

Oakland Public Schools
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
7:00 PM

A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held on March 24, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mr. Scerbo.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on January 11, 2026, and March 4, 2026 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices, on the district website <https://www.oaklandschoolsnj.org/board-of-education/legal-notice> and copies sent to The Record Newspaper. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retains all rights regarding defamation and slander according the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Cooper, Mr. Mazzilli, Ms. Shelkin and Mr. Scerbo.

The following members were absent: Ms. Kilday

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, and Ms. Annette M. Wells, Board Secretary/Business Administrator and 9 members of the public.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Coffaro thanked Ms. Wells and the business office for their work on the budget.

I. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve Minute items A through C as follows:

- A. Approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from February 10, 2026.
- B. Approve the Work Session minutes from February 10, 2026.
- C. Approve the Executive Session minutes from February 10, 2026.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

II. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve Buildings and Grounds item A as follows:

- A. Approve the safety drill report for the month of February 2026.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

III. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli to approve Personnel items A through M as follows:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve Personnel Resolutions as per the attached.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

IV. REGULAR EDUCATION

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve Regular Education items A through E as follows:

- A. Approve the following number of affirmed HIB Incidents as presented to the Board at the February 10, 2026 meeting:

Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents	2
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- B. Review the following number of HIB investigations for the period of February 11, 2026 through March 24, 2026 as follows:

Number of HIB Investigations	3
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- C. Approve the attached list of Spring Track Officials for the 2025-2026 school year at the following rates per meet, upon submission of an approved voucher:

<u>2 Schools</u>	<u>3 or More Schools</u>
Starter- \$120	Starter- \$135
Others- \$ 95	Others- \$120

- D. Approve Brian Rodak as the assignor of Spring Track officials at a rate of \$150 for the 2025-2026 school year upon submission of an approved voucher.

- E. Approve the 2025-2026 chronic absenteeism Corrective Action Plan for Valley Middle School.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve Special Education items A and B as follows:

- A. Approve the submission of the required corrective action plan for Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan to the Bergen County Department of Education.
- B. Approve the following Summer Learning Academy extended school year (ESY) programs to be held at T.O.P.S. Early Childhood Learning Mondays through Thursdays for the month of July 2026 as follows:

Program	Dates	Times
Preschool	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Preschool (ABA Based)	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
MD Program	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
LLD Grades Elementary	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
LLD Grades Middle School	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Multisensory Program	7/1/2026-7/30/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Emotional Regulation Impairment (ERI)	7/6/2026-7/9/2026	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

VI. FINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Mazzilli and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Finance items A through N as follows:

- A. Approve the February 2026 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$2,071,788.85.
- B. Approve the payment of the attached list of bills in the amount of \$7,082,795.03 which in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts.
- C. Approve the Board Secretary’s certification to the Oakland Board of Education that, as of February 28, 2026 no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which, in total, exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3; and further,

Approve the Oakland Board of Education’s certification that, after a review of the Board Secretary’s and Board Treasurer’s monthly financial reports and the advice of District officials, there is no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4.
- D. Approve the school year 2025-2026 Budget appropriation transfers for the month ending February 28, 2026.
- E. Approve the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month ending February 28, 2026.
- F. Approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month ending February 28, 2026.
- G. Approve staff participation in professional conferences/workshops outside the District, as per the attached.

- H. Approve the submission of the ESEA amended application for programmatic and fiscal changes.
- I. Approve the agreement with Quest Diagnostics to perform pre-employment chemical screenings.
- J. Approve Amplify to provide Professional Development for Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) in the amount of \$3,200 to be paid with Title IV funds.
- K. **RESOLVED** that the Oakland Board of Education adopt the following tentative School District Budget for the 2026-2027 school year and hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the proposed budget and required supporting documentation to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools for approval:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax</u>
Total General Fund	\$43,589,141	\$37,038,321
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$460,240	\$ -0-
Total Debt Service Fund	\$-0-	\$ -0-
Totals	<u>\$44,049,381</u>	<u>\$37,038,321</u>

Note: As stated, this is the Tentative Budget figure, which may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged between the date of this resolution and the Board's Public Hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increase in health care costs in the amount of \$1,121,557. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$225,907 for the purpose of increases in special education costs.

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects, is \$2,897,515 for other capital project costs of Valley Middle School Generator Replacement to replace failed generator (\$704,700), Manito Elementary School Restroom Renovations (\$839,500) and Partial Roof Replacement at Manito Elementary School (\$175,000). The district has determined that these projects are necessary for the health and safety of our students. Other capital projects costs include Classroom Conversion to Small Group Instructional Spaces at Heights Elementary (\$246,053) and Small Group Instruction Conversion at Manito Elementary School (\$932,262). These additional spaces are necessary as our special education programs continue to expand to meet the needs of our students. The total cost of these projects is \$2,897,515, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

- L. **RESOLVED** that there should be raised for General Fund School District Tax Levy \$37,038,321 for the ensuing 2026-2027 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$96,100 will be withdrawn from the District's Emergency Reserve Account for security related costs, including but not limited to additional security cameras, server replacement for security software, door access/locks and radios.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a withdrawal will be made from the Maintenance Reserve Account in the amount of \$199,950 for required maintenance repairs including but not limited to: flooring replacement and gym floor refinishing at all four district owned schools, heating valve replacement at Heights Elementary School, uninvent compressor replacement at Manito Elementary School, door opener for handicapped restroom at Valley Middle School and sink/cabinet replacement at Dogwood Hill Elementary.

- M. **WHEREAS**, the Oakland School District Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses/conference expenditures related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Board of Education appropriated \$65,725 for travel in the general fund during the 2025-2026 school year and has spent \$12,198 as of March 19, 2026,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves general fund travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$66,825 for all staff and Board members in the 2026-2027 school year.

- N. Approve a contract with Hazmat Diagnostic L.L.C in the amount of \$27,887.78 to perform a ceiling asbestos abatement in the kitchen at Manito Elementary School. This project will be funded with Food Service Funds.

Mr. Mazzilli announced that a budget presentation will be held on April 28, 2026.

Mr. Scerbo announced that there is a lot effecting the budget this year but we will not be impacting staffing.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

A motion was made by Mr. Mazzilli and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Administration item A as follows:

- A. Approved the revised Playground Cafeteria Aide Job Description as per the attached.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

A motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Transportation items A through E as follows:

- A. Approve the list of field trips for students in the Oakland School District for the 2025-2026 school year as per the attached.
- B. Approve the contract with Logic 54 Computer Software Program at an annual cost of \$5,275 for 2026-2027 school year.
- C. Approve the Logic 54 Computer Software Program currently used by the Oakland Board of Education, as the determining factor for purposes of eligibility for mandated transportation during the 2026-2027 school year.
- D. Approve the per seat subscription transportation fee of \$925 (round trip) and \$600 (one way) for the 2026-2027 school year.
- E. Approve the family subscription fee of \$1,975 for families with three or more children utilizing subscription busing services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

IX. POLICY

A motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Policy item A as follows:

- A. Approve the *second* reading of revised Board regulation as listed below:

P 5111 Eligibility of Resident Students

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

One member of the public announced that there will be a SEPAG meeting on April 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm

One member of the public questioned if the district will be conducting another demographic study considering the Borough approval of additional housing.

Mr. Mazzilli announced that the approval paves the way for developers but nothing is planned in the short term.

Mr. Scerbo added that we still don't know the impact of the construction near the high school. We will continue monitoring construction and the possible impact on the schools.

One member of the public discussed a concern regarding blocking tabs on student chromebooks. The administration will research this with the technology department.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Cooper that the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

All approved policies can be found on the
Oakland Board of Education Website under
Board of Education/Board Policies:

<https://www.oaklandschoolsnj.org/>