

Index

The following items are contained in the February 25, 2026 Work Session Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. New Business
5. Public Comment
6. Executive Session
7. Adjournment

The Work Session Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on February 25, 2026 by President, Mr. Joseph Pepe, at the William H. Ross III School third floor board conference room.

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's website, the bulletin board in the Margate Board of Education Administration Office, the William H. Ross III School, the Eugene A. Tighe School, and emailed to the City Clerk and "The Press."

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

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

New Business:

A) Update on the status of the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget.

Mrs. Skwarek delivered the preliminary proposed 2026-2027 school budget. There are a few items the District is waiting for final numbers on including some certified tuition rates and the release of State Aid. Due to a number of factors including a substantial increase in the Atlantic City High School certified tuition rates and the anticipated increase in health benefits costs, the District is proposing an increase for the annual tax levy. In addition to the increase in the tax levy, the District is looking at a decrease in Longport tuition in the amount of \$200,000. Some key points to consider on the appropriations side include increase to utilities, demands on network infrastructure and cyber security, required facilities maintenance, tuition and transportation increases, and a very large 2026 graduating eighth grade class that will be attending high school in the upcoming budget year.

B) Update on 2026-2027 Projected Enrollment.

Mrs. Skwarek reviewed the proposed budgeted enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. The current year enrollments in addition to the cohort survival enrollment projections were utilized to estimate the

New Business (Continued):

enrollment counts for the upcoming budget year. The 2026 graduating class is the largest cohort in the District and it will be tough to bring in a large class to offset the loss during this transition.

The next Board of Education meeting will be on March 17, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Tighe Media Center.

The Board of School Estimates meeting will be held on March 26, 2026 at 3:30 P.M. at Margate City Hall.

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

Executive Session:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, the board unanimously approved the following resolution at 7:05 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:

- Contract Negotiations

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 Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Swift seconded by Mr. Palmisano, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

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