



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

September 28, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Paulo Lopes, Chair
Linda Rad, David Rizza, Justina Ryan

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary
Dr. Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services
Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor (abs.)
Katie DaQuisto, Early Childhood Supervisor
Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor
Dr. Anthony Tumolo, Special Projects Supervisor
Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator (abs.)

Agenda

Strategic Goals: If you see, Academic Rigor (AR), Human Connection & Belonging (HC&B), Future Preparedness (FP), Fiscal Stewardship (FS) these agendas are tied to our goals.

1. **2025-2026 i-Ready (AR) Results.** Ms. Pauch presented Math results all but one grade level exceeded 100% typical growth, meaning gaps are closing district-wide.

Math highlights: K-2: 90% and 80% on-grade-level placement; growth 131-138% in 1st grade. 3rd grade: 80-86% ; (with new staff still over 100% growth). 4th-5th: highest growth rates; identical growth percentages; very low below-grade-level population 6th grade: 136% growth; solid placement 7th grade: slightly lower placement, but over 100% growth 8th grade remains an outlier, 44% typical growth; 57% within grade level

A board member mentioned that the high school claims sending districts are not preparing students and asked if the district is working with the high school. Ms. Pauch stated yes that they meet with them on a regular basis and will be meeting in the next few weeks. Ms. Pauch stated most students are placed in above grade level courses such as Algebra 2, geometry, and honors. Also 8th students are still meeting NJ GPA expectations.

Ms. Pauch also presented the reading results and strong growth across all grades most well above 100%. i-Ready does not measure writing and NJSLA scores writing.

Reading results: notable grades: 4th grade: 171% growth; placement slightly below typical (cohort flagged as at-risk in 3rd grade) Now highest-growth grade on the quadrant matrix; gaps largely closed 5th grade: 160% growth; 80% within grade level 6th–7th grade: over 100% growth; ~70% within grade-level band, 8th grade: over 100% growth; 65% within grade-level band.

Board member asked if 4th graders are performing better and Ms. Pauch stressed all are showing 100% growth. Dr Hart stated 4th grade has highest growth and one of the highest performing.

NJSLA scores received; full presentation planned for November 10th Board of Ed meeting

2. **Curriculum 2025-2030 Renewal** (AR, HC&B). Dr Hart: Curriculum is a 5-year rolling plan; subject to state standards changes. Current year focus: piloting and evaluating four areas Information literacy (library), world language, the arts, ELA grades 6–8

ESL programming: written over summer, now in initial implementation.

Fully implemented programs (review and refine only): math, health, science, K–3 STEM, gifted/talented ELA K–5, K–5 math.

Ms. Pauch stated curriculum changes coming to career readiness and life skills. This will impact every subject and could cause significant changes across all curriculum documents.

3. **Professional Development Plan (PDP)** (AR, HC&B, FP). The plan 26-27 was shared with the committee. Four district PD goals, all linked to strategic plans and 4 professional learning activities.
4. **Mentoring Handbook** (HC&B) The mentoring program is primarily run by administrators and staff coordinators including Dr. Tumolo, Mrs. DaQuisto (for preK) and the coaches.
Key changes this year include:
Roles clearly delineated in the handbook: mentor coordinators, principals, mentors, instructional coaches. Principals previously overlapping with coordinator duties; now separated.
Dr. Tumolo meets monthly with coordinators to address needs and plan.

Mentor vs. guide distinction:

Mentor: is paid, supports new teachers on instruction and culture and is state required. Guide: receives a flex day, supports staff who have experience teaching but need district acclimation.

New teacher orientation feedback: hires felt well-supported; several noted it was better than prior districts. Mentors can exit the program without judgment if overwhelmed; replacement arranged

A board member asked how the guide differs from last year and Dr. Tumolo stated it is more cohesive.

5. **Research Proposals** (AR): Three proposals presented to EdTech Committee; all require board approval (no district cost) i-Ready, Logic Games/NCTM Math Grade 4-5 and GeoMath grade 4-5.

i-Ready/NJSLA Correlation Study: i-Ready seeks to correlate i-Ready scores with new adaptive NJSLA test. No additional student information is shared.

The district then uses correlation to flag at-risk students and target standards-based interventions. Board approval covers de-identified data sharing

Holland Brook Teacher / TCNJ Logic Game Study: Teacher partnering with TCNJ professor on hands-on logic/token games for higher-level math. Parent notification letters required (involves instructional modification and sample collection), No additional district cost

Temple University GeoMath Baseball Study (Tentative in the spring): Teaches angle concepts using a baseball field model; grades 4–8. Holland Brook teachers are interested. Temple provides free PD, lesson plans, materials, and implementation support. Timeline not confirmed; likely spring at earliest

6. **QSAC Process**

Happens once every 3 years; 5 District Performance Review areas (DPRs)

- Instruction & Program: Ms. Pauch and Dr Brown
- Fiscal: Mr. Bohm and Ms. Marino
- Governance: Dr. Hart
- Operations: Ms. Burns
- Personnel: Mr. Bohm and Dr. Hart

Compliance threshold: 80% or above per DPR; below triggers a corrective action plan monitored by state. Evidence collection underway; folders being built and reviewed now

Key dates:

- October 28th: committee self-assessment review (Ed Tech Committee chair will attend)
- November 10th: board approves self-assessment; also NJSLA and research proposals on agenda
- November 15th: submission deadline to DOE
- February 17th: DOE onsite visit

Areas to watch:

- Instruction & Program: science NJSLA scores historically closest to 80% threshold; unclear if DOE will use old or new adaptive test data
- Fiscal: POs
- Operations: deadlines, volunteer training, student medical file compliance

Last cycle: passed all DPRs above 80%

Agenda items: NJSLA reported at November 10 BOE meeting, research proposals

Next Meeting: October 28th, 8:30am