

**Oakland Public Schools**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**  
**6:30 PM**

A Budget Hearing/Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held on April 28, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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 April 17, 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. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Ms. Shelkin and Mr. Scerbo  
The following members were Absent: Ms. Cooper.

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette M. Wells, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and 16 members of the public.

**Public Budget Hearing**

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Scerbo read the purpose of the meeting.

This Budget Hearing has been called, as required by law, as a Public Hearing on the School Budget for the 2026-2027 school year. It is intended to provide the public with information concerning the budget and to answer any questions there may be on that subject. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Education will deliberate, as needed, and take action to adopt a budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

**II. 2026-2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Ms. Wells presented the 2026-2027 budget.

Mr. Scerbo summarized the proposed budget and discussed the district planning. He stated that he didn't like the 5.85% but we need to do what's right for the district. We are not laying off staff and we're not increasing the class size policy. He stated that people want to move to Oakland for the schools. We are doing the right thing for the district and our community.

**III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Report of the Superintendent**

**I. MINUTES**

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

- A. Approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from March 24, 2026.
- B. Approve the Work Session minutes from March 24, 2026.
- C. Approve the Executive Session minutes from March 24, 2026.

Upon call of the roll, Ms. Kilday abstained; all others voted yes. Motion carried.

**II. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

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

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

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

**III. PERSONNEL**

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

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

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 Mr. Mazzilli to approve Regular Education items A through C as follows:

- A. Approve the following number of affirmed HIB Incidents as presented to the Board at the March 24, 2026 meeting:

Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents	3
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- B. Review the following number of HIB investigations for the period of March 24, 2026 through April 28, 2026 as follows:

Number of HIB Investigations	2
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- C. Approve the revised 2025-2026 Calendar as per the attached.

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

**V. SPECIAL EDUCATION**

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli to approve Special Education items A through C as follows:

- A. Approve the annual contract with Bergen County Special Services School to provide home-based 1:1 student instruction for one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, from March 25, 2026 through June 30, 2026 at the contract amount not to exceed \$1,950.
- B. Approve HMS & Associates to complete speech evaluations as needed from April 15, 2026 to June 30, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$550 per evaluation.
- C. Approve the Addendum to the Settlement Agreement and Release originally approved on January 6, 2026, between the District and the parents of one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office.

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. Kilday to approve Finance items A through U as follows:

- A. Approve the March 2026 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$2,081,837.92.
- B. Approve the payment of the attached list of bills in the amount of \$5,759,174.42 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 March 31, 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 March 31, 2026.

E. Approve the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month ending March 31, 2026.

F. Approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month ending March 31, 2026.

G. Approve staff participation in professional conferences/workshops outside the District, as per the attached.

H. Approve the wire transfer to the NJ Department of Labor for NJ Unemployment Compensation for \$22,082.90 for the First Quarter of 2026.

I. **RESOLVED** that the Oakland Board of Education adopt the following 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>

**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.

J. **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.

K. Approve the estimated tuition costs for the 2026-2027 school year:

Kindergarten	\$20,979
Grades 1-5	\$24,878
Grades 6-8	\$24,814
LLD	\$44,232
Preschool Disabled (P/T)	\$25,354
Preschool Disabled (F/T)	\$54,404
ERI	\$52,186
MD	\$54,937

L. Approve the purchase of three floor scrubbers for Dogwood Hill Elementary, Manito Elementary, and Valley Middle School from Aramsco in the amount of \$23,657.16 through Ed Data Bid #12286. This will be funded with Food Service Funds.

M. Approve the purchase of Newline Multi-Touch Display Boards from Howard Technology Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$37,145 through Hunterdon County Cooperative #HCESC-Cat-25-06-R.

N. Approve the purchase of Acer Chromebooks, licenses, and warranty from CDW-G in the amount of \$65,550 through ESCNJ/AEPA 026-D.

**FINANCE (cont.)**

- O. Approve the purchase of MacBooks with 3 year AppleCare and iPads with 2 year AppleCare, from Apple Inc in the amount of \$20,235.
- P. Approve the purchase of Meraki access points and 3 year license from SHI in the amount of \$22,993.52 through NJSBA’s Cooperative Pricing Contract #E-8801-NJSBA ACES-CPS.
- Q. Accept the NJ Farm to School Procurement Initiative (NJF2SPI) award in the amount of \$2,000.
- R. Accept the Wellness Grant from SHIF Health Benefits provider in the amount of \$15,150 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- S. Accept, with appreciation, the donation in the amount of \$11,000.77 from Heights Elementary School PTO for the purchase of risers.
- T. **WHEREAS**, the Oakland Board of Education advertised for bids for the Restroom Renovations at Manito Elementary School (the “Project”);

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2026, the Board received bids for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Academy Construction Inc. (“Academy”) submitted a base bid in the amount of \$471,000 together with Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$5,000, for a total bid in the amount of \$476,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the bid submitted by Academy is responsive in all material respects, and the Board desires to award the contract for the Project to Academy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby awards a contract for the Restroom Renovations at Manito Elementary School to Academy, which includes a base bid in the amount of \$471,000 together with Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$5,000, for a total sum of \$476,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the Project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, and an executed AIA Agreement, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten days of the date hereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and the terms contained in the bid documents and specifications for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

- U. **WHEREAS**, the Oakland Board of Education advertised for bids for the SGI Conversions at Manito Elementary School and Heights Elementary School (the “Project”);

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2026, the Board received bids for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Drill Construction Co., Inc. (“Drill”) submitted a base bid in the amount of \$1,049,000 together with Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$42,500, Alternate No. 2 in the amount of \$242,000, Alternate No. 3 in the amount of \$3,500, Alternate No. 4 in the amount of \$11,500, and Alternate No. 5 in the amount of \$14,000, for a total bid in the amount of \$1,362,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the bid submitted by Drill is responsive in all material respects, and the Board desires to award the contract for the Project to Drill.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby awards a contract for the SGI Conversions at Manito Elementary School and Heights Elementary School to Drill, which includes a base bid in the amount of \$1,049,000 together with Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$42,500, Alternate No. 2 in the amount of \$242,000, Alternate No. 3 in the amount of \$3,500, Alternate No. 4 in the amount of \$11,500, and Alternate No. 5 in the amount of \$14,000, for a total sum of \$1,362,500.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the Project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, and an executed AIA Agreement, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten days of the date hereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and the terms contained in the bid documents and specifications for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

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

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

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

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION**

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

- A. Approve the resolution regarding Pupil residency decision.

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

## **VIII. TRANSPORTATION**

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Transportation item A 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.

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

## **IX. POLICY**

None

**X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

One member of the public spoke regarding the special education parent group. There are board seats available for next school year.

One member of the public questioned the Newline Multi-Touch Display Boards. Mr. Santiago responded that these are new interactive smart boards for the classrooms.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli that the meeting be adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells  
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary