

**JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026 5:00 PM**  
**Jefferson Township High School Media Center**

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**District Vision Statement**

*The district will be a leader in academic excellence while developing healthy, well-rounded, resourceful students who are positive, contributing members of local and global communities.*

**A.** Mr. Brown, called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM, and read the Open Meeting Statement, below:

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Jefferson Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof, posted in the Jefferson Township Municipal Building, with copies of such notice delivered or mailed or electronically mailed to the following:

*DAILY RECORD, NJ HERALD* and posted on the  
Jefferson Township Board of Education website ([www.Jefftp.org](http://www.Jefftp.org));

and a copy of said notice delivered to the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Jefferson and the Jefferson Township Library.

**B.** Pledge of Allegiance

**C.** **ROLL CALL:**

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small ( <i>Arrived @ 5:04PM</i> )
<u>Absent</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

**D.** **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Brown read the March 31, 2026 letter from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools regarding the 2026-2027 budget. After reading the letter, Mr. Brown summarized the Board’s hybrid approach to putting forward the preliminary budget.
- Mrs. Small went on record that the NJDOE is not taking Jefferson Township seriously.
- Mr. Camacho reported that he expected to receive this notice from the County and advised the Board to stay the course. The Board has made cuts and tax increases and those cannot continue. The Board has reviewed every item thoughtfully and put forward what can be done.
- Mrs. Ruggiero noted the Board has reviewed all options and remarked the Board cannot put an additional burden on the community. She stated any changes would be a bandaid that doesn’t address the structural deficit.
- Mrs. Mallimo-Orna reiterated that even with the potential tax levy adjustment, it still would not bridge the gap and cuts would be detrimental.
- Mr. Brown explained the healthcare adjustment and other costs, ie, utilities, are increasing faster than revenues. He reported the district will be keeping the banked cap as a reserve, since there is no reserve. He stated that a lot of time has been spent identifying possible cuts. Jefferson has already implemented activity fees, closing schools, etc. that other districts are just now beginning to do.

**E. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

- An audience member requested clarity on adequacy and inquired if the County has the ability to raise the tax levy. They also note they agree with the Board that this is not unexpected and that the Board has their support.
- An audience member asked about the timeline for when the County would come in and assign an arbitrator, noting that families start planning for fall now. They thanked the Board for fighting for the students and community.

**F. FINANCE AND BUILDING NEEDS**

Motion by Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, seconded by Mrs. Small, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions F.1 through F.3, as described below:

<u>Aye</u> Mr. Camacho	<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Poulas	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Small
<u>Absent</u> Mr. Natale	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Ruggiero	<u>Aye</u> Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, <i>Vice President</i>
<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Perez	<u>Aye</u> Ms. Seugling	<u>Aye</u> Mr. Brown, <i>President</i>

**F.1** Motion to approve the adoption of the Tentative Budget for School Year 2026-2027.

The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027:

*WHEREAS*, for the second year in a row, Jefferson is being denied formula-based aid in the amount of \$1,166,583; and

*WHEREAS*, this follows a loss of \$1,190,088 for the 2025-2026 school year; and

*WHEREAS*, there has been an absence of funding to compensate for the restrictive provisions of the Highlands Act and the provision of clean drinking water to millions of New Jerseyans; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board of Education district has been put in an untenable position that cannot continue to be solved by overburdening the local community or offering a subpar program for our students;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Tentative Budget be approved for the 2026-2027 school year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$63,790,660	\$5,780,382	\$2,393,886	\$71,964,928
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$8,094,419	\$5,780,382	\$214,155	\$14,088,956
Taxes to be Raised	\$52,750,235	\$0	\$2,179,731	\$54,929,966
Deficit	\$2,946,006	\$0	\$0	\$2,946,006

and, to advertise said Tentative Budget in the Daily Record Newspaper in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law; and, a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year will be held at Jefferson Township High School Media Center, 1010 Weldon Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438 on April 27, 2026 at 7:30 pm.

**F.2** *WHEREAS*, school district policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(a) provides the Jefferson Township Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2026-2027 school year; and

*WHEREAS*, the maximum expenditure amount allotted for travel and expense reimbursement for the 2025-2026 school year was \$86,393; and

*WHEREAS*, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount of \$32,036.16 as of March 20, 2026; and

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Jefferson Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2026-2027 at the sum of \$88,471; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

**F.3** *WHEREAS*, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2(a) mandates boards to establish annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service, a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year; and

*WHEREAS*, the budget includes the following appropriations:

Account Code	Description	\$
11-000-213-300	Health Services Purchased Professional Services	\$31,800
11-000-216-320	Purchased Student-Related Support Services	\$5,082
11-000-217-320	Purchased Professional Extraordinary Services	\$54,924
11-000-218-320-390	Student Guidance Services - Medical Screenings	\$15,950
11-000-219-320	Purchased Prof-Ed Services - Educational/Medical Services Provided to Students	\$24,715
11-000-219-390	Other Purchased Prof & Tech Services - Student Evaluations	\$12,000
11-000-223-320	Purchased Professional Development Services - Speakers	\$16,288
11-000-230-331	Legal Services	\$80,000
11-000-230-332	Auditor Fees	\$56,100
11-000-230-334	Architect/Engineer Services	\$50,000
11-000-230-339	Other Professional Services	\$10,800
11-150-100-320	Hospital-Based Homebound Instruction	\$20,000
	Total	\$377,659

and

*WHEREAS*, the Administration needs to notify the Board if there arises a need to exceed said maximums, upon which the Board may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal Board action; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area; and

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Jefferson Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey establishes maximums for professional services in the areas listed above at a level of 120% of the amounts listed for the 2026-2027 school year.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**I. ADJOURN**

Motion by Ms. Seugling, seconded by Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Aye Mr. Camacho

Absent Mr. Natale

Absent Mrs. Perez

Absent Mrs. Poulas

Aye Mrs. Ruggiero

Aye Ms. Seugling

Aye Mrs. Small

Aye Mrs. Mallimo-Orna, *Vice President*

Aye Mr. Brown, *President*