

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tentative Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD SECRETARY (7:00 P.M.)**
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, adequate public notice of this meeting has been given by the Business Administrator in the following manner:**

- A. Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Eastampton Community School on January 16, 2026.
- B. Mailed written notice to the *Burlington County Times* and *Courier Post* on January 20, 2026.
- C. Filed written notice with the Clerk of Eastampton Township on January 21, 2026.
- D. Posted official notice on the district’s website.
- E. Mailed written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.

**ROLL CALL:**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Late Arrival Time
Kerry Douglas, Board President		X	
Florencia Norton, Vice President		X	
Edward Besko	X		
Edward Hill	X		7:07 pm
Walter Maluchnik	X		
Stephanie McHugh	X		
Jamie Smith	X		

- Lianne M. Kane, Superintendent of Schools  
 Joseph A. Firetto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

4. **NOMINATION FOR ACTING PRESIDENT**

Nomination for Jamie Smith to be acting president for the March 24, 2026 meeting

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko		X	X				
Edward Hill							X
Walter Maluchnik			X				
Stephanie McHugh	X		X				
Jamie Smith			X				

- Motion Carries  
 Motion Fails

**5. FIRE EXITS**

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, is providing an opportunity for the Board to hear the public’s concerns. The Board will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting. If appropriate, the Superintendent will respond to your questions and concerns at a future time. We take your concerns and questions very seriously and want to have sufficient time to allow our administration to process and research issues, if need be.

This meeting will now be open to the public; however, if your questions or comments pertain to litigation, students, personnel or negotiations, we ask that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since we do not discuss these items in public.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (25-26-90)**

February 24, 2026 (Regular Meeting)

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko		X	X				
Edward Hill			X				
Walter Maluchnik			X				
Stephanie McHugh			X				
Jamie Smith	X		X				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion Carries						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion Fails						

**8. PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. Student Recognitions – Mrs. Kane, Superintendent/Principal
  - Kindergarten – Lucas Ventriello
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Colton Rockhill
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Easton Vasbinder
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Elena Cooper
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Cole McClain
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mya Vilchez
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Quinn Jost
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Logan Reres
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Melo Kirby

**9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Lianne M. Kane, Superintendent/Principal)**

**A. Information Item(s):**

- 1) HIB Report dated March 19, 2026 (25-26-91)
- 2) Department Reports
  - Council reported road improvement grants and tree planting plans
- 3) Liaison Reports

**B. Action Item(s):**

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the action items on the HIB Report dated March 19, 2026 as initially presented at the February 24, 2026 meeting. (25-26-91)
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the amended 2025-2026 school calendar as presented, due to the addition of a make-up snow day from February 23, 2026. (25-26-92)
- 3) Recommend the Board approve the agreement between Eastampton Township School District and Barksdale School Portraits to provide our district with photography services for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, as well as the 2026-2027 full school year. (25-26-93)

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko			X				
Edward Hill			X				
Walter Maluchnik			X				
Stephanie McHugh		X	X				
Jamie Smith	X		X				

Motion Carries

Motion Fails

**10. PERSONNEL: (Jamie Smith, Chairperson)**

**A. Action Item(s):**

- 1) Recommend the Board retroactively approve intermittent FMLA for employee # 4782 from March 9, 2026 - March 27, 2026
- 2) Recommend the Board accept with best wishes, the retirement of Jacqueline Smith, Music Teacher/Band Director whose last day with the district will be June 30, 2026.
- 3) Recommend the Board approve the resignation of Paige Ryan, Long-Term Substitute Teacher whose last day with the district will be May 1, 2026.

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko			XX				
Edward Hill		X					
Walter Maluchnik			X				
Stephanie McHugh			X				
Jamie Smith	X		X				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion Carries						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motion Fails						

**11. FINANCE: (Edward Besko, Chairperson)**

**A. Information Item(s):**

- 1) 2026-2027 Proposed Budget– Joseph A. Firetto, Business Administrator

**B. Action Item(s):**

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the following payrolls:
  - a. February 27, 2026: \$301,049.62
  - b. March 13, 2026: \$296,393.33
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the following March invoices for payment: **(25-26-94)**
  - a. Regular Bills: \$408,513.62
- 3) Recommend the Board approve Line Item Transfers dated February 28, 2026. **(25-26-95)**
- 4) Recommend the Board approve the Treasurer’s Report dated January 31, 2026. **(25-26-96)**
- 5) Recommend the Board approve the Board Secretary’s Report dated January 31, 2026. **(25-26-97)**
- 6) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4\*, we certify that as of January 31, 2026 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)3\* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is also certified that the Board Secretary’s report matches the Treasurer’s Report. \*Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)8\*, I certify that as of January 31, 2026 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1. \*Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, and repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

- 7) Recommend the Board approve the attached request for professional development. (25-26-98)
- 8) Recommend the Board approve the attached Cafeteria expenses. (25-26-99)
- 9) Recommend the Board approve the attached Student Activity expenses. (25-26-100)
- 10) Recommend the Board approve the following 2026-2027 budget/travel resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved and certified for the 2026-2027 school year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures, in addition to the Pilot Money from Eastampton Township. The Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget (including the use of all automatic adjustments, if applicable) to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline.

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	TOTAL
<b>2026-2027 Total Expenditures</b>	12,017,433	2,101,104	754,499	14,873,036
<b>Less Anticipated Revenues</b>	5,502,210	2,101,104	0	7,603,314
<b>Taxes to be Raised</b>	6,515,223	0	754,499	7,269,722
<b>Pilot Payments</b>	200,000	0	0	200,000
<b>Withdraw From Tuition Reserves</b>	115,000	0	0	115,000

And to advertise said tentative budget in the *Burlington County Times* in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on April 29, 2026 at 7:00pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

TRAVEL RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Eastampton Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses 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, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150/staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1-June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

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 travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$35,000 for all staff and board members.

- 11) Recommend the Board approve the following 2026-2027 Tax Levy Adjustment for Health Care Costs resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the use of adjustment for increase in health care costs permitting the tax levy to increase above 2% in the amount of \$289,821. The adjustment will be used to support the rising cost of health benefits for eligible district staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to submit the preliminary budget with the inclusion of the health care costs adjustment as noted above.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes and acknowledges that included in budget revenue line 100, Local Tax Levy is \$6,515,223 in the form of a health care adjustment in support of the 2026-2027 School Budget.

- 12) Recommend the Board approve the following 2026-2027 resolution for a Tuition Reserve Withdrawal:**

In accordance with Administrative Code 6A: 23A-14.2, included in budget revenue line 640, Budgeted Withdrawal from Tuition Reserve \$115,000 for Out of District Tuition Placements

- 13) Recommend the Board approve the following 2026-2027 PEA resolution:**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education calls for a resolution to authorize the submission of the 2026-2027 budget for the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Services PEA District Enrollment and Planning Workbook and that the Board accepts the approved Preschool Education Aid for fiscal year 2026-2027.

- 14) Recommend the Board authorize the School Business Administrator to use the Competitive Contracting process in the procurement of specialized services for the following services in accordance with 18A:18A-4.1.**

- Behavioral Consultation Services
- Registered Behavior Technician/BCBA
- Occupational Therapy Services

- Custodial Services
- Nursing Services
- Health Insurance Broker
- Waste Management
- Labor Attorney
- Board Solicitor

- 15) Recommend the Board approve the tuition agreements with Burlington Township School District for two McKinney Vento eligible students. The first student’s tuition will be \$5,151.44, and the second student’s tuition will be \$5,422.48, effective March 25, 2026, for the remainder of the school year.
- 16) Recommend that the Board approve the joint transportation agreement with Burlington Township School District for two McKinney Vento-eligible students, effective March 25, 2026, for the remainder of the school year.
- 17) Recommend the Board Accept the BCIP Joint Insurance Pool Safety Incentive Program Reimbursement in the maximum amount of \$3,000.
- 18) Recommend the Board to Approve the submission of the Preschool Education Aid Budget Workbook to the NJ Department of Early Childhood.
- 19) Recommend the Board to Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Brett Dinovi & Associates LLC effective March 26, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko	X		X				
Edward Hill		X	X				
Walter Maluchnik			X				
Stephanie McHugh			X				
Jamie Smith			X				

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

**12. CURRICULUM: (Walter Maluchnik, Chairperson)**

**A. Action Item(s):**

1) Recommend the Board approve the following field trips:

Date	Students	Destination	Time	Chaperones
6/9/2026	56	US Coast Guard Station Philadelphia, PA (Grade 6)	9:30am-1:00pm	5 Staff/ 9 Parents
6/12/2026	55	Eastern State Penitentiary Philadelphia, PA (Grade 7)	9:00am-2:00pm	4 Staff/ 6 Parents
4/21/2026	Art Club Students	The Turquoise Cup Burlington, NJ	4:00pm-5:00pm	Parents will be present with their children the whole duration
6/11/2026	60	Franklin Institute Philadelphia, PA (Grade 5)	10:00am-2:00pm	6 Staff/ 10 Parents

2) Recommend the Board approve the Algebra Curriculum as per posted on the district website

3) Recommend the Board approve the following staff members to serve on the Positive Behavior Intervention Support Committee:

- Beth Cappetti
- Monica Dennler
- Jamie Fischer
- Kelly Horne
- Brian Leibowitz
- Mackenzie Mauro
- Kevin Moore
- Kati Rutkowski
- Michael Shoukry

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko		X	X				
Edward Hill			X				
Walter Maluchnik	X		X				
Stephanie McHugh			X				
Jamie Smith			X				

Motion Carries

Motion Fails

**13. POLICY: (Kerry Douglas, Chairperson)**

1) Recommend the second reading and adoption of the following policies from Alert 236 (sent via email):

A. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures

P 0142.1 Nepotism (M) (Revised)

P 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)

B. General Policy and Regulation Guide Updates

- P & R 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)
- P 3362 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
- R 3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
- P 4352 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
- R 4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
- P & R 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
- P & R 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
- P & R 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)

**Roll Call on Action Item(s)**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Kerry Douglas, Board President							X
Florencia Norton, Vice President							X
Edward Besko			X				
Edward Hill			X				
Walter Maluchnik		X	X				
Stephanie McHugh			X				
Jamie Smith	X		X				

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

**14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, is providing an opportunity for the Board to hear the public’s concerns. The Board will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting. If appropriate, the Superintendent will respond to your questions and concerns at a future time. We take your concerns and questions very seriously and want to have sufficient time to allow our administration to process and research issues, if need be.

**15. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion	Second	All in Favor	All Opposed
Jamie Smith	Edward Hill	X	

- Motion Carries
- Motion Fails

Respectfully submitted,

*Joseph A. Firetto*

Joseph A. Firetto  
 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary