

PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Administration Building
1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08110

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING
(SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET)
Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Advanced written notice of this meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education was transmitted to the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times. Notice transmitted in the legal notice section of the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times stating the time, date, location and that formal action may be taken at that time. Notice was also posted on the school district's website and with the Township Clerk.

As President, I declare this to be a legal meeting of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
President: Ms. Eckel	X	
Vice President: Mr. Alves, III	X	
Mr. Bennett	X	
Mr. Carey	X	
Mrs. Hutton	X	
Ms. Johnson	X	
Mrs. Matos	X	
Mr. McDevitt	X	
Mr. Smitherman	X	

Also in attendance:

	Present	Absent
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. James Bevere	X	
Assistant Superintendent: Anastasia Michals		X
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary: Mr. Ogunkanmi	X	

FLAG SALUTE

PRESENTATION

- **MR. OGUNKANMI - 2026-2027 PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

PUBLIC HEARING/PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education now welcomes the public to comment on any educational issue or school matter of community interest. Community members should first try to resolve their concerns by speaking directly to school administrators before bringing those concerns to the Board. It may not always be possible or appropriate for the Board to directly answer questions during the public comment period. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes to make their

statement. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. You are required to give your name and address before speaking. Please keep your comments respectful and non-defamatory, and maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a public meeting where minors may be in the audience.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

- **No public comment.**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

ITEMS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

BUSINESS & FINANCE

1. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 Pennsauken Township School District budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	169,274,017.00	47,964,314.00
Reserve Transfers	<u>12,500,000.00</u>	
General Fund Grand Total	181,774,017.00	
Special Revenue Fund	7,836,411.00	
Debt Service Fund	<u>2,503,644.00</u>	<u>1,879,997.00</u>
Totals	<u>192,114,072.00</u>	<u>49,844,311.00</u>

To seek approval for increase in healthcare cost adjustment in the amount of \$1,335,692.00.

To seek approval for increase in Banked CAP in the amount of \$0.

2. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken 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:23A-7.2 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 as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, which includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-state county meetings, department or association sponsored events or in-state professional development activities, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless the annual threshold for a staff member exceeds \$1,500.00 in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken Board of Education established \$120,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$38,710.31 as of this date; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves professional development, travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$120,000.00 for all staff and board members for the 2026/2027 school year.

3. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 5.2 requires the Pennsauken Township Board of Education to establish maximum annual dollar items during budget preparation for dissemination of public information.

AND WHEREAS the Pennsauken Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to dissemination information to parents and the community in an efficient and timely manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pennsauken Board of Education establishes a budget maximum for dissemination of public information of \$120,000.00.

4. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution authorizing the use of capital reserve funds to pay a portion of the costs of a capital improvement project; authorizing appropriate officials to undertake certain actions in connection therewith; and taking certain actions related thereto

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), in the County of Camden, New Jersey ("State"), has, after much research and investigation, determined to undertake a capital improvement program project consisting of: Furniture for eight (8) classrooms addition to Baldwin preschool building and facility improvement, Furniture for ten (10) classrooms and three (3) laboratories addition to PHS (Stem program), Administrative building eight (8) offices addition, security vestibule construction, Acquisition of land & property for bus depot relocation, Elementary schools'; as further described in the information prepared in connection therewith and on file in the offices of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the School District is authorized by, inter alia, N.J.A.C. 6A:23-14.1 et seq, as amended and supplemented (collectively, the "Capital Reserve Law"), to transfer funds from its Capital Reserve Account to the Capital Projects Fund to fund the costs of a capital project; and

WHEREAS, the School District is considering paying for a portion of the Project with funds transferred from its Capital Reserve Account in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PENNSAUKEN, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to withdraw funds from the School District's Capital Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000.00 for

the purpose of paying for a portion of the costs of the Project.

Section 2. All actions heretofore taken and documents prepared or executed by the Board, Superintendent of Schools, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Solicitor, Auditor and Special Counsel in connection with the Project and the payment thereof are hereby authorized, ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded to the extent of any such inconsistency.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption this 5th day of May, 2026.

5. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution authorizing the use of maintenance reserve funds to pay a portion of the costs of a maintenance improvement project; authorizing appropriate officials to undertake certain actions in connection therewith; and taking certain actions related thereto

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), in the County of Camden, New Jersey ("State"), has, after much research and investigation, determined to undertake a maintenance improvement program project consisting of: Elementary schools asbestos floor removal/replacement, Replacements of Transportation garage door, PHS auto shop garage door, PHS wood shop garage door, PHS driveway and back lot asphalt replacement, Sealcoating of Admin building parking lot, Delair and Fine elementary schools' parking lot, PHS 400 wing drop ceiling and restrooms partition replacements, Cafeteria shades replacement at PHS and door access control (20 entrances) and gym dividers replacement in PHS and Middle school.

WHEREAS, the School District is authorized by, *inter alia*, N.J.A.C. 6A:23-14.2 *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented (collectively, the "Maintenance Reserve Law"), to transfer funds from its Maintenance Reserve Account to the Capital Projects Fund to fund the costs of a maintenance project; and

WHEREAS, the School District is considering paying for a portion of the Project with funds transferred from its Maintenance Reserve Account in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PENNSAUKEN, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to withdraw funds from the School District's Maintenance Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose of paying for a portion of the costs of the Project.

Section 2. All actions heretofore taken and documents prepared or executed by the Board, Superintendent of Schools, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Solicitor, Auditor and Special Counsel in connection with the Project and the payment thereof are hereby authorized, ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded to the extent of any such inconsistency.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption this 5th day of May, 2026.

6. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the purchase of Doors, Glazing and Hardware Supply and Delivery for Pennsauken High School and Phifer Middle School. The District will purchase from W. J. Gross, Inc., Sewell, NJ, under the Camden County Educational Services Commission #66CCEPS, Contract #FY23-01 General Construction, Repairs, Specialty Trade & Carpentry Services, not to exceed the amount of \$97,160.00 taken from Account #11-000-261-610-####-####-05, subject to availability of funds from the 2025/2026 school year budget.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES
MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT

7. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the contract with Schools Health Insurance Fund c/o Perma LLC, Camden, NJ to provide medical insurance to district employees at an initial 12 months with two (2) one (1) year extensions not to exceed three (3) years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-40 (e) effective July 1, 2026;

WHEREAS proposals for Medical, Prescription and/or Dental Contract EUS#27-01 were received, opened and read on April 21, 2026 at 11:00 am for the purpose of seeking medical, prescription and/or dental insurance for the District, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education shall award a contract without the receipt of formal bids as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service according to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a) (10);

WHEREAS proposals for medical, prescription and/or dental insurance were received from the following vendors and at the estimated amount: Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) - \$22,539,480.00, Benecard \$4,992,088.80, and Delta Dental \$803,567.40; Aetna (Administrative Fees only); Horizon BCBS of NJ (Administrative Fees only); AmeriHealth (Declined);

WHEREAS upon review by the Business Office and based upon the evaluation analysis completed by the Evaluation Committee, the Board of Education does hereby recommend the award of contract to Schools Health Insurance Fund c/o Perma LLC for medical insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pennsauken Board of Education that the Board award the contract with Schools Health Insurance Fund c/o Perma LLC at the rates described in the proposal for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES
PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE CONTRACT

8. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the contract with Benecard Services, Lawrenceville, NJ, to provide prescription insurance to district employees for an initial term of 24 months with an option to renew a third year according to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42 (e) effective July 1, 2026;

WHEREAS proposals for Medical, Prescription and/or Dental Contract EUS#27-01 were received, opened and read on April 21, 2026 at 11:00 am for the purpose of seeking medical, prescription and/or dental insurance for the District, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education shall award a contract without the receipt of formal bids as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service according to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a) (10);

WHEREAS proposals for medical, prescription and/or dental insurance were received from the following vendors and at the estimated amount: Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) - \$22,539,480.00, Benecard \$4,992,088.80, and Delta Dental \$803,567.40; Aetna (Administrative Fees only); Horizon BCBS of NJ (Administrative Fees only); AmeriHealth (Declined);

WHEREAS upon review by the Business Office and based upon the evaluation analysis completed by the Evaluation Committee, the Board of Education does hereby recommend the award of contract to Benecard Services for prescription insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pennsauken Board of Education that the Board award the contract with Benecard Services at the rates described in the proposal for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT – EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES
DENTAL INSURANCE CONTRACT**

9. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the contract with Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc., Parsippany, NJ to provide dental insurance to district employees for an initial 12 months with two (2) one (1) year extensions not to exceed three (3) years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-40 (e) effective July 1, 2026;

WHEREAS proposals for Medical, Prescription and/or Dental Contract EUS#27-01 were received, opened and read on April 21, 2026 at 11:00 am for the purpose of seeking medical, prescription and/or dental insurance for the District, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education shall award a contract without the receipt of formal bids as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service according to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a) (10);

WHEREAS proposals for medical, prescription and/or dental insurance were received from the following vendors and at the estimated amount: Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) - \$22,539,480.00, Benecard \$4,992,088.80, and Delta Dental \$803,567.40; Aetna (Administrative Fees only); Horizon BCBS of NJ (Administrative Fees only); AmeriHealth (Declined);

WHEREAS upon review by the Business Office and based upon the evaluation analysis completed by the Evaluation Committee, the Board of Education does hereby recommend the award of contract to Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. for dental insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pennsauken Board of Education that the Board award the contract with Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. at the rates described in the proposal for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS: 1-9

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken that it adjourn to Executive Session as prescribed under the “Sunshine Law”, if necessary, in order to discuss legal issues, contracts and personnel issues. Any discussion held by the Board of Education that need not remain confidential will be made public. Matters under discussion will not be disclosed to the public until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken Board of Education has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of the Pennsauken Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately _____ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsauken Board of Education will convene into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

X A matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public. (Provision relied upon: _____)

_____ A matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government.

_____ A matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

_____ A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in a collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body. (Specify contract: _____)

_____ A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

_____ Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public whose disclosure could impair such protection.

_____ An investigation of violations or possible violations of the law.

_____ A pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party, or a matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is: _____)

_____ A matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is _____ and the employee(s) involved has been provided the required notice and has not requested the discussion be held in open session.

_____ Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

TOPICS:

1. OTHER – Legal services interviews.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING AND OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 5:35 p.m.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RETURN TO THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mrs. Matos

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 8:30 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Ms. Eckel – Thank you to Mr. McDevitt for volunteering to deliver the High School graduation speech, Mrs. Matos for volunteering to deliver the Middle School graduation speech and Mrs. Hutton for volunteering to deliver the Roosevelt graduation speech. Requested a volunteer to deliver the Burling graduation speech. Ms. Johnson volunteered to deliver the Burling graduation speech.
- Ms. Eckel – The Roosevelt National Honor Society event will be held on the 28th.
- Ms. Eckel – The Alumni Association Memorial Day Celebration will be held on Tuesday, May 26th, 9:30 a.m. at the High School, in the Media Center.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mr. Smitherman	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL TO: ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 8:38 p.m.