HAWTHORNE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hawthorne, New Jersey
Monday, April 27, 2026
Budget Presentation – 6:00 P.M.
Hawthorne High School

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: **Time**: **6:00 p.m.**
PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING BEGINS:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted at the municipal building, communicated to The Herald News, The Record, and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne.

(Ask for Roll Call)

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	Time of arrival after meeting has been called to order.
Joseph Carr	**X**		
Alex Clavijo	**X**		
Jennifer Ehrentraut		**X**	
Abigail Goff	**X**		
Erica Mulkey-Koltzan		**X**	Arrived @ 6:02 p.m.
Anthony Puluse	**X**		
Lisa Spohn	**X**		
Gisselle Vega	**X**		
Marco Totaro	**X**		

Also Present: Matthew Mignanelli, Superintendent of Schools
Sandy Vicale, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
And 13 members of the public and 7 via You Tube.

FLAG SALUTE:

MEETING REGULATIONS:

During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, the meeting is open to the public for the purpose of addressing items listed for approval on this agenda only. The second opportunity occurs just prior to adjournment, when citizens may address any subject matter that is pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the school district.

Persons wishing to speak must upon being recognized, rise, state their name, address and subject matter. Comments and questions shall be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer and shall be limited to five minutes per person. The Board may (or may not) respond to issues raised by members of the public at the time they are raised, but will provide a response if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Please note that the Board will not respond to comments regarding students or board employees in light of the privacy rights held by those individuals. Moreover, the Board discourages comments about such individuals, and will not be responsible for such comments. Members of the public who choose to speak during this public session should carefully consider their comments, since they

could be held personally liable for any statements they make.

Finally, please note that in accordance with District Policy the Board will not officially comment or respond to any matter mentioned unless it can confirm that the matter has first been brought to the attention of the appropriate school personnel in an attempt to resolve the issue.

PUBLIC BE HEARD – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

BUDGET PRESENTATION:
2026-2027 Budget Power Point Presentation by Mr. Mignanelli and Mrs. Vicale

BUDGET ACTION ITEMS: **Alex Clavijo, Chairperson**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

B-1. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education of Hawthorne hereby adopts the following budget for the 2026-2027 school year:

The budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the core Curriculum Content Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

Expenditures	
Total General Fund Expenses	$58,255,607
Special Revenue Fund	$ 1,353,897
Repayment of Debt	$ 1,867,844
Total Expenditures	$61,447,348
Revenue	
Budgeted Fund Balance – operating	$ 2,191,022
Budgeted Fund Balance – debt service	$ 30,937
Local Tax Levy	
Current	$49,170,493
Debt Service	$ 1,201,840
Tuition	$ 100,000
Misc. Revenue	$ 120,250
Medicaid Reimbursement	$ 81,453
State Aid	
Current (includes extraordinary aid)	$ 4,675,076
Debt Service	$ 635,067
Special Revenue Fund	$ 1,353,897
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	$ 1,151,511
Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve	$ 645,802
Transfer from Other Funds	$ 90,000
Total Revenue	$61,447,348

Be it further resolved, that the District's general tax requirements to support the 2026-2027 budget, as stipulated by the Hawthorne Board of Education Finance Committee and

Hawthorne Borough Municipal Officials, as follows:

General Fund:	$49,170,493
Debt Service:	$ 1,201,840
Total:	$50,372,333

The 2026-2027 budget reflects that the District has an automatic adjustment for an increase in health care costs in the amount of $ 2,481,098.

B-2. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Be It Further Resolved, that included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is $1,151,511 for capital projects costs of $281,005 for Lincoln Middle School security vestibule, costs of $98,376 for Hawthorne High School security vestibule, costs of $90,000 for creation of Central Office conference room, costs of $582,130 for Hawthorne High School student bathroom renovations, and costs of $100,000 for paving at Washington Elementary School which represent expenditures for construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Be It Further Resolved, included in budget line 630 Budgeted withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve is $645,802 for required maintenance costs of the district.

B-3. APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE

Be it Resolved, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approves the withdrawal of $1,151,511 from Capital Reserve to fund district acquisition costs for the District infrastructure upgrades.

B-4. APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWAL FROM MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Be it Resolved, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approves the withdrawal of $645,802 from Maintenance Reserve for required maintenance costs of the district.

B-5. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education policy #6471 and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 (p) provide that the 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.

WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education appropriated $81,523 for travel during the 2025-2026 school year and has spent $79,852.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2026-2027 school year at the sum of $59,000 and

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

B-6. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education policy #0177 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)1, provide that in each pre-budget year, the Hawthorne Board of Education is required to establish a maximum for professional services, to include Public Relations, Architect, Attorney, Auditing and other professional services fees for the budget year which may not be exceeded;

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the maximum expenditure for professional services includes all that is supported by State and local funds;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has not elected to exclude professional service expenditure supported by federal funds from the maximum professional service expenditures amount;

AND RESOLVED, that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum, professional service expenditures amount for the 2026-2027 school year at $766,000.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote on Resolutions B-1 – B-6

Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Dr. Vega

	Mr. Carr	Mr. Clavijo	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Totaro
Motion		1						2	
Aye	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent			X						

PERSONNEL: **Jennifer Ehrentraut, Chairperson**

The following resolutions are pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

P-1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") appointed Heather Weinstein (hereinafter referred to as "Weinstein"), as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Hawthorne School District at the Board of Education meeting on March 24, 2026 effective from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Employment Agreement has been submitted to and approved by the Executive County Superintendent, according to standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Employment Agreement with Weinstein for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the foregoing period of appointment, which Employment Agreement is attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Employment Agreement by and between the Board and Weinstein.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote on Resolutions P-1

Moved by Mrs. Goff, seconded by Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan

	Mr. Clavijo	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Carr	Mr. Totaro
Motion			1	2					
Aye	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent		X							

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: **Alex Clavijo, Chairperson**

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

F-1. WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11, et seq. authorizes two or more contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services, and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and WHEREAS, NJEdge.Net, Inc. ("NJEdge"), hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency" has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2026, the governing body of Hawthorne Board of Education, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, Hawthorne Board of Education within the County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, desires to participate in the EdgeMarket Cooperative Pricing System; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Hawthorne Board of Education.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11, et seq., Sandy Vicale, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Hawthorne Board of Education on behalf of Hawthorne Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

This Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Public-School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq., and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

F-2. That the Board of Education approves PBG Networks for the license renewal for the server infrastructure in the amount of $60,313.93 using the NJ Edge contract #00278834.

F-3. That the Board of Education approves Mike Morin as a consultant for payroll services through June 30, 2026 at the rate of $50.00 per hour, not to exceed 10 hours per week.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote on Resolutions F-1 – F-3

Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Mr. Puluse

Board Comments: *Mr. Mignanelli commented on F-3.*

	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Carr	Mr. Clavijo	Mr. Totaro
Motion				2				1	
Aye		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent	X								

PUBLIC BE HEARD: None

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make comments on educational issues or school matters.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Board Comments: Mr. Totaro thanked Board Members, Finance Committee, Administration, Superintendent and Business Administrator for budget presentation. Months to plan the budget and the work dedicated to develop the budget.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Mr. Totaro thanked the Board members, Finance Committee, Administration, Superintendent and Business Administrator for all their work with the budget development.
- Mrs. Goff thanked the Superintendent and Business Administrator, Finance Committee and Administration for all their work with the budget development. She also thanked the Board for their support. She commented on budget cuts, PCTI tuition, and mentioned the importance of community support and trust.
- Mr. Puluse commented on PCTI tuition.
- Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan commented on a tough budget year and preservation of reserves.
- Mrs. Spohn thanked everyone and community.
- Mr. Carr thanked the Administration, Finance Committee, Superintendent, and Business Administrator.
- Mr. Clavijo mentioned the challenging budget season, tax levy status of other NJ districts, and asks the State to address the increase in healthcare. He also commented on the SEPAC 5K Run.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:46 p.m.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Dr. Vega, seconded by Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan

	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Carr	Mr. Clavijo	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mr. Totaro
Motion		2			1				
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent								X	

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Vicale
Business Administrator/Board Secretary