

**PORT REPUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

**Call to Order:**

**Regular Meeting: June 23, 2026**

**Roll Call:**

| <b>Member</b>                          | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Joy Hooper, President                  | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Kathryn Cox                            | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Brenda Crema                           | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Kristina Hanselman                     |                | <b>X</b>      |
| Brian Hartmann                         | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Eric Stevenson                         | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Kevin Wessler                          |                | <b>X</b>      |
| Jennifer Williams                      | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Jill Yochim, Vice President            |                | <b>X</b>      |
| Amanda Redrow, Superintendent          | <b>X</b>       |               |
| John J. Hansen, Business Administrator | <b>X</b>       |               |
| Amy Houck-Elco, Board Solicitor        | <b>X</b>       |               |
| A quorum was/was not established.      | <b>was</b>     |               |

**Salute to the Flag**

**Statement:**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings 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 as discussed or acted upon. In accordance with provisions of this act, the Port Republic Board of Education has caused adequate notice of this meeting to be given by having the date, time and place published on the District's website.

## **2025-2026 BOARD GOALS**

1. The Board will support the Superintendent in the development and implementation of a district strategic plan in the areas of education/professional development, finance, community.
2. The Board will continue to develop and improve avenues of communication at all levels including Superintendent and Board, committee, member, staff, community.
3. The Board will continue to support high student achievement and citizenship including increased review and monitoring of educational data.
4. The Board will be actively involved in long-term finance and facility planning with the end goal offering a high quality education to our students, achieving financial sustainability, and continual awareness of community impact.

## **2025-2026 DISTRICT GOALS**

1. The District will continue to support a comprehensive and rigorous K-8 curricular program while enhancing academic and intervention opportunities that promote ambitious teaching and learning, that all Port Republic students are well prepared for success in high school and beyond.
2. The District will continue its program of community awareness and input that improves district communication through effective tools as determined by the Superintendent and the Board.
3. The District will, in consultation with key stakeholders, update strategic planning to include long-range educational, finance and facility planning.

## **A. REPORTS**

Board President

Superintendent -reported on agenda items.

1. Interim School Business Administrator-reported on agenda items, the addition of Superintendent M, and correction on Personnel F.1.
2. Presentations
3. Committee Reports
  - i. Educational-no report.
  - ii. Finance-brief report was given.
  - iii. Facilities -no report/Amanda mentioned status of playground and steam room conversion.
  - iv. Personnel-brief report was given.
- 4.. Board Comment:

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting & Executive Meeting

Motion: COX Second: HARTMANN

| Member                | YES | NO |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Joy Hooper, President | X   |    |
| Kathryn Cox           | X   |    |

|                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Brenda Crema                | X |   |
| Kristina Hanselman          |   | X |
| Brian Hartmann              | X |   |
| Eric Stevenson              | X |   |
| Kevin Wessler               |   | X |
| Jennifer Williams           | X |   |
| Jill Yochim, Vice President |   | X |

## **OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ROUTINE MATTERS, SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS ON THE AGENDA ONLY**

### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS – for agenda items only**

The Public is reminded that they should attempt to resolve problems and/or complaints through initial contact with the staff member or members involved therein and the Chief School Administrator prior to petitioning the Board of Education. Complaints should only be brought to the Board after the appropriate school staff have had a reasonable opportunity to resolve the problem at the employee level. Statements should be limited to 5 minutes in length.

### **3. ROUTINE MATTERS**

#### **A. Approval of Financial Statements**

Secretary's and custodian's reports for **April, 2026-Revised (Report of the Treasurer) May 2026** which are in agreement as certified by the Board Secretary, that no budgetary account has been over-expended, in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.12 (a), (d).

#### **B. Approval of Transfers MAY 2026 \$31,700**

#### **C. Approval of Bill List JUNE 2026 \$335,657.67**

### **4. SUPERINTENDENT**

#### **A. Monthly Report**

1. Upcoming Items:
  - A. 6/19/2026 Business Office summer hours  
Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm
2. Student Enrollment as of **June 23, 2026 is 107.**
3. Suspension Report

|                   | <b>In</b> | <b>Out</b> |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Monthly</b>    | 0         | 0          |
| <b>Year Total</b> | 1         | 1          |

#### **C. Safety and Security**

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent,

approve the following Safety and Security Drills.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Type</b>      | <b># of Staff Present</b> | <b># of Students Present</b>          | <b># of Visitors Present</b> |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5/28/26     | 11:00am     | Fire Drill       | 23                        | 103                                   | 0                            |
| 6/04/26     | 10:00am     | Shelter in Place | 17                        | 87 (8th grade class trip in progress) | 1                            |
| 6/9/26      | 1:00pm      | Evacuation Drill | 21                        | 106                                   | 1                            |
| 6/11/26     | 1:00pm      | Fire Drill       | 19                        | 105                                   | 0                            |

**D. Field Trips**

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Field Trips. **N/A**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Grade(s)</b> | <b>Teacher(s)</b> | <b>Location</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|             |                 |                   |                 |

**E. Facilities Use**

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Facilities Use Requests. **N/A**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Event</b> | <b>Organization</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
|             |             |                 |              |                     |

**F. Personnel**

1. **RECOMMEND** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following personnel items for the **2026-2027 school year**.

| <b>Position</b>     | <b>Name</b>        | <b>Amount</b>    |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Aide                | Leslie Ale         | \$28,798         |
| Aide                | Ashley Danieli     | \$27,441         |
| Part Time Custodian | William Wheatley   | \$41,456         |
| Part Time Custodian | Billie Jean Mahieu | \$20.02 per hour |
| Part Time Custodian | Richard Harris     | \$23.55 per hour |

|                                                                |                    |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent                   | Leslie Kurtz       | \$45,679                                      |
| Part Time Confidential Secretary to the Business Administrator | Jonathon Cianfrani | \$28,500 plus mid year performance evaluation |
| Part Time Confidential Secretary                               | Rose Klotz         | \$22.09 per Hour                              |

**G. Curriculum**

**H. Professional Development**

1. **RECOMMEND** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Professional Development opportunities.

| Date      | Staff Member  | Workshop                                             | Location          | Cost                                      |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 7/16/2026 | Erica Polito  | School Safety and Security Symposium-Atlantic County | ACCC-Mays Landing | \$12.60 mileage reimb. & \$47.50 per hour |
| 6/27/2026 | Amanda Redrow | Future of Assessment Convening                       | Orlando, FL       | No charge to district                     |

**I. District Policies N/A**

| Policy Number | Policy |
|---------------|--------|
|               |        |

**J. Other**

1. QSAC - None at this time
2. Calendar Revisions - None at this time

**K. Evaluation Instrument**

1. **Motion** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Danielson as the Teacher Evaluation Tool, for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. **Motion** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the NJSBA as the Superintendent Evaluation Tool, for the 2026-2027 school year.

**M 1. Motion to approve Stipends and Summer Hourly Rate Positions:**

**2026-2027 School Year Stipend/Hourly Positions**

| Position | Name | Amount |
|----------|------|--------|
|----------|------|--------|

|                              |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Garden Club                  | Mary Crosson<br>Becca Platt  | \$250.00<br>\$250.00 |
| Cooking Club                 | Robin Jaindl<br>Liz Torroni  | \$250.00<br>\$250.00 |
| Sports Club                  | Helene Gross                 | \$47.50 per hour     |
| District Testing Coordinator | Robin Jaindl                 | \$1,500.00           |
| 8th Grade Advisor            | Jason Laning                 | \$1,000.00           |
| Yearbook Club Advisor        | Carla Stetser<br>Trish Rymas | \$500.00<br>\$500.00 |

**Summer 2026 Hourly Rate Positions**

| <b>Position</b>                                   | <b>Name</b>                                                                                         | <b>Amount</b>    |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cursive Writing Curriculum                        | Becca Platt - 3 Hours<br>Erica Polito - 3 Hours                                                     | \$47.50 per hour |
| Science Standards Updates K-3                     | Becca Platt - 2 Hours<br>Erica Polito - 2 Hours                                                     | \$47.50 per hour |
| Wilson / 8th Grade Curriculum<br>Resource Writing | Robin Jaindl - 5 Hours                                                                              | \$47.50 per hour |
| Behavior Charts / Discipline Updates              | Becca Platt - 2 Hours<br>Erica Polito - 2 Hours                                                     | \$47.50 per hour |
| AI Policy and Implementation Plan                 | Becca Platt - 4 Hours<br>Erica Polito - 4 Hours<br>Trish Rymas - 4 Hours                            | \$47.50 per hour |
| Master Scheduling                                 | Kristen Mull - 4 Hours<br>Erica Polito - 4 Hours<br>Trish Rymas - 4 Hours<br>Helene Gross - 4 Hours | \$47.50 per hour |
| CST Summer Meeting Coverages (as<br>needed)       | Becca Platt<br>Stephanie Mauriello<br>Trish Rymas<br>Erica Polito                                   | \$47.50 per hour |

**5. School Business Administrator**

A. **Motion** to appoint John J. Hansen as Interim School Business Administrator for the 2026-2027 School Year.

B. **Motion** to approve the Interim School Business Administrators/Board Secretary to make payments and/or transfers between meeting dates, and report said activity at the next board meeting.

C. **Motion** to approve a professional service contract with the Ford Scott Associates to complete the audit and management review of the school's records for the year ending June 30, 2026.

D. **Motion** to move up \$50,000 into Maintenance Reserve and to move up to \$100,000 to Capital Reserve as per NJDOE regulations.

E. **Motion** to approve the renewal of the Delta Dental Insurance program for a period July 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2029.

F. **Motion** to approve the renewal of the NJSIG Liability Insurance effective July 1st, 2026.

G. **Motion** to approve the Interim School Business Administrator to bind the cyber and other insurance policies not covered under the NJSIG coverage

H. **Motion** to approve 2026-2027 vendors as per NJDOE regulations.

I. **Motion** to approve JustBe Photography to provide professional school photography services to the Port Republic School District for the 2026-2027 school year.

J. **Motion** to approve Statement of Assurances - Lead in Drinking Water and School Security Drills as submitted prior to June 30, 2026.

K. Motion to submit a Dual Use of Classroom application to the executive county superintendent.

L. Motion to approve the renewal quote of IXL learning for the renewal period September 11, 2026 to September 11, 2027.

M. Motion to approve the shared services Agreement between the Port Republic School District and the Folsom Elementary School District to provide a CST Services as outlined in the agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.

N. **Resolution Urging Relief from Rising Public School Employee Health-Care Costs**  
**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 Port Republic Board of Education in the county of Atlantic 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 Port Republic Board of Education in the county of Atlantic 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, State Senator Vincent Polistina, Assemblyman Donald Guardian, Assemblywoman Maureen Rowan and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Approved by the Port Republic Board of Education this 23rd day of June, 2026.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ **Joy Hooper, President**

**MOTION ON CONSENT AGENDA ON ALL MOTIONS LISTED BELOW:**

**Routine Matters:** A - C  
**Superintendent:** A -M {M-added}  
**School Business Administrator:** A - N

**Motion:** Stevenson **Second:** Cox

| Member                | YES | NO |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Joy Hooper, President | X   |    |
| Kathryn Cox           | X   |    |
| Brenda Crema          | X   |    |
| Kristina Hanselman    |     |    |
| Brian Hartmann        | X   |    |
| Eric Stevenson        | X   |    |

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Kevin Wessler               |   |  |
| Jennifer Williams           | X |  |
| Jill Yochim, Vice President |   |  |

6. **NON-CONSENT AGENDA**-Items removed from the consent agenda.
7. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**
8. **OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC** (*public comment rules as read above apply*):
9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Executive Session - IN**

**MOTION to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues affecting employee #03643, potential litigation on another matter and superintendent evaluation. After the Board closes the executive session, any action taken will be conducted in the public session. The Board will be in executive for approximately 30 minutes and action will take action after.**

It is recommended that the Board of Education, by resolution, adjourn to Executive Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss student placement, personnel, litigation, negotiations, or any other matter appropriate for this session. The results of this session will be made public immediately after or as soon thereafter as a decision is reached, if permitted by law.

**Resolution for Executive Session:**

Whereas Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstance presently exist. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Port Republic Board of Education, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion and action upon hereafter specified matters. They are:
  - a. Any matter which by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential.
  - b. Matters dealing with Federal Funding
  - c. Discussion of any materials, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
  - d. Matters dealing with collective bargaining.
  - e. Matters dealing with the sale or purchase of public land.
  - f. Discussion of any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation.

**Motion:** Hartmann **Second:** Williams

| Member                | YES | NO |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Joy Hooper, President | X   |    |
| Kathryn Cox           | X   |    |

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Brenda Crema                | X |  |
| Kristina Hanselman          |   |  |
| Brian Hartmann              | X |  |
| Eric Stevenson              | X |  |
| Kevin Wessler               |   |  |
| Jennifer Williams           | X |  |
| Jill Yochim, Vice President |   |  |

**Executive Session – CLOSE**

**Motion to close the Executive Session and return to Open Session.**

**Motion:** Harper **Second:** Stevenson

| Member                      | YES | NO |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|
| Joy Hooper, President       | X   |    |
| Kathryn Cox                 | X   |    |
| Brenda Crema                | X   |    |
| Kristina Hanselman          |     |    |
| Brian Hartmann              | X   |    |
| Eric Stevenson              | X   |    |
| Kevin Wessler               |     |    |
| Jennifer Williams           | X   |    |
| Jill Yochim, Vice President |     |    |

**10. GOOD TO THE ORDER**

- A. Port Republic Parade Application
- B. Grant Opportunities-
- C. Board member petitions due July 27, 2026 by 4 pm at County Clerk's Office
- D. Next Board Meeting: July 21, 2026

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

**Motion:** Stevenson **Second:** Cox

**All in Favor:** Y

**Time:** 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Hansen  
Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary