HAWTHORNE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hawthorne, New Jersey
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Executive Session – 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.
Hawthorne High School

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: **Time**: **6:03 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**		
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 0 members of the public and 0 via You Tube.

FLAG SALUTE:

PRIVATE SESSION:

Be it resolved that the Hawthorne Board of Education convenes an Executive Session to discuss exempt matters pertaining to:

1. A matter rendered confidential by federal or state law

Be it further resolved that it is anticipated that executive session will be for 45 minutes in duration and that public action may/may not be taken:

Be it further resolved that the minutes of the Executive Session will be made available upon a determination by the Board that the disclosure of the minutes will not detrimentally affect any right or interest of the Board and the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MOTION TO GO INTO PRIVATE SESSION: 6:06 P.M.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Mr. Puluse

	Mr. Carr	Mr. Clavijo	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Totaro
Motion			1			2			
Aye		X (Arrived 6:08pm)	X	X	X	X	X (Arrived 6:06pm)	X	
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent	X								X

MOTION TO EXIT FROM PRIVATE SESSION: 6:50 p.m.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Mr. Puluse

	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		
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent								X	X

MOTION TO GO INTO REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING: **Time**: **7:02 p.m.**

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 12, 2026 – Regular Meeting – Public and Private

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Mrs. Goff, seconded by Mr. Clavijo

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

A. Superintendent's Report – Matthew Mignanelli

- Mr. Mignanelli thanked administration, Board, staff, and parents for their support throughout school year. He reported on the Food Service RFP, congratulated athletes, valedictorian, salutatorian, recognized retirement of staff, Hawthorne Environmental Commission awards, and Lincoln Middle School and High School graduations.

PRESENTATIONS:

The Hawthorne Board of Education hereby recognizes the following staff member upon her retirement.

Roosevelt School: ***Carolee Mearon, 3rd Grade Teacher***

Hawthorne Environmental Commission - Special Recognition Award - Citizens/Teachers

Demonstrate their environmental leadership and commitment by protecting and preserving our community. Individuals are recognized for their contributions to the achievements of the Hawthorne Environmental Commission and the Hawthorne Green Team. Our 2026 honorees are the following:

Andrea Napolitano, Lincoln Middle School, Stem Teacher

Theresa Di Geronimo, Hawthorne High School - Library Media Specialist

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

COMMITTEE **CHAIRPERSON**

C. Legislative……. Joseph Carr
No Report

D. Finance & Administration……. Alex Clavijo
Food Service RFP

E. Council Liaison……. Jennifer Ehrentraut
Health Insurance resolution, Caballero event

F. Personnel……... Jennifer Ehrentraut
Summer hours, Special Ed liasions

G. Curriculum & Instruction…….. Abigail Goff
1A rollout, summer assignments, rigor of instruction, 4th grade, summer hours for employees, Supervisors K-12, Language Bridge

H. NJSBA……...Erica Mulkey-Koltzan
NJSBA Conference

I. PCSBA……...Erica Mulkey-Koltzan
No Report

J. HEF/SEPAC/PTOs……Anthony Puluse
Thank you to PTOs

K. Buildings & Grounds…….Gisselle Vega
Food Service RFP, District walkthrough, landscaping services

L. Policy…….Gisselle Vega
No Report

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: Abigail Goff, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction recommends the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approve the following students out of district placements based upon NJ Department of Education Maximum:

	School	SY Tuition	Additional Services	ESY Tuition	Student #	Dates of Term	Discussion
CI-1.	ECLC of New Jersey	$515.21 per diem for 180 days. A total fee of $92,737.80	$295.00 per diem for 200 days for a total fee of $59,000.00	$515.21 per diem for 20 days. A total fee of $10,304.20	Student (File # 060126)	7/1/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-2.	ECLC of New Jersey	$515.21 per diem for 180 days. A total fee of $92,737.80	$295.00 per diem for 200 days for a total fee of $59,000.00	$515.21 per diem for 20 days. A total fee of $10,304.20	Student (File # 060226)	7/1/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-3.	CTC Academy	$519.06 per diem for 183 days. A total fee of $94,987.98	N/A	$519.06 per diem for 23 days. A total fee of $11,938.38	Student (File # 060326)	7/6/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-4.	EPIC	$688.17 per diem for 182	N/A	$688.17 per diem for 28	Student (File # 060426)	7/6/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY

	School	SY Tuition	Additional Services	ESY Tuition	Student #	Dates of Term	Discussion
		days. A total fee of $125,246.94		days. A total fee of $19,268.76			
CI-5.	The Forum School	$495.00 per diem for 180 days. A total fee of $89,100.00	$265.00 per diem for 198 days. A total fee of $52,470.00	$495.00 per diem for 18 days. A total fee of $8,910.00	Student (File # 060526)	7/1/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-6.	Chancellor Academy	$478.56 per diem for 183 days. A total fee of $87,576.48	N/A	$478.56 per diem for 20 days. A total fee of $9,571.20	Student (File # 060626)	7/1/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-7.	New Alliance Academy	$523.02 per diem for 180 days. A total fee of $94,143.60.	N/A	$523.02 per diem for 30 days. A total fee of $15,690.60	Student (File # 060726)	7/1/26-6/18/27	26/27 SY
CI-8.	Benway School	$499.95 per diem for 184 days. A total fee of $91,990.80	N/A	$499.95 per diem for 30 days. A total fee of $14,998.50	Student (File # 060826)	7/1/26-6/17/27	26/27 SY
CI-9.	Sage Alliance	$458.63 per diem for 180 days. A total fee of $82,553.31.	N/A	N/A	Student (File # 060926)	9/2/26 – 6/17/27	26/27 SY
CI-10.	Benway School	$483.21 per diem for 14 days. A total fee of $6,764.94	N/A	N/A	Student (File # 061026)	6/5/26-6/18/26	25/26 SY

CI-11. Approval of home instruction for Hawthorne resident pupil(s) as follows:

a. Student (file #061126) – Instruction starting date: 5/14/26
Home Instructor(s) – Wendy Post, Jennifer Teeling

CI-12. Approval of the Elementary Education Teacher Assistant to Teacher Program partnership Agreement between Ramapo College of New Jersey and the Hawthorne School District, who are entering into the partnership to improve the preparation opportunities for aspiring teachers through teacher residencies (student teaching). The term of this agreement shall be for a period of three (3) years.

CI-13. Approval of the following service providers for Hawthorne resident students, during the 2026 - 2027 school year on an as needed basis throughout the year.

Vendor	Service Provided	Rate per Session
Joseph Siragusa M.D.	Psychiatric Services	School clearance evaluations - $400 per evaluation Psychiatric evaluations - $850 per evaluation
Claudia L Williams OTR/L, MSHS, LLC	Occupational Therapy Services	$100.00 per hour for professional services

Health Source Group	See Attached Rate Sheet	See Attached Rate Sheet

*CI-14. Approval of the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance to extend the plan for the 2026-2027 School Year.

*CI-15. APPOINTMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Assistant Superintendent be appointed as Affirmative Action Officer for Hawthorne Public Schools for the period July 1, 2026 through January 5, 2027.

ATH-1. MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:

The Board of Education of School District No. 2100, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as provided for in Chapter 172 Laws 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:113, et seq.) herewith enrolls Hawthorne High School as a member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to participate in the approved interschool athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA for the 2026-2027 school year.

Member school voluntarily agrees to join the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), which is a non-profit association of public and non-public high schools in the State of New Jersey and is authorized to participate in the approved athletic activities sponsored by the NJSIAA. The Board of Education (of a public school) or Chief School Administrator (of a non-public school) hereby adopts as its own policy and agrees to be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Mrs. Goff, seconded by Ms. Ehrentraut

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

PERSONNEL: **Jennifer Ehrentraut**

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

ACTION ITEMS:

Appointments, Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Rescissions:

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
P-1.	Carolee Mearon	Retire	Elementary School Teacher	n/a	n/a	RS	7/1/26	Last Day on Payroll 6/30/26	Retirement

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
P-2.	Amanda Urgilez	Leave	Part Time Para	n/a	n/a	LMS	5/25/26	Last Day on Payroll 5/22/26	Unpaid Leave of Absence
P-3.	Lisette de la Torre	Resign	Administrative Assistant to the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	n/a	n/a	CO	6/12/26	Last Day on Payroll 6/12/26	Resignation
P-4.	Holly Knepper	Resign	Bus Aide	n/a	n/a	District	2026-2027 School Year	n/a	Resignation
P-5.	Megan Faucett	Leave	Music Teacher	n/a	n/a	LMS	9/15/26 on payroll and estimated date of 10/30/26 11/2/26 – 11/10/26 unpaid leave then unpaid FMLA/ estimated 11/11/26 - 2/4/27	2/5/27	Approval of Maternity Leave and Federal/State Family Leave of Absence in accordance with the Federal/State Family Leave Act followed by Child Rearing Leave
P-6.	Denise DeMarco	Renew	Long Term Substitute Elementary School Teacher	n/a	$300 per day No Benefits	RS	8/27/26	11/19/26 or until the return of the regular teacher	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Maternity/FMLA Leave of Jessica Ioime
P-7	Sabrina Forte	Hire	School Psychologist	M+60/2	$73,410	LMS	8/27/26 Pending Completion of Criminal History Review	6/30/27	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Retirement of Dawn Torpey
P-8.	Item Removed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P-9.	Sarah Abaza	Extra Duty	Broadcasting Teacher	n/a	$63.01 per hour for 8 hours for a total of $504.08	LMS	6/17/26	n/a	For Providing Media Services for the Lincoln Middle School Graduation
P-10.	Matthew Trejos	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	$33.66 per hour for 2 hours	HHS	5/19/26	5/19/26	Chaperones for Student (File #061226) for Chorus Concert
P-11.	Matthew Trejos	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	$33.66 per hour for 10.25 hours	HHS	6/8/26	6/8/26	Chaperones for Students (File #061326 &

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
									#061426) for Senior Class Trip
P-12.	Matthew Trejos	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	$33.66 per hour for 1 hour	LMS	6/9/26	6/9/26	Chaperones for Students (File #061526, #061626 & #061726) for Lego Club
P-13.	David Kunze	Hire	Summer Para in the ESY Program	n/a	$27.86 per hour for 3.5 hours per day M-Th	JS	6/29/26	7/30/26	Part Time Para in the Extended Year Program only
P-14.	Mara Hermelee	Hire	Summer Para in the ESY Program	n/a	$27.86 per hour for 3.5 hours per day M-Th	JS	6/29/26 Pending completion of criminal history review and receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	7/30/26	Part Time Para in the Extended Year Program only
P-15.	Rowshan Shilpi	Hire	Summer Para in the ESY Program	n/a	$27.86 per hour for 3.5 hours per day M-Th	JS	6/29/26 Pending completion of criminal history review and receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	7/30/26	Part Time Para in the Extended Year Program only
P-16.	Janet Baster	Hire	Summer Para in the ESY Program	n/a	$27.86 per hour for 3.5 hours per day M-Th	JS	6/29/26 Pending completion of criminal history review and receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	7/30/26	Part Time Para in the Extended Year Program only
P-17.	Ethan Bistromowitz	Hire	Summer Para in the ESY Program	n/a	$27.86 per hour for 3.5 hours per day M-Th	JS	6/29/26 Pending completion of criminal history review and receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	7/30/26	Part Time Para in the Extended Year Program only
P-18.	Xiaorou Ruan; Yasmin Leite; Lindsay Tochner; Yimin Jin; Chelsea Young; Hadiya Qazi; Nathaly Sanchez; Tianming Guo; Jisu Lee; Grace Chang;	Hire	Teacher Assistants	n/a	Pro-rated on the basis of an annual salary of $27,000 depending on actual starting date	Elem	8/27 Pending completion of criminal history review and receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	6/17/27	Per Contract with Columbia University

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
	Xiaomo Wang; Catherine Chen; Brenna Sullivan; Mayan Shaya; Nicolas Moncada								
P-19.	Yamin Salahi; Albion Gashi	Hire	Summer Computer Technicians	n/a	$18 per hour not to exceed $6,000 for the group	District	7/1/26 Pending Completion of Criminal History Review	10/31/26	Summer Help for Technology Department
P-20.	Joe Paladino	Volunteer	Volunteer Football Coach Assistant	n/a	n/a	HHS	2026-2027 Season Pending Completion of Criminal History Review and Receipt of NJ Substitute Certificate	End of Season	Volunteer
P-21.	Ryan Hollis	Volunteer	Volunteer Football Coach Assistant	n/a	n/a	HHS	2026-2027 Season	End of Season	Volunteer
P-22.	Michael O'Hagan	Volunteer	Volunteer Football Coach Assistant	n/a	n/a	HHS	2026-2027 Season	End of Season	Volunteer
P-23.	Mohammad Islam	Volunteer	Volunteer Wrestling Coach Assistant	n/a	n/a	HHS	2026-2027 Season	End of Season	Volunteer
P-24.	Rachel Shea	Volunteer	Volunteer Varsity Cheerleading Coach Assistant	n/a	n/a	HHS	2026-2027 Season	End of Season	Volunteer

**** All appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and subject to verification of job qualifications and prior experience if necessary. In the event the criminal history checks are not completed, these applications are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures***.

P-25. WHEREAS, the Superintendent has recommended that the Hawthorne Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") withhold the employment and adjustment increments of an employee whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office for the 2026-207 school year based on policy and regulatory violations, which the employee was informed of during the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the Superintendent's recommendation together with the reasons provided to the employee on or about May 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Superintendent's recommendation to the Board that the employee's employment and adjustment increments be withheld for the 2026-2027 school year is amply supported by the reasons provided to the employee and

set forth in writing on or about May 12, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts and affirms the Superintendent's recommendation to withhold the employee's employment and adjustment increments for the 2026-2027 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby requests that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary provide the employee with written notice that her employment and adjustment increment for the 2026-2027 school year are being withheld, together with the reasons therefore, within ten (10) days of the date of this Resolution.

P-26. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") appoints Sandy Vicale (hereinafter referred to as "Vicale"), as the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Hawthorne School District 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 Vicale for the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary 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 Superintendent of Schools to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Employment Agreement by and between the Board and Vicale.

P-27. Approval of summer curriculum work as listed on the report entitled, "Summer Curriculum Writing" dated June 9, 2026 as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools under separate cover.

P-28. Appointment of the following staff to serve as needed during the summer 2026 extended year program as listed below in accordance with the contract on file in the Board of Education office.

Employee	**Position**	**Hourly Rate**
Blanca Garcia	Bus Driver	$30.82
Ismet Mefail	Bus Driver	$35.02
Mireya Perez	Bus Driver	$30.82
Antonio Melicia	Sub Bus Driver	$30.82
Juliana Bajramoski Sr.	Bus Aide	$15.92
Diane Haverty	Bus Aide	$15.92
Patricia Ortiz	Bus Aide	$15.92
Brandi Shortway	Sub Bus Aide	$15.92

P-29. **Approval of Summer Contracts – Extended Year Special Education Program**

Appointment of staff for the 2026 summer program as listed in report entitled "Extended Year Special Education Program – Summer 2026" dated June 9, 2026, as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools under separate cover, and in accordance with the contract

on file in the Board Office. The program runs Monday through Thursday, from June 29, 2026 through July 30, 2026.

P-30. Appointment of the following child study team members and related service providers for case management &/or evaluations as listed below, to serve during the summer 2026, as follows, per their hourly rates:

Employee	Position	Hours	Hourly Rate
Jennifer Stier	LDTC	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$70.01
Diana Evans	LDTC	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$64.58
Shakira Adkins	LDTC	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$71.01
Nicole Matano	School Psychologist	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$72.30
Fabio Simao	School Psychologist	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$62.29
Coral Silfa	Social Worker	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$56.91
Debbie Kinney-Chen	Social Worker	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$70.62
Denise Sanchez	Social Worker	Not to exceed 100 hrs.	$53.48

P-31. Appointment of the following persons to serve in Eligibility, IEP and 504 meetings as needed in the summer of 2026 per their hourly rates:

Employee	Hourly Rate
Anne Carlock	$57.24
Mary Roca	$51.20
Danielle Sico	$70.12
Ashley Baber	$53.74
Kimberly Crecca	$54.63
Jade Greppo	$59.20
Kathleen Huffman	$53.48
Erin McKeon	$59.53
Kerri Casey	$63.15
Pamela Kraus	$66.58
Darin Miller	$46.81
Philip Schneider	$72.12
Kaylee Seiders	$46.33
Nicole Rosoline-Peterson	$55.22
Allison Testa	$51.20
Teresa Cassidy-Bennett	$66.58
Jennifer Trentacosta	$70.01
Kristen Segreto	$67.73
Susan Hahn	$65.30
Amanda Bushoven	$58.05
Susan DiRoma	$70.62
Jaimie Martino	$59.20
Shari Shepetofsky	$74.05

Employee	Hourly Rate
Elizabeth Farkas	$67.69
*Tyler Ten Kate	$48.72
*Megan Cohn	$58.86

P-32. Appointment of the following staff to serve in the positions listed below for the Summer of 2026 and the 2026-2027 School Year in accordance with rates listed in Appendix D of the teachers' contract on file in the Board office.

Home Therapy
*Tonya Barnes
*Hila Sela

Coordinator
Julie Katz
*Tonya Barnes
*Hila Sela

P-33. Appointment of the persons listed in the report entitled "Extra-Duty Coaching Assignments School Year 2026-2027" dated June 9, 2026, as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools under separate cover.

*P-34. Acceptance of the following student(s) to complete his/her/their student field experience(s) in education in the Hawthorne Public School District during the 2026-2027 school year. This/these placement(s) is/are subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. In the event the criminal history checks(s) is/are not completed this/these placement(s) is/are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures. Per this resolution this/these student(s) is/are also approved as (a) substitute teacher(s) in the Hawthorne Public School District contingent upon obtaining a county substitute certificate.

Student	College	Type	Subject Area	Coop. Teacher/Admin.	Loc
Jeremy Maida	WPU	Clinical	6-12 Music/Instrumental	Elizabeth Graber	HHS

Appointments, Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Rescissions:

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
*P-35.	Emmalyn Kolenovic Bakker	Leave	School Psychologist	n/a	n/a	HHS	Approximately 2 days per week 6/20/26	6/20/27	Approval Intermittent Federal/State Family Leave of Absence in accordance with the Federal/State Family Leave Act followed
*P-36.	Laura Tousignant	Decline	Paraprofessional	n/a	n/a	RS	2026-2027 School Year	n/a	Declined Employment Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year
*P-37.	Jeremy Vanderhook	Decline	Non-Instructional Aide	n/a	n/a	RS	2026-2027 School Year	n/a	Declined Employment Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year
*P-38.	Angelie Arrieta	Hire	Administrative Assistant to the School Business Administrator/	n/a	Pro-rated on the basis of an annual salary of $65,000 for	CO	6/29/26 Pending Completion of Criminal	6/30/27	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Resignation of

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
			Board Secretary		the 2025-2026 SY and $65,000 for the 2026-2027 SY		History Review		Lisette de la Torre
*P-39.	Kyle Cooper	Hire	Physical Education Teacher	MA/ 6-7	$69,010	JS	8/27/26 Pending Completion of Criminal History Review	6/30/27	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Resignation of Amy Phiefer
*P-40.	Catherine Clarke	Hire	Occupational Therapist	MA/15	$86,570	LMS/ HHS/BC	8/27/26 Pending Completion of Criminal History Review	6/30/27	To Fill a Vacancy Previously Outsourced

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan

Board Comments: *Ms. Ehrentraut welcomed new hires and commented on P-18 and P-26. Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan welcomed new hires, congratulated retirees ad commented on P-18. Mrs. Goff congratulated retirees and commented on P-20 to P24. Mr. Clavijo congratulated retirees and commented on P-26.*

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

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

DONATIONS:

A. Acceptance of a donation from Myka Miller - Executive Director the Guitar Center Music Foundation for the following refurbished instruments: 1 Bundy Flute ($100), 1 Yamaha Flute ($300), 1 Selmer Alto Saxophone ($900), 1 Bach Trumpet ($700), and repairs to 5 existing school-owned instruments (approximately $700): 3 trumpets ($400), 1 clarinet ($150), 1 flute ($150) to the Washington Elementary School Instrumental Music Program.

B. Acceptance of a donation from Scully's Ice for 8 bags of ice valued at $100.00 donated to the Hawthorne High School Class of 2027 for their Car Show fundraiser.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

F-1. BE IT RESOLVED that Hawthorne Board of Education appoints Solutions Architects as Architect of Record and Architect of Record for Referendum projects for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Fees will be established based on projects.

F-2. BE IT RESOLVED: That the Hawthorne Board of Education approves and authorizes participation in the following purchasing cooperatives:

- Educational Data Services
- TIPS-USA
- Hunterdon County Educational Services
- Peppm Cooperative Purchasing
- Educational Service Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ
- Bergen County Cooperative
- Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC)
- North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System (NJWCPS)
- EdgeMarket Cooperative Pricing System

F-3. BE IT RESOLVED that Hawthorne Board of Education approves the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company LLC to be appointed as Auditor for accounting and auditing services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 at an annual fee of $36,450.00.

F-4. BE IT RESOLVED that Hawthorne Board of Education approves the School Physician and Sports Medicine Services Agreement with the Trustees of Columbia University for the 2026-2027 school year for a total cost of $27,592.00.

F-5. WHEREAS, the Board has concluded that the proposal submitted by Pomptonian Food Service is the most advantageous to the School District, price and other factors considered; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education approve and award a contract for School Food Service Management for the 2026-2027 school year, with an option for four (4) one (1) year extensions thereafter at the Board's discretion, to Pomptonian Food Service located at 155 Passaic Ave, Suite 210, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004. It is the recommendation of the Business Administrator that the Hawthorne Board of Education award the contract to Pomptonian Food Service (hereinafter referred to as the "FSMC"), subject to the following contractual provisions:

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, a fee of $0.2700 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the Food Service Management Company for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as the cost of operation. The district guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC. The 2026-2027 Total Cost of the Contract is projected to be $968,145.67, as found on the Response and Projected Operating Statement (Form 23)

The number of National School Lunch Program, and if applicable, Breakfast Program, At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program and After School Snacks Programs, meals served to children shall be determined by actual count. A "Meal Equivalent" provided by the FSMC is determined by dividing the total of cash receipts, other than from sales of National School Lunch Program, and if applicable, Breakfast Program, At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program and After School Snacks Programs, meals, or Cash Equivalents, by the Equivalency Factor. The Equivalency Factor used to determine the number of Meal Equivalents served by the FSMC shall be the amount of $5.065.

The per meal management fee of $0.2700 will be multiplied by total meals.

The FSMC guarantees that the return to the District from the Food Service Program for the school year will be $52,000. If the annual operating statement shows a return of less than $52,000, the FSMC will pay the difference between the actual and the guaranteed amount. Financial terms of the Contract are based upon the assumptions as stated in Section II A, Paragraph 8, and Section BBB (Guarantee Conditions and Assumptions) in the Contract. If there is a change in conditions, including, without limitation, changes to the preceding assumptions, the parties agree to enter negotiations concerning the impact of such changes, and the financial terms of the Contract, including any guarantee, shall be adjusted accordingly.

F-6. WHEREAS, at a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, despite record levels of state investments in public education, these school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the mounting insolvency of the state's public employee's health benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers alike; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, the seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, these projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, this growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, these cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, For the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences — including district deficits, program cuts and school closures — mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, these are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public

schools; and

WHEREAS, implementing real, sustainable solutions to the rising cost of health benefits and reforming how benefits are delivered through the SEHBP would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's leadership and continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators and families, which directly advances our shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hawthorne Board of Education in the county of Passaic calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hawthorne Board of Education in the county of Passaic urges the Governor to engage in meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term reforms to the state's system of delivering health care to its public employees in order to generate meaningful, long-term savings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senator Cory Booker, Senator Andy Kim, New Jersey State Senator Kristin Corrardo, 40th District Assemblymen Christopher DePhillips and Al Barlas and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

*F-7. Approve the agreement with Harris Education Solutions for the 2026-2027 renewal of the software license for Realtime student information system with components for special education, IEP management, 504, response to intervention, food service management/POS, and parent/student apps. The total fee for the 2026-2027 year will be $70,186.20 which includes $6,705.87 for the food service management/POS system.

*F-8. Acceptance of the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for March 2026 and the Board Secretary certifies that no budgetary line account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation.

*F-9. Approval to make the necessary transfers for the period March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026, for the budget year 2025-2026 in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:232.11. A list of these transfers is submitted under separate cover and shall be made an integral part of this resolution.

A-1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 2025-2026: LMS 307295 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents and, directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

A-2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 2025-2026: LMS 307320 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents and, directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

A-3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby affirms the

Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 2025-2026: HHS 307727 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents and, directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

A-4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 2025-2026: LMS 307265 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents and, directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

A-5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawthorne Board of Education hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 2025-2026: HHS 307834 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents and, directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Mr. Carr

Board Comments: *Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan commented on F-5. Mr. Clavijo commented on F-6. Mr. Totaro commented on F-5.*

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

CLAIMS: **Lisa Spohn**

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2:11(b), (c) 3, and (c) 4;

CL-1. Approval of the June 2026 Bill List.

It is recommended that the Board approve the bill list for the month of June 2026.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Mrs. Spohn, seconded by Mr. Clavijo

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Gisselle Vega, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds recommends the following resolutions:

BG-1. Approval of applications for use of school property, subject to non-interference with school activities and the execution of the appropriate releases, including receipt of a Certificate of Insurance.

HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL:

Facilities	Date and Times	Applicant	Fees
HS Baseball Field	Monday – Sunday* 6/9/26 – 8/2/26* M-Th 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fri 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sat/Sun 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Actual Dates and Times to be coordinated with the Athletic Director	**Hawthorne Travel Baseball 14U and 15U** Baseball	$0.00
Main Athletic Field	Monday – Sunday* 7/13/26 – 11/29/26* 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Actual Dates and Times to be coordinated with the Athletic Director and Buildings and Grounds	**Hawthorne Board of Recreation on behalf of the Hawthorne Cubs Football Association** Football Practices, Scrimmages, and Games	$0.00

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

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

Board Comments: *Mrs. Goff commented on BG-1. Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan commented on BG-1.*

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

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. Clavijo recognized Mrs. DiGeronimo.
- Mr. Carr congratulated Mrs. Mearon.
- Dr. Vega congratulated retirees and wished everyone a good summer.
- Mrs. Spohn congratulated Mrs. Mearon and wished everyone a safe summer.
- Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan commented on graduation, project graduation, and wished everyone a great summer.
- Mrs. Goff thanked community members, council for passing health resolution, and teachers and staff; wished everyone a good summer.
- Ms. Ehrentraut commented on graduation and Assistant Superintendent.
- Mr. Puluse commented on Assistant Superintendent, project graduation, congratulated graduates, and thanked board members.
- Mr. Totaro congratulated Mrs. Mearon, graduates, and thanked Administration and Board members.

MOTION TO GO INTO PRIVATE SESSION: 8:07p.m.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

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

MOTION TO EXIT FROM PRIVATE SESSION: 9:17 p.m.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Mrs. Goff

	Ms. Ehrentraut	Mrs. Goff	Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan	Mr. Puluse	Mrs. Spohn	Dr. Vega	Mr. Carr	Mr. Clavijo	Mr. Totaro
Motion	1	2							
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	Left at 8:22pm	X	Left at 8:22pm
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent									

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 9:17 p.m.

Board of Education Roll Call Vote

Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Mrs. Goff

	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	Left at 8:22pm	X	X	Left at 8:22pm
Nay									
Abstain									
Absent									

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Vicale
Business Administrator/Board Secretary