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The following items are contained in the March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes:

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16. Board of Education Certification as of January 2026
17. Report of Receipts and Disbursements for January 2026
18. Cash Report for January 2026
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21. New Business

22. Public Comment

23. Adjournment

The Regular Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on March 17, 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 February 26, 2026, 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.

<u>Roll Call</u> - 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 United States Flag and Certificate by the Cooper Family:

The American Flag was presented to Mr. Gaskill and the Margate School District by Mrs. Cooper. She shared that Gianna and Tommy Cooper's dad is currently deployed in the Middle East. On December 24, 2025, he had a flag flown and hand-carried on a mission in support of Operation: HAWKEYE STRIKE for the Margate City School District as a thank you for the continued support of their children. The Cooper Family is truly thankful for the staff and the extra care they have given their children and family during this period of separation. Mr. Cooper and his Airmen also deeply appreciated the handmade cards sent by the Tighe School NJHS. Mr. Pepe asked Mrs. Cooper to give her husband best wishes from the Margate City Board of Education.

Public Comment:

No members of the community commented.

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 February 2026 attached as Exhibit # 1, pages 31,056-31,057.

Superintendent's Report & Principals' Updates:

Mrs. Skwarek shared a presentation on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The advertised budget is attached as Exhibit # 2, pages 31,058-31,062.

Mr. Ryan Gaskill shared that Spring Conferences had passed and we have one-third of the school year remaining. He added that we are looking forward to the programs, trips, and events scheduled for the remainder of the year.

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

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

General Board Discussion:

Mr. Pepe thanked the Administrators for their work on the budget. He emphasized the importance of community involvement and partnerships with the school district. He added that there are people in Margate all year long and the level of community involvement in the schools year-round is remarkable.

Personnel Matters:

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

1. Approve the hiring of Elizabeth LaRocca as a Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year pending completion of paperwork.
2. Approve Pete Davis to complete coursework to obtain a FAA Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot license. This license will allow Mr. Davis to incorporate drones as part of his lessons in technology instruction while meeting insurance requirements. Cost: \$149.00 for online Drone Pilot License course through Pilot Institute.
3. Approve the hiring of Janice Chrono for a long-term maternity leave replacement from approximately March 23, 2026 through the end of the 2025/2026 school year at a prorated salary of \$65,500.00 (Step 1/MEA Contract) pending completion of paperwork.
4. Approve the hiring of Nastassis Shypionak as a Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year pending completion of paperwork.
5. Approve Danielle Ujcich for enrollment and reimbursement upon successful completion of the graduate level course, EDUO 9991 Key to Motivation and Learning. Cost: \$636.00.
6. Approve Edith Hoerner to replace Jaime Collins as the Ross Homework Club Advisor. Tuesdays and or Thursdays for 45 minutes per day for the 2025-2026 school year. Staff: Chrissy Campbell, Lora Blanco, Emily Rubino, Erin Gorman as Substitutes. Cost: MEA contractual hourly rate.
7. Approve a medical leave for employee #99524902 beginning on April 13, 2026 through April 24, 2026.

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 Family STEM Night at Tighe School in March. Staff: Chelsi Crompton.
2. Approve the Tighe School Academic Team to compete in WHIZ QUIZ at Holy Spirit High School in April. Staff: Tracy Magel & Sherry Scott. Cost: \$160. Registration, 2 Substitutes at \$125.00 per day. Transportation: District Bus.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Field Trips:

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

1. Approve the Kindergarten Field Trip to Lucy The Elephant Park on Jerome Avenue in June. Staff: Christa Toner, Jaime Collins, Amy Hughes, Eileen Duffy, and 2 additional staff members. Transportation: Students and staff will walk to and from the park.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Facilities/PAC:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following Facilities/PAC requests:

1. Approve the updated Rental Agreements for the Dominick A. Potena Performing Arts Center.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Workshop matters:

1. Approve the attendance of Melina Skwarek, Leigh Turner, and Colleen Culmone at the Criminal History and School Bus Safety Training Program workshop in May, at Stockton University. Cost: Travel.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 contract matters:

1. Approve a resolution for participation in a Joint Transportation Agreement with Atlantic County Special Services School District to provide the services to coordinate transportation for special education, private, vocational-technical, and other school students to specific destinations in order to attempt to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness, for the 2026-2027 school year. In accordance with the Addendum to the CTSA agreement, Margate will be billed for each nurse or aide accompanying a student on the bus at a rate of \$70/day per nurse and \$35/hour per one-to-one aide.
2. Approve a tuition contract with the Atlantic City Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year for 2 students to attend the Margate Schools at a cost of \$60,284.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 February 11, 2026, Regular Session and February 25, 2026, Work Session Minutes.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 accept the Secretary's Financial Reports for the month of January 2026 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 # 3, pages 31,063 - 31,086. The Secretary's Reports agree with the Report of Receipts and Disbursements.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 January 31, 2026 after review of the Secretary's Monthly 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:

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 January 2026, attached as Exhibit # 4, pages 31,087 – 31,099.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 January 2026, attached as Exhibit # 5, page 31,100.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 # 6, pages 31,101 - 31,127.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Transfer of Funds:

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:	11-000-223-500-00-00	STAFF TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$500.00
	11-000-261-100-00-03	FACILITIES SALARIES	\$1,100.00
	11-000-261-420-00-01	RICH FIRE SERVICES	\$10,000.00
	11-000-262-100-18-01	CUSTODIAL OT	\$5,000.00
	11-000-262-420-00-01	OUTSIDE CUSTODIAL	\$16,000.00
	11-000-262-420-00-04	OUTSIDE CUSTODIAL	\$7,000.00
	11-215-100-106-00-00-025	PREK EDUCATIONAL ASST	\$5,300.00
	11-213-100-101-00-00-025	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$68,500.00
	20-270-200-320-00-00-010	PILOT INSTITUTE	\$149.00
		TOTAL	\$113,549.00

FROM:	11-000-223-320-00-00-010	STAFF TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$500.00
	11-000-261-100-00-01	FACILITIES SALARIES	\$1,100.00
	11-000-261-420-00-04	RICH FIRE SERVICES	\$10,000.00
	11-000-262-100-00-04	CUSTODIAL OT	\$5,000.00
	11-000-262-100-00-04	OUTSIDE CUSTODIAL	\$16,000.00
	11-000-262-420-00-03	OUTSIDE CUSTODIAL	\$7,000.00
	11-219-100-320-00-00-025	PREK EDUCATIONAL ASST	\$5,300.00
	11-000-261-100-00-04	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$16,000.00
	11-000-261-420-00-01	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$10,000.00
	11-000-261-420-00-04	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$1,000.00
	11-000-261-421-00-00	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$8,000.00
	11-213-100-101-00-00-010	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$2,000.00
	11-213-100-106-00-00-010	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$19,000.00
	11-213-100-106-00-00-025	WHR RESOURCE SALARIES	\$12,500.00
	20-270-200-320-00-00-025	PILOT INSTITUTE	\$149.00
		TOTAL	\$113,549.00

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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 Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following New Business:

- A. Approve to purchase and implement core instructional materials and supplemental resources for Science to facilitate the delivery of instruction addressing the 2020 NJ Student Learning Standards for Science.
  - Grades 5-8: Purchase multi-year (6 years) Science Curriculum, HMH Science Dimensions - Print & Digital. Cost: \$29,424.16.

New Business (Continued):

- B. Approve to purchase and implement core instructional materials and supplemental resources for Science to facilitate the delivery of instruction addressing the 2020 NJ Student Learning Standards for Science.
  - Grades 2-4: Purchase multi-year (6 years) Science Curriculum, Savvas Learning - Print & Digital. Cost: \$29,893.73.
- C. Approve the application submissions to Atlantic City Electric for the ACE Energy Efficiency Commercial & Industrial Program, in coordination with Bright Idea LED, for Prescriptive Lighting Rebates on LED lighting fixtures for Ross and Tighe Schools.
- D. Approve the Ross School Roof Project through Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$2,224,886.13 (ESCNJ Cooperative Purchasing - 65MCESCCPS ESCNJ 23/24-30).
- E. Approve submission of the proposed 2026-2027 Margate City School District Budget to the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent for review.
- F. Approve a resolution fixing the sum to be raised by Local Tax Levy for the 2026-2027 School District budget, attached as Exhibit # 7, page 31,128.
- G. Approve a resolution to set maximum travel expenditure limits as required by Section 15, Chapter 53, P. L. 2007, attached as Exhibit # 8, page 31,129.
- H. Approve a resolution to set maximum dollar limits for professional services for the 2026-2027 school year as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A 5.2, attached as Exhibit # 9, page 31,130.
- I. Approve a cap adjustment for increase in health care costs for the 2026-2027 budget year in the amount of \$348,017.
- J. Approve a tuition contract with Longport Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$573,741 plus a tuition adjustment for the 2024-2025 school year of (\$127,951) for a total cost of \$445,790 calculated as follows:

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Revenue
Preschool Disabled	0	\$ 77,254	\$ 0
Kindergarten/PreK	1	\$ 27,427	\$ 27,427
Grades 1-5	8	\$ 27,643	\$ 221,144
Grades 6-8	<u>10</u>	\$ 32,517	<u>\$ 325,170</u>
Total	19		\$ 573,741
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			<u>\$ (127,951)</u>
Budgeted Total			\$ 445,790

- K. Approve a tuition contract with Atlantic City Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$885,312 for regular education students and \$222,265 for special education students less a tuition adjustment for the 2024-2025 school year of \$6,684 for a total cost of \$1,114,261 calculated as follows:

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Expense
Grades 9-12	29	\$ 30,528	\$ 885,312
Resource	<u>5</u>	\$ 44,453	<u>\$ 222,265</u>
Total	34		\$ 1,107,577
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			<u>\$ 6,684</u>
Budgeted Total			\$ 1,114,261

New Business (Continued):

- L. Approve a tuition contract with the Atlantic County Vocational School Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year for 10 students to attend the Academy Program at a cost of \$3,400 per student and 1 special education student at a cost of \$7,500 per student plus a tuition adjustment from the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of (\$9,679), for a total cost of \$31,821.
- M. Approve resolution to appoint Siracusa Kaufmann Insurance Agency as the Risk Management Consultant for the 2026-2027 school year with compensation for services rendered equal to 4% of the district's annual assessment.
- N. Approve the opening of the application to non-resident tuition students in grades K-5 for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$6,000.00 per school year.
- O. Approve the first reading of the following policy revision:
  - Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
- P. Approve the updated 2025-2026 District Calendar.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, seconded by Mr. Swift, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek  
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator