

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUDUBON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, the Audubon Board of Education transmitted notice of the meeting, scheduled at 7:00 pm in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Media Center to the Retrospect newspaper and the Borough Clerk and by postings on the Audubon Public School District website and at the Main and the Pine Street entrances of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. **Roll Call**

SY 2024-2026

X Alison Lipsky

X Mark Gatti

X Bill Wilson

SY 2025-2027

X Danielle DiFrancesco

X Allison Cox

X Andrea Robinson

SY 2026-2028

X Ammie Davis

X Stephen Wilson

X Sara Kuhlen

SY 2026 Mt. Ephraim Representative

X Michelle Cannaday

Student Representative to the Board

Apprentice Student Representative

A Helena Kuchmek
(absent)

X Ryan Wynn

III. **Call Meeting to Order**

IV. **Flag Salute**

V. **Presentation(s):**

Presentation of the 2026-2027 Budget

VI. **Participation:** (Agenda Items Only)

Various individuals, including parents, students, and staff members expressed their concerns of the full-time music position at Mansion Ave School and the full-time music position at Audubon High School being combined into one full-time music position for Mansion Ave/Audubon High School. Individuals offered other options. The Board of Education took all options under advisement.

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board has set aside two portions of this Board meeting for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of interest to the residents of the school district.

For the first portion, public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda for tonight's meeting. For the second portion, public comments are invited on all matters pertaining to the school district.

Participants should announce their name, address, and any group they may represent, if applicable. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion. Public discussion of a topic will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. Reference bylaws #0167 of the Audubon Public Schools Board of Education Manual.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizens. Not all issues brought to a Board meeting will be resolved at that particular meeting. Complaints stated or actions requested by the public may be taken under advisement by the Board for investigation, discussion, actions, or disposition at a later date or time. The public comments sessions are an opportunity for citizens to share their opinions and remarks with the Board; it is not a question and answer session. The Board may or may not respond to public comments at the time they are made and is under no obligation to do so.

The Board does not endorse public comments nor will the Board be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Any individuals who may be the subject of public comments, including district employees, shall retain all rights against defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

All motions are voted on by all members unless otherwise marked with a +.

Board of Education Goals

Through oversight and advocacy in committee meetings, regular monthly meetings, and through a close review of Superintendent recommendations, the Board will

- ❖ continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing achievement gaps.
- ❖ work to maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages & facilitates long-range facility improvements while remaining fiscally responsible.
- ❖ foster a safe and positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

XII. GOVERNANCE: Chairperson – Alison Lipsky; Committee Members – Danielle DiFrancesco, Sara Kuhlen, Michelle Cannaday; and Alternate – Andrea Robinson

XIII. OPERATIONS: Chairperson – Mark Gatti; Committee Members – Allison Cox, Alison Lipsky, Stephen Wilson; and Alternate – Ammie Davis

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 1

Motion by Ms. Lipsky and seconded by Mr. S. Wilson

1. Motion to approve the following resolution for the Adoption of the 2026/2027 School Budget:

WHEREAS, the Audubon Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 25, 2026 and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 21, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the budget was advertised on the Audubon School District website on April 24, 2026, and

BE IT RESOLVED that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following FINAL Budget for the 2026/2027 school year

	2026/2027 Budget	Audubon Borough Tax Levy	Audubon Park Tax Levy
General Fund	31,140,006	16,207,667	301,363
Special Revenue Fund	2,635,127		
Debt Service Fund	1,834,250	1,214,764	22,587
Total	35,609,383	17,422,431	323,950

WHEREAS, the Audubon 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, that the Audubon Board of Education established \$ 52,900.00 as the maximum travel amount for current school year and has expended \$ 33,197.86 as of this date; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audubon Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursement in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A: 23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$ 50,300.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audubon Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a Health Care Costs adjustment as calculated in the budget software and pursuant to NJSA 18A:7f-38 subsection (d) in the amount of \$ 858,219.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT RESOLVED, that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve - Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$250,000.00 for other capital project costs of APS Toilet Room/Security entrance renovations, AHS window replacements, AHS masonry restorations and repairs and AHS asphalt repairs. The total cost of these projects are \$250,000.00 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.

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 1: A Cox Second: A. Lipsky

Roll Call

X Ammie Davis X Stephen Wilson X Sara Kuhlen X Michelle Cannaday
X Alison Lipsky X Mark Gatti X Bill Wilson
X Danielle DiFrancesco X Allison Cox X Andrea Robinson

VOTE FOR ITEM 1

Motion approved by unanimous roll call (10-0)

XIV. EDUCATION: Chairperson – Andrea Robinson; Committee Members – Bill Wilson, Danielle DiFrancesco, Sara Kuhlen and Alternate – Michelle Cannaday

XV. HUMAN RESOURCES: Chairperson – Stephen Wilson; Committee Members – Allison Cox, Ammie,Davis, Mark Gatti and Alternate - Bill Wilson

XX. Public Participation: (Open Discussion)

Tricia Martel, AEA Union President, stated that membership into the TPAF pension system is for full-time employees and is not available to part-time employees.

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XXII. ADJOURNMENT

1. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Media Center.
2. Motion by Mrs. Cannaday seconded by Ms. Lipsky to adjourn meeting at approximately 9:30pm.

Motion approved by unanimous roll call (10-0)

Motion to Approve: M. Cannaday Second: A. Lipsky

Roll Call

<u>X</u> Ammie Davis	<u>X</u> Stephen Wilson	<u>X</u> Sara Kuhlen	<u>X</u> Michelle Cannaday
<u>X</u> Alison Lipsky	<u>X</u> Mark Gatti	<u>X</u> Bill Wilson	
<u>X</u> Danielle DiFrancesco	<u>X</u> Allison Cox	<u>X</u> Andrea Robinson	

The Audubon Board of Education reserves the right to add and/or delete motions or make changes to motions in this agenda up to the time of the meeting and during the actual meeting.


Deborah Roncace
Business Administrator/Board Secretary