

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 25, 2026

Charles L. Spragg School

Library

601 Buffalo Avenue

6:00 PM

I. Regular Meeting

Mrs. DiGiacomo 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. Roll Call

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

IV. Open Floor to Public

No comments.

V. Comments for the Good of the Board

Mrs. Nava said she had questions about the CSA Evaluation. Mrs. DiGiacomo said that would be discussed further in New Business at the end.

VI. Monthly Reports

a. Administrative Reports

i. Superintendent / Principal Report

Attachment

Mrs. Shulby said that the revised School Calendar was on tonight's agenda. Under Personnel, there are additional hours being approved for the LDTC and Social Worker for additional case management being that we are down a School Psychologist. Additionally, we found a School Psychologist who will be starting on July 1. CLS was recognized by the Heart Association for their fundraising efforts. Next week, CLS will have two assemblies, free or charge, with Rott-N-Notts, the organization who completed canine nosework earlier this year. She also wished everyone a wonderful spring break with their families.

ii. Business Administrator Report

Mrs. Ziegler mentioned that we are in the process of changing our district website to a new platform, Apptegy. We were trying to find something more user friendly and easier to navigate. The 26-27 District Budget is on for approval to submit to the County Office of Education for their approval. We will present the Budget information in detail at the May 6 Public Hearing. The Board Finance Committee met earlier this evening to review the details. Also on for approval this evening is the 26-27 Preschool Budget Workbook submission. Finally, the 4/15 BOE meeting agenda will be sent out on 4/13, the Monday after Spring Break. Mr. Guercioni asked if we are just using it for the website/messaging piece and not their other offerings, and Mrs. Ziegler confirmed.

iii. Director of Special Projects Report

Attachment

Mr. Lerch said that he attended his first County Curriculum meeting recently. He met with Devan Blackwell who acquainted him with the group. Mr. Lerch recently completed an Arts Survey that needed to be completed. He also met with Alysha Garcia from

Linkit! who assisted with the literacy mandate upload to NJ Homeroom. There were a few parent concerns on students being deemed below grade level in various areas, but that data is just used to drive instruction. Lets Go Learn platform is tailored for each student to meet them where they are. On the agenda this evening is to hire a new School Psychologist; she is highly recommended by Atlantic City. Mrs. Nava asked about Math Expressions and Mr. Lerch said that we are moving forward with their curriculum next year.

iv. EHCCS Principal Report *Attachment*

Dr. Forester said that her Trivia Competition on 3/14 was a huge success. She was emailed by a parent from EHT who commented on how great the event was. She thanked her staff who worked. She then commented on how improved her building's student attendance has been, as well as a decrease in lates. Arcadia Peña represented EHC in the 8th Grade Dialogue event hosted by NJ School Boards and did a phenomenal job. Finally, EHCCS was randomly selected for the NAPE assessment in February. We received a certificate of excellence and an email from the NAPE Director thanking EHCCS for such great organization.

v. Supervisor of Early Childhood/LDTC Report *Attachment*

Mrs. Macchione highlighted Read Across America week held this past month in which the 8th graders from EHCCS went over to read to the younger students. CLS has been having an ongoing event called The Masked Reader where students have to guess which staff member is reading; at the end of the month pep rally there will be a reveal. The Drum to be Fit assembly for preschool was a huge success and an event that the families thoroughly enjoy. Finally, pre k registration is now live and will be through the end of April.

vi. Board Solicitor's Report

b. Board Committee Reports

- i. Personnel
- ii. Curriculum/Programs
- iii. Finance
- iv. Policy
- v. Buildings/Grounds

VII. Board Minutes

Motion: Mr. Bouchard

Second: Ms. Cramer

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

- i. February 11, 2026 Reorganization / Regular Meeting *Attachment*

Roll Call:

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

VIII. Financial Items

Motion: Mr. Guercioni

Second: Mr. Bouchard

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

- i. Board Secretary Report – January 2026 *Attachment*
- ii. Report of Receipts and Disbursements – January 2026 *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 1/31/26 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 *Attachment*

Bills to be Approved for Payment	\$ 694,742.82
Checks to be Ratified	\$ 889,042.94
Payroll to be Ratified	\$ 1,164,174.77

d. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Budget transfers for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2:13 and Chapter 196 Laws of 1967, as follows:

i. March 25, 2026 Fund 10 - \$32,688

Attachment

e. **APPROVE (roll call):** Agreement with Kroll, LLC to update the fixed asset ledger for accounting and financial reporting as of June 30, 2026 at a cost of \$2,200.

Attachment

f. **APPROVE (roll call):** BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 school year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund	\$15,895,266
Special Revenue Fund	\$2,134,395
Debt Service Fund	\$605,632
Total	\$18,635,293

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall advertise said budget in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be held at the Egg Harbor City Board of Education meeting on May 6, 2026 in the Charles L. Spragg School Library at 6:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year; and

BE IT RESOLVED, to acknowledge that the 2026-2027 budget as described above will result in the following:

General Fund Tax Levy	\$2,944,655
Debt Service Tax Levy	\$605,632
Total Tax Levy	\$3,550,287

BE IT RESOLVED, that no banked cap will be applied to the 2026-2027 school budget; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education includes in the budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$230,000 for Masonry Repairs to part of the exterior at the Charles L. Spragg School; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education includes in the budget a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$375,000 for use on required

maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 6A:23A-7.3, in each pre-budget year, the Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which may not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by Federal, State, and Local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education had previously established a maximum amount in the pre-budget year 2025-2026 as \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has expensed \$1,050 of the maximum amount for the 2025-2026 year to date; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2026-2027 school year as \$10,000; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the supporting documentation of this budget also contains an itemization of criteria expenditures as required under administrative regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a), maximum dollar amounts for professional services have been established and are detailed in the appropriations section of the 2026-2027 Budget. *Attachment*

Roll Call:

Mr. Bouchard ('28)-Y Ms. Caudo ('28)-Absent Ms. Cramer ('27)-Y
Mr. Guercioni ('26)-Y Mrs. Nava ('27)-Y a-e, Abstain f Mrs. Ortiz ('28)-Y
Mrs. DiGiacomo ('26)-Y

IX. Non-instructional Operations Items.

Motion: Ms. Cramer

Second: Mr. Bouchard

- a. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Revised School Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. *Attachment*
- b. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following bus route hosted by Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District, plus a 5% administrative fee:

- i. Contract OA2 (*quoted contract*) for \$139.50 per diem to Ocean Academy at Cape May County Special Services School District for student #20331698 (*billing based on total riders*) from February 25, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (*the district to be reimbursed by the State of NJ Division of Children and Families*).
- ii. Contract ACS-GE20 (*quoted contract*) for \$422 per diem to transport DCP&P student #20402221 to Atlantic County Special Services for the period March 24, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

Roll Call:

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

X. Personnel Items – as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

Motion: Mr. Bouchard

Second: Ms. Cramer

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

	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Degree/ Step	Salary	Notes
i.	Alesha Longo	Substitute Teacher/Aide	District	3/26/2026	N/A	\$150 per diem	
ii.	Fernanda Martinez	School Psychologist	District	8/27/2026	MA+30 Step 1	\$65,670	Start date pending certification, fingerprint approval, and onboarding documents

Mrs. Nava asked for clarification on the School Psychologist start date. Mrs. Ziegler stated that 8/27/26 is when ten-month staff report back for the next school year. She will be granted office hours starting in July just like other CST members.

- b. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following mentor assignments for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year:
 - i. Sean Caughey with Matthew Wira

- 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.	#79090346	FMLA	2/20/2026	3/15/2026	Paid	
ii.	#97357248	FMLA	2/19/2026	3/18/2026	Paid	12/10/2025
		FMLA	3/19/2026	4/24/2026	Unpaid	
		FMLA / NJFLA Concurrent	4/25/2026	5/26/2026	Unpaid	
		NJFLA	5/27/2026	6/30/2026	Unpaid	

- d. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following staff for case management, to work up to thirty (30) hours from February 11, 2026 to March 25, 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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- e. **APPROVE (roll call):** The following staff for case management, to work up to ten (10) hours from March 26, 2026 to April 15, 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 if this was five hours per week? She also wanted to ensure that we are meeting IDEA timelines/requirements that a school psychologist would otherwise provide. Mrs. Shulby said yes, and the period from 3/26 through 4/15 was two weeks when you consider the removal of Spring Break as well.

Roll Call:

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

XI. Student Items

Motion: Mr. Guercioni

Second: Mr. Bouchard

- 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. *Handout*

Mrs. Nava asked about the HIB investigations that are pending. Mrs. Shulby said as long as they are still in the investigation process, they stay pending until they are concluded.

- b. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** Admitting the following DCP&P student from Atlantic City Board of Education, where the prior district of residence is responsible for the estimated tuition costs:
- i. #20342206, Grade 4 (MD), \$118.33 per diem, effective March 17, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (62 days, \$7,336.46)
- c. **RATIFY and AFFIRM (roll call):** The following student enrichment trip:

	Grade	Location	Address	Date	Funded From
i.	Boys Basketball	Xfinity Mobile Arena (Villanova Game)	Philadelphia, PA	February 21, 2026	Local Funding

- d. **APPROVE (roll call):** The following student enrichment trips, funded with Preschool funds:
- i. Preschool walking field trips to the Egg Harbor City Public Library, Egg Harbor City, NJ on the following dates:
- April 29, 2026 - Mrs. Griffin’s class
 - May 6, 2026 - Ms. Bonilla’s class
 - May 13, 2026 - Mrs. Balsley’s class
 - May 27, 2026 - Mrs. DiGerolamo’s class
 - June 3, 2026 - Mrs. Bauer’s class

Roll Call:

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

XII. Program Items

Motion: Mr. Bouchard

Second: Ms. Cramer

- a. **APPROVE (roll call):** Submission of the 2026-2027 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) One Year Program Budget Workbook to the Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Services comprised of the following:
 - i. State Aid - \$940,470
 - ii. Local Contribution for Special Education - \$275,662
 - iii. FY24-25 Carryover - \$68,219 *Attachment*

- b. **RATIFY AND AFFIRM (roll call):** An Agreement with Rowan University to provide student teaching opportunities to Rowan students from March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. *Attachment*

Roll Call:

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

XIII. Professional Development

Motion: Ms. Cramer

Second: Mr. Bouchard

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

XIV. Policies / Regulations Items

No items to report.

XV. New Business

Mrs. DiGiacomo handed out the Superintendent/CSA Evaluation Process Calendar. She explained that the CSA evaluation has already begun. The CSA

gets evaluated on Board Goals and 6 State Standards as dictated by NJ School Boards Association. As of 2/11, Mrs. Shulby has completed her sections, which was emailed to the Board right after. Some BOE members have already completed their sections. Mrs. DiGiacomo had asked the Board to complete their sections by 5/6 so that by the 6/10 BOE Meeting the evaluation can be board approved and discussed in Executive Session. She also said that the Pre-Conference is a new feature and a guide, not mandated. If we were to restart the entire process, that would put us past the deadline to be completed in its entirety by July 1 and we would lose QSAC points. She also discussed the Board Self-Evaluation that is also to be completed and to try to follow this same timeline, but to prioritize the CSA Evaluation since those are hard deadlines. Mrs. Nava said she appreciated Mrs. DiGiacomo clarified this information and shared the Superintendent/CSA Evaluation Process Calendar, and although the Pre-Conference may not be required, she consulted with the NJ School Boards field rep. to review standard procedures and reviewed expectations for the process. She was told she could ask questions, and asked if now would be the time to ask these questions as she felt they were directly related to the CSA Evaluation. Mrs. DiGiacomo stated that the essence of the Pre Conference is to review the timeline. Since the questions that Mrs. Nava posed were essentially related to Mrs. Shulby's job roles, not necessarily the Evaluation, should be discussed in the Executive Session. Mrs. Nava inquired that Mrs. Shulby would then need to be Riced? Mr. Sahli said Mrs. Nava's questions should be presented in advance and she may not get answers this evening. Mrs. Nava respected but did not agree with Mr. Sahli's advice. She felt in order to do a proper evaluation for performance review, the Board should be able to ask questions in advance. Mrs. DiGiacomo stated that the CSA Evaluation commencing was done at the January meeting and any questions should have been posed then. Mrs. Nava asked if we can request the process be nulled and restarted, and that she did come to Mrs. DiGiacomo beforehand with questions. Mrs. DiGiacomo said that those questions were posed only two days prior to this meeting. Mrs. Shulby said this all just seems so late - to start the process over again would require a lot of time that has already been spent on this Evaluation by both her and some BOE members already. Mrs. DiGiacomo said we will continue this discussion in Executive Session.

XVI. Informational Items

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|-----------|---|
| 3/5/2026 | Stacy Baggstrom and CLS received recognition from the American Heart Association for raising \$2,326.21 for the Kids Heart Challenge/American Heart Challenge Program |
| 3/31/2026 | CLS Rotts and Notts Assembly |

- 3/31/2026 CLS Pep Rally
- 4/2/2026 CLS “Celebrate Our Differences” Spirit Day
- 4/15-16/2026 CLS Student Book Swap
- 4/16/2026 EHCCS Rowan-Virtua Project REACH Program w/Mrs. Wilson’s Class
- 4/17/2026 EHCCS Grade 7 ACPO Presentations

XVII. Open to Public

The public is invited to comment on or question any topic related to the Board of Education agenda items.

Mr. Ross thanked those who attended the National Junior Honor Society Ceremony last week. He thanked the BOE for reworking their ethics training to be able to attend the ceremony. He said that twelve 7th and 8th graders were inducted. He thanks Mrs. Shulby and Mrs. Scibilia for helping to hand out cake. He highlighted how important the National Junior Honor Society is to the community.

Mrs. Ortiz shouted out Dr. Forester and Mr. Lee for their three winners at EHCCS in the VFW Art Contest. She also wanted to say how wonderful Dr. Forester’s Trivia Competition turned out. She also wanted to check on the status of the CLS Special Ed. classes that were switched earlier in January. Mrs. Shulby said there was an adjustment period, but it seems to be improved as we are still exploring additional trainings, and extra supports/hands have been provided in the classrooms. She also reminded the Board that they are all elected officials, and even when they don’t agree, everyone should be respectful of others’ opinions.

Ms. Kahla Corson mentioned that at the next meeting, she will have someone with mobility needs attending and how may they enter the Library? She was advised to call the number on the sign on the door and someone will let them in through the front door where they can access the ramp.

XVIII. Calendar Dates

- April 2, 2026 Spring Recess Begins, 12:20 Dismissal
- April 3-10, 2026 Spring Recess, Buildings Closed
- April 15, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting

XIX. Executive Session

- Motion:** Mr. Bouchard
- Second:** Mrs. Ortiz

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 March 25, 2026 at 6:37 p.m. 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.

Roll Call:

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

XX. Adjournment Time

Motion: Mr. Bouchard

Second: Ms. Cramer

Time: 7:38 p.m.

All in Favor:

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