, 2026.
4. Approve the hiring of Kendall DeMorat as a Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year pending completion of paperwork.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Instructional Support Activities:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Instructional Support Activities requests:

1. Approve the following Tighe PRIDE Fundraisers, PRIDE Competitions and Spirit Days throughout the school year - at least one competition per marking period. Staff: Jacque Jones, Louis Sanchez, Mark Winterbottom.
  - Spirit Gear Sale (1st Place Spiritwear) - online store open year round; percentage of sales goes to Tighe Pride Account
  - Candy Grams, Candy, and Flower Sales during school play performances in January - profits to go to the Tighe Pride Account
  - Paint Party Fundraisers – step by step painting event with instruction by Debby Sterling from Sterling Stables; in January and March/April; event location – Martin Bloom Pavilion (no charge from Rec Dept for use of the Pavilion for these events); cost for people to participate in painting class is \$55 per person (includes cost of materials and lesson, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Tighe Pride Account)
  - Dodging Drugs Dodgeball Tournament – tournament to be held in March; Margate City Fire Dept and Margate City Police Department participate in various ways and contribute toward prizes; student team entry fees and spectator fees go to Tighe Pride Account
  - Annual Career Day based on Tighe PRIDE Theme in April
  - Soft Pretzel Sales after school during the school year – dates TBD; profits to go to Tighe Pride Account
2. Approve the Ross Kind Kids Club to sell crafts to raise money for the Child Life Program at CHOP. Staff: Erin McGuigan and Ross staff volunteers.
3. Approve the Ross Kind Kids Club to participate in a beach cleanup event in May. Staff: Erin McGuigan. Transportation: Students will walk to and from Granville Avenue beach.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Field Trips:

Motion by Mr. Sorensen, seconded by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, to approve the following Field Trip requests:

1. Approve the Tighe Think Day Team to compete in the Think Day Competition at Mainland Regional High School in February. Staff: Tracy Magel, Sherry Scott. Cost: \$150.00 Registration Fee & \$70.00 Student Lunch. Total Cost \$220.00 Transportation: Provided by parents.

Field Trips (Continued):

2. Approve the MathCounts Team to compete in the MathCounts Competition at Kingsway Middle School in February. Cost: \$240.00 Registration. Transportation: District Bus, Substitute Driver at \$25.00/hr.
3. Approve the 2nd Grade Field Trip to Johnson's Corner Farm in May. Staff: Erin Gorman, Merri Saggio, Lillian Gaskill and 1 additional staff member. Cost: \$700.00 Entrance fee. Transportation: District Bus, Substitute Bus Driver at \$25.00/hr.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Workshops:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Workshop matters:

1. Approve the attendance of Dr. Jacque Jones and Mark Winterbottom at the workshop on Patterns of Strengths and Weaknesses in Practice: Moving from Cognitive Assessment to Classroom Impact in January. Cost: \$199.00 Registration Total Cost: \$398.00.
2. Approve the attendance of Ryan Gaskill and Melina Skwarek at the Strauss Esmay School Law & Policy Symposium in January. Cost: N/A
3. Approve the attendance of Ryan Gaskill at the Webinar, Learning Lessons and Saving Lives: Key Considerations to Enhance School Security in January.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Contracts:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following contracts:

1. Approve a contract without competitive bidding as a Professional Services Contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)1, with Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc, for architectural and engineering services associated with the Tighe School Performing Arts Center (PAC) lighting system project, not to exceed \$30,750.00.
2. Approve a contract without competitive bidding as a Professional Services Contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)1, with Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., for architectural and engineering services associated with the Ross School Roofing & Solar project, in the amount of \$78,684.00.
3. Approve a residential tuition contract, for one student, with Grove School Inc., from January 2026 through June 2026 in the amount of approximately \$86,100.00.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Students:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following student matter:

1. Approve the findings of HIB Report to Board of Education Investigation R01-202526.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to accept the December 10, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Financial Reports:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen to accept the Secretary's Financial Reports for the month of November 2025 as attached to these minutes and certifying that no budgetary account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(a). See Exhibit # 2, pages 30,898 - 30,921. The Secretary's Reports agree with the Report of Receipts and Disbursements.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Board of Education Certification:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11, the Margate City Board of Education certifies that as of November 30, 2025 after review of the Secretary's Monthly

Board of Education Certification (Continued):

Financial Reports (Revenue and Appropriation Sections) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge there have been no changes in anticipated revenue sources and/or amounts and no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)2-3 so that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Report of Receipts and Disbursements:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to accept the Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of November 2025, attached as Exhibit # 3, pages 30,922 – 30,934.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Cash Report:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to accept the Cash Report for the month of November 2025, attached as Exhibit # 4, page 30,935.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Bills and Payrolls:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the payment of bills and payrolls, as listed on Exhibit # 5, pages 30,936 - 30,964.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Transfer of Funds:

Transfer of Funds within the General Current Expense Account

**Ratified Budget Transfers for 2025-2026**

TO:	12-000-266-730-00-00-010	SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE	\$3,000.00
	11-000-262-420-00-01	CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE	\$8,000.00
	11-190-100-610-11-04-025	VOCAL SHEET MUSIC	\$150.00
			\$11,150.00
FROM:	12-000-266-730-00-00-025	SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE	\$3,000.00
	11-000-262-420-00-04	CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE	\$8,000.00
	11-190-100-610-01-04-025	VOCAL SHEET MUSIC	\$150.00
		TOTAL	\$11,150.00

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

New Business:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, to approve the following New Business:

- A. Approve the second and final reading of the following policies and regulations to be revised and added:
- Revisions
    - Policy 2530-Resource Materials
    - Policy 9130-Public Complaints
    - Regulation 2530-Resource Materials
    - Regulation 9130-Public Complaints
  - Additions
    - Policy 2535 Library Materials
    - Regulation 2535 Library Materials

New Business (Continued):

- B. Approve to review and accept the 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – Synopsis of Audit Recommendation prepared by Ford, Scott & Associates, LLC. The approval supports an unmodified opinion by the auditor and no audit findings or recommendations.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Other Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Other Matters:

- A. Approve 2 hours of prep time for Kelly Crawford and Lisa Drexler to present at the staff Professional Development day. Cost: \$224.00.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Swift, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Public Comment:

No members of the community commented.

Executive Session:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously approved the following resolution at 6:20 P.M.:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 requires adoption of a resolution of the Board to go into Executive Session;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, New Jersey Title 18A and the Margate City Board of Education Bylaw No. 9322 hereby enters Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- Personnel
- Potential Litigation

Executive Session (Continued):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of this Executive Session shall be made public following formal action by the Board and/or at the conclusion of any investigation(s), due process proceeding, or litigation, so long as not prohibited by law and so long as the need for maintaining confidentiality no longer exists. No formal action shall be taken.

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Other Matters (Continued):

Motion by Mrs. Brog seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Other Matters:

- B. Approve maintaining the status quo of employee 60704046.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Abstentions: Mr. Swift

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek  
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator