Oakland Public Schools
Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, October13, 2026
5:45 PM

A Work Session of the Board of Education was held on October 13, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Mr. Scerbo.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on January 11, 2026, and October 1, 2026 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices, on the district website https://www.oaklandschoolsnj.org/board-of-education/legal-notice and copies sent to The Record Newspaper. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retains all rights regarding defamation and slander according the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call
The following members were present: Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Ms. Shelkin (arrived at 5:48 PM) and Mr. Scerbo.
The following members were absent: Ms. Cooper

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette M. Wells, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Michelle Andrawis, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Gregg Desiderio, Principal, Valley Middle School, Ms. Stacey Cherry Esq., Fogarty, Hara, LaPira & Cherry, and 0 members of the public

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli to enter executive session at 5:45 PM.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, legal issues, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and/or contract negotiations concerning the District, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION
The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:18 PM.

Dr. Coffaro presented the HIB grades as follows:

HIB Grades - Oakland PK-8 Schools

School	**2025-26 Score**	2024-25 Score	Score Improvement
Dogwood Hill	**76**	75	1
Heights	**75**	74	1
Manito	**76**	75	1
VMS	**77**	76	1
TOPS	**75**	64	11

Total Possible Score - 78

Indicators with Score of 2
All Schools achieved a 2 in this category
Indicator 1.C.: The school annually assessed HIB programs, approaches or other initiatives.

Manito, Heights and TOPS earned a 2 in this category
Indicator 3.D.: The members of the school safety/school climate team (SS/SCT) were provided with professional development in effective practices of successful school climate programs or approaches.

Dogwood, Heights and TOPS earned a 2 in this category
Indicator 5.C.: The school safety/school climate team (SS/SCT) met at least two times per school year to develop, foster and maintain a positive school climate by focusing on the ongoing, systemic process and practices in the school and to address school climate issues including HIB.

*TOPS score greatly improved across multiple indicators. The new team was brought up to speed on HIB processes, training, and programing to be in line with other schools across the district.

Dr. Coffaro reviewed items on the personnel agenda.

Ms. Wells discussed the Buildings and Grounds and Finance items on tonight's agenda.

Dr. Coffaro and Ms. Wells updated the board on the Heights univents.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Kilday that the meeting be adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary