

**HARRISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
120 N. MAIN STREET  
MULLICA HILL, NEW JERSEY**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2026  
7:00 PM**

Mrs. Shannon Williams, Board President, called the meeting of the Harrison Township Board of Education to order in the music room at Pleasant Valley School at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the Board might adjourn into Executive Session during the meeting to discuss personnel, student issues, property, or any other matter appropriate for this session, the results of which would be made public at a later date.

- I. Call to Order:** The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975 was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, Harrison Township Board of Education has caused notice of the meetings to be published by having the dates, time, and place thereof posted on the Harrison Township School District website, at the Harrison Township School Building, and mailed to the Township Municipal Clerk, the South Jersey Times, and the Courier Post.

**II. Roll Call:**

Mr. Todd Baron	Mrs. Janette Coslop
Mr. Tim Bast	Mrs. Colleen Kendrick
Mrs. Jennifer Bowen	Ms. Alexis Rubino
Mr. Walter Bright	Mrs. Shannon Williams
Mr. John Cavanaugh	

**Others Present:**

Dr. Missy Peretti, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Christopher DeSanto, Business Administrator /Board Secretary.

**III. Flag Salute:**

Led by Shannon Williams, Board President of the Harrison Township Board of Education.

**IV. President's Welcome:**

2026-2027 School Budget Introduction

Dr. Peretti gave an overview of the budget as follows:

- Explained the budget process
- Reviewed the budget timeline
- We were cut 3% in State aid, which is the State's maximum cut
- 70% of districts in the State received an increase in State aid

- Vacant positions were the first cuts from our budget
- Technology is also cut; however, certain technology purchases were made using 2025-26 budget
- Despite 10 years of cuts, Harrison is still extremely successful - due to good fiscal responsibility

*The vote on the resolution is later on the agenda.*

**V. Audience Participation I:**

None

**VI. Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Regular Session Board of Education Meeting that was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 due to inclement weather. (*Attachment: Min. #1*)

Item 1:

Motion: Ms. Rubino

Second: Mr. Bright

Roll Call: (8-0-1)

Carried: Yes

Abstained: (Mr. Baron)

**VII. Committee Reports:**

1. Standing Committees
  - a. Finance – Walter Bright (No report at this time.)
  - b. Curriculum – Shannon Williams (No report at this time.)
  - c. Personnel – Tim Bast (No report at this time.)
  - d. Negotiations – Jennifer Bowen (No report at this time.)
  - e. Board Development – Todd Baron (No report at this time.)
2. Ad Hoc Committees
  - f. Public Relations – Janette Coslop (No report at this time.)
  - g. School Safety – Alexis Rubino (No report at this time.)
  - h. Shared Services – Colleen Kendrick (No report at this time.)
  - i. Transportation – John Cavanaugh (No report at this time.)
3. Delegate/Representative Reports (No report at this time.)

**VIII. Correspondence: (*Copies of Correspondence are included in backup materials*)**

1. Email from Lindsay Coletta received March 3, 2026 re: leave of absence.
2. Email from Linda Mazzola received March 8, 2026 re: resignation.

At this time there was a motion to add the addendum to the agenda.

Motion: Mrs. Kendrick

Second: Mrs. Bowen

Roll Call: Voice

Carried: Yes

**IX. Business Administrator's Report:**

**A. Finance**

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Budget Transfer List for February 2026 – Business Administrator certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A:-13.3 et. seq., no cumulative transfers exceed 10 percent of the amount of the accounts that were included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes. (*Attachment: Fin. #1*)
2. Cash Reconciliation Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of February 2026. (*Attachment: Fin. #2*) The Cash Reconciliation Report and Secretary's Reports are in agreement for the month of February 2026.
3. Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of February 2026. (*Attachment: Fin. #3*) The Board Secretary certifies that no line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
4. Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
5. Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4. We certify that after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
6. Payment of Bills:
  - a. February 2026 Ratified Bill List \$1,946,677.26 (*Attachment: Fin. #6a*)
  - b. March 2026 Bill List \$289,834.41 (*Attachment: Fin. #6b*)
7. Accept the Consolidated Food Services Report for the month of February 2026. (*Attachment: Fin. #7*)
8. Approval of agreements for Gloucester County Special Services School District (GCSSSD) to provide purchasing for the 2026-2027 Nonpublic Technology and Textbooks contingent upon New Jersey Department of Education approval and funding. (*Attachment: Fin. #8a and 8b*)

Items 1-8:

Motion: Mr. Bright

Second: Ms. Rubino

Roll Call: (9-0)

Carried: Yes

**X. Resolutions:**

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approve Resolution 2025-26#8: Request of waiver for participation in SEMI program (*Attachment: Res. #1*)

Item 1:  
Motion: Mrs. Bowen                      Second: Mrs. Coslop  
Roll Call: (9-0)                              Carried: Yes

2. Approve Resolution 2025-26#9: Authorize the purchase of natural gas supply services via online reverse auction. (**Attachment: Res. #2**)

Item 2:  
Motion: Ms. Rubino                      Second: Mr. Baron  
Roll Call: (9-0)                              Carried: Yes

3. Approve Resolution 2025-26#10: Authorize submission of the tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent. (**Attachment: Res. #3**)

Item 3:  
Motion: Mrs. Coslop                      Second: Mrs. Bowen  
Roll Call: (9-0)                              Carried: Yes

4. Approve Resolution 2025-26#11: Approve the scope of work for Referendum 2026 and authorize the Architect of Record (AOR) to submit the project application to the DOE. (**Attachment: Res. #4**)

Item 4:  
Motion: Mrs. Kendrick                      Second: Mr. Bright  
Roll Call: (9-0)                              Carried: Yes

**XI. Superintendent's Report:**

A. Personnel

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. When necessary, the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to hire personnel to directly replace a staff vacancy occurring between Board of Education meeting dates to ensure uninterrupted operation of the school district. As always, employment is contingent upon criminal history review clearance and issuance of appropriate certification.
2. Approval of a leave of absence for Lindsay Coletta, Second Grade Teacher at Harrison Township School, effective September 22, 2026 utilizing accumulated sick days concurrent with FMLA continuing with unpaid leave under NJFLA through March 31, 2027 with an anticipated return date of April 1, 2027.
3. Acceptance of the resignation of Linda Mazzola, Special Education Aide at Harrison Township School, effective April 1, 2026.
4. Approval of the employment withdraw of Maria Rodriguez as Part-time Custodian at Pleasant Valley School.

5. Approval of the employment of the following individuals as substitute teachers, nurses, general aides, bus drivers, bus aides and custodians for the district on an as-needed basis, effective through June 30, 2026, at the currently-approved hourly and daily rates, pending receipt of required clearances.

Suzanne Thyne - Teacher  
Sara Wiedeman - Teacher

Emily Miscioscia - Teacher  
Edward Cori – Bus Driver

Items 1-5:

Motion: Mrs. Coslop  
Roll Call: (9-0)

Second: Mr. Baron  
Carried: Yes

B. Education

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Ratify and affirm the tuition contract with Mantua Township School District for the receipt of an out-of-district special services student from March 16, 2026 through the end of the school year at a per diem amount of \$190.74 for 62 days for a total tuition received of \$11,825.88.
2. Accept the contract with GCSSSD-Cress for extraordinary services for Student #29180 for 7.5 hours at \$134.00 per hour for a total of \$1,005.00.

Items 1-2:

Motion: Mrs. Bowen  
Roll Call: (9-0)

Second: Mr. Bast  
Carried: Yes

C. Administration

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of the following administrators to attend the *2026 National Schools to Watch Conference* in Washington, DC on June 25 – 27, 2026 at a total registration cost of \$1,926.00, plus mileage reimbursement:
  - a. Lisa Heenan
  - b. Diane Eisenhart
  - c. Karen Russo
  - d. Christine Fellona
2. Approval of the reimbursement of tuition cost to Lisa Heenan following successful completion of the following courses through Liberty University, requested amounts stated, with reimbursement after completion according to the terms of the established contract:
  - a. Foundations & Theories in Literacy Instruction – March 23, 2026 - May 15, 2026 - \$1,830.00
3. Approval of the 2026-2027 School Attendance Calendar.

Tabled

*Several Board members had questions regarding the calendar.*

*Dr. Peretti addressed the Board's questions.*

*It was decided to table this agenda item until the April meeting.*

4. Approval of Sixth Grade students to attend Citizens Bank Park during the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Approval for Kindergarten students to attend Storybook Land during the 2026-2027 school year.
6. Acknowledgement of safety drills conducted in the district schools:
  - a. Secure Drill
    - 1) Harrison Township School – March 9, 2026 (AM)
  - b. Fire Drill
    - 1) Pleasant Valley School – March 9, 2026 (AM)
    - 2) Harrison Township School – March 11, 2026 (AM)

Items 1-2, 4-6:

Motion: Mr. Bast

Second: Mr. Baron

Roll Call: (9-0)

Carried: Yes

D. Policy

None

E. Transportation

None

F. Buildings & Grounds

**Motion:** For the Board of Education to approve the following action items:

1. Approval of the following groups to utilize the facilities for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years as outlined below:

<u>Name/Organization</u>	<u>Location/Date</u>	<u>Type of Use</u>
Casey Heitman/Heitman Hoops	PVS Gym 6/29/26-7/2/26	Basketball Camp
Casey Heitman/Heitman Hoops	PVS Tuesdays & Thursdays 7/7/26-7/30/26	Basketball Clinics
Lauren Mitcham/PVFit	PVS Gym Wednesdays & Thursdays 4/15/26-5/20/26	Youth Fitness
Lauren Mitcham/PVFit	PVS Gym Tuesdays & Thursdays 7/7/26-7/30/26	Youth Fitness
PTA/Ashley Mackowiak	HTS Library Wednesdays 4/22/26-5/13/26	Spanish Club

PTA/Tydejah Roberts	HTS K-2 Gym Monday-Friday 5/4/26-5/8/26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Book Club
PTA/C. Hackett-Slimm	HTS Room #98 Mondays 4/20/26-5/11/26	Movement & Mindfulness Club
PTA/Colleen Illi	Reimagination Garden area or Room #94 Mondays & Thursdays 4/27/26-5/21-26	Garden Club
Item 1: Motion: Mr. Bright Roll Call: (9-0)	Second: Mrs. Kendrick Carried: Yes	

**XII. New Business:**

1. The Board discussed bus advertising. The Board decided not to proceed with bus ads and requested that the “advertise here” signs be removed.
2. Mr. Bast had a question about the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Peretti indicated that in place of the district culture fair, Pleasant Valley School is hosting an America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Family Night for all families in the district.

**XIII. Old Business:**

1. Mr. Cavanaugh brought up the call-in option for board meetings.

There was a motion to restore the call-in option for board meetings.

Motion: Mr. Cavanaugh	Second: Ms. Rubino
Roll Call: (4-5)	Carried: No – Motion Fails
No: Mr. Baron, Mrs. Bowen, Mr. Bright, Mrs. Coslop, Mrs. Williams	

**XIV. Audience Participation II:**

Mrs. Heil indicated that she is disappointed that the call-in motion failed.

Mr. Alvarez also commented on the call-in option.

Mr. French expressed expansion concerns stating that the district needs to be mindful of putting a new HVAC unit on the roof of PVS when there is expected to be a significant increase in enrollment due to housing expansion and the district may need to add a second floor. He also expressed disappointment regarding the call-in option.

**XV. Recess into Executive Session:**

There was a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Coslop  
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Ms. Rubino  
Carried: Yes

**XVI. Out of Executive Session:**

There was a motion to return to Regular Session at 8:04 p.m.

Motion: Ms. Rubino  
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Mr. Baron  
Carried: Yes

**Motion:** Approval to terminate the employment of employee #15439, as discussed in Executive Session, effective March 23, 2026.

Motion: Mrs. Bowen  
Roll Call: (9-0)

Second: Mr. Bright  
Carried: Yes

**XVII. Adjournment:**

There was no further business. A motion was made to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Kendrick  
Roll Call: Voice

Second: Mrs. Bowen  
Carried: Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher C. DeSanto  
Board Secretary