March 26, 2026

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

The Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Summit High School Library/Media Center. Those present: Ms. Cohn, presiding, Mr. Cho, Mr. Gundersen (virtual), Mr. Hanley, Ms. Kelly (virtual), Ms. Justice, and Mr. Mahecha.

Also present were Mr. Hough, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Zeno, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Ms. Sarno, Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary. There was one member of the public in attendance.

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION

The following notice was presented: Let the minutes reflect that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act.

DISCUSSION – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Mahecha stated that as a Board, they need to be fiscally responsible on how to spend taxpayer dollars, and the commitment is to raise taxes only when necessary.

Mr. Cho stated that for the past 16 budgets, in only five of those years did the increase exceed 2% - the hope is that the public is recognizing that the Board is being fiscally responsible.

Mr. Hanley wanted to specifically note the diligence and transparency of both the Superintendent and Assistant Business Administrator throughout the budget process, as well as the tireless work of the Operations Committee.

Ms. Cohn stated she believes this budget is meeting both the educational needs of the students, and keeping the taxpayers in mind. She gave special thanks to the Operations Committee – Mr. Hanley, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Mahecha – and the district administration for their deep look into the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident stated that the cuts that were made due to the less-than-anticipated decrease in state aid resulted in a savings of $19 in taxes on the average home in Summit, and supported more equitable allocations for education, athletics, and the arts.

Motion by Mr. Mahecha, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved by voice vote to close public comment

APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Hanley moved the following:

RESOLVED that the final budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year and sent to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the statutory deadline for review and approval:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	$89,672,896	$ 838,949	0	$90,511,845
Less Anticipated Revenues	9,799,533	838,949	0	10,638,482
Local Tax Levy to be Raised	$79,873,363	0	0	$79,873,363

FURTHER RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from Capital Reserve in the amount of $850,000 as follows:

$600,000 LCJ Summit Middle School new generator
$150,000 Summit High School hot water heater
$100,000 Architect/engineering fees for district-wide projects;

FURTHER RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) included in the general fund appropriations, the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve in the amount of $50,000 for the LCJ Summit Middle School VCT replacement; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of $2,227,161. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

Approval of Travel & Related Expenditures Reimbursement for 2026-2027

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23:A-7.3 a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Summit Board of Education approves establishing the maximum expenditure for the 2026-2027 school year, not to exceed $1,500.00 for regular travel pursuant to Policy #6471, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Summit Board of Education approves establishing a maximum travel expenditure amount of $200,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.

The maximum travel expenditure for the 2025-2026 school year is $200,000 of which $34,392 has been spent and $5,586 is encumbered to date

Seconded by Mr. Mahecha. The roll was called, and all present voted "Aye." The motion was declared adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hanley seconded by Ms. Justice and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora E. Zeno
Interim School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
Summit Public Schools