

**WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
565 COUNTY ROAD 519  
BELVIDERE, NEW JERSEY 07823  
908-475-4773**



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 26, 2024**

For the Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education  
Monday, August 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the White Township Consolidated School Media Center.

*“White Township Consolidated School is committed to inspire, engage and educate our students by providing innovative, personalized opportunities for growth and learning. With a foundation based on academic excellence and a focus on social emotional learning, our students will achieve their full potential and become productive, responsible, resilient members of the community and contributing members of society.”*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Panetta called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act 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 either discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this provision of the act, the White Township Board of Education has sent notice of this meeting to the New Jersey Herald and the Express Times stating date, time, and place and posted the same in the White Township School and Municipal Building.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Robyn Gardella	<i>Present</i>	Mrs. Catherine Lensi	<i>Absent</i>	Mr. Frank Panetta	<i>Present</i>
Mr. Tim Havlusch	<i>Present</i>	Mr. Kevin Murray	<i>Present</i>	Mrs. Natalie Pinkerton	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. George Jonkoski	<i>Present</i>	Ms. Michelle Nusser-Meany	<i>Present</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Vesper	<i>Present</i>

Also present, Mr. William Thompson and Mrs. Lori Tirone.

## **V. CSA REPORT**

Mr. Thompson report on:

- Feasibility Study
- Kindergarten, Preschool, and New Student Orientation
- Increase in student population for 2024-2025 school year
- Teachers returning and Building is prepared
- Strategic Planning

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor**

President Panetta opened the public hearing for public comment. No one from the public made any comments.

## **VII. MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mr. Panetta to approve the following meeting minutes.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Board of Education meeting, held on the dates indicated as transcribed, be approved and filed.

July 29, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

On a voice vote, all present were in favor except Mr. Jonkoski abstained due to not attending the July 29, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

## **VIII. PERSONNEL - Mr. Panetta, Mr. Havlusch, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Vesper**

Mr. Panetta gave a committee update.

**MOTION** by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Personnel items 1 through 15.

### **1. Approve Principal Waiver Form**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a request for a waiver from the requirement of a full-time, non-teaching Principal for the 2024-2025 school year at the White Township Consolidated School.

### **2. Approve Basic Skills Coordinator Stipend**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Deirdre Mulligan as the Basic Skills Coordinator for a stipend of \$8,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **3. Approve Basic Skills Coordinator-State Testing & Standardized Testing Responsibilities Stipend**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Dawn Werkheiser for the responsibility as the Basic Skills Coordinator-State Testing and Standardized Testing Responsibility for a stipend of \$1,697 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**4. Approve Extracurricular Activity Positions**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following staff for Extra-Curricular activity positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Staff Member	Position	Year	Stipend
Stewart Quinn	Archery (Head)	8	\$3,140.00
Rosie Magyar	Art Show (Head)	2	\$2,669.00
Margaret Sheneman	Bell Choir/Chorus Advisor (Head)	10+	\$3,373.00
Deirdre Mulligan	G&T Afterschool Activities (Head)	10+	\$3,373.00
Nancy Wheatley	Jump Start (Head)	10"	\$3,373.00

**5. Approve Teacher In Charge**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Gary Hutchison as the Teacher In Charge for a stipend of \$6,400 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**6. Approve Substitute Principal**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Ryanne Bigelli as a Substitute Principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

**7. Approve National Junior Honor Society Coordinator**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Allyson Evans as the National Junior Honor Society Coordinator for a stipend of \$2,575 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**8. Approve Eighth Grade Class Advisors**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Tadgh LaBar and Jackie Rebimbas as Eighth Grade Class Advisors for a stipend of \$1,500 each for the 2024-2025 school year.

**9. Approve Home Instruction Personnel**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve all current certified staff to provide home instruction at the rate of \$45.00/hour for the 2024-2025 school year.

**10. Approve After Care Program Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following staff for the After Care Program positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Staff Member	Stipend
Robert Bunn	\$40.00/hour
Kathy Cavitch	\$40.00/hour
Anthony Marinelli	\$40.00/hour
Stewart Quinn	\$40.00/hour
Dana Yuhas	\$40.00/hour

#### **11. Approve World Language Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Alejandra Contreras as a .4 World Language Teacher shared with Harmony Township School District for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **12. Approve Student Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Student Teacher Kaitlyn Pavlock from Centenary University to complete her practicum experience in the fall semester and her student teaching experience in the spring semester at the White Township Consolidated School for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **13. Approve Professional Development - Conference**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Erika Puskas to attend the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Conference at Rutgers University October 21, 2024. The registration cost is \$90.00. It will be paid with Title II funding. She will receive \$.47 per mile.

#### **14. Approve Substitutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following groups of substitutes:

##### **Teachers:**

Beaman, Meghan  
Bunn, Robert  
Call, Terry  
Cavitch, Kathryn  
Clark, Elizabeth  
Formichelli, Cosmo  
Graham, Bonnie

Madonia, Heather  
Mahon, Aylia  
Meade, Deborah  
Gratacos, Amber\*  
Haney, Claire\*  
Hawk, Payton  
Porter, Kimberly

Smith, Abigail L.  
Taylor, Donna  
Thomas, Elizabeth  
Thompson, Emilia  
Van Horn, Jessica  
Wohlander, Jennifer

##### **Nurses:**

Conklin, Cindy  
Leatherman, Lauren

Titus, Pat  
Wheatley, Brianne

**Custodians:**

Fielding, Richard

Quigley, Duane

\* Pending Background Check.

**15. Approve Student Teacher**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Student Teacher Jen Wohlander to complete her student teaching experience in the fall semester at the White Township Consolidated School for the 2024-2025 school year.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

**IX. CURRICULUM** - Ms. Nusser-Meany, Mrs. Gardella, Mr. Jonkoski, Mrs. Pinkerton

Mr. Jonkoski gave a committee update.

**MOTION** by Mr. Panetta, seconded by Mr. Havlusch to approve Curriculum items 1 and 2.

**1. Tuition Contract - Technical High School**

**BE IT RESOLVED** to approve a Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Warren County Technical School District (receiving) for tuition charges of \$84,000. The cost per pupil of \$3,000 multiplied by an estimated daily enrollment of 28 students. There are credits in the amount of \$14,706 for the prior year.(11.000.100.563.000.000)

**2. Approve Curriculum Writing Services**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Inspired Instruction for curriculum writing services in the amount of \$1,631.25 as a part of a shared service with Lopatcong School District, Greenwich School District, Frelinghuysen School District, Hope Township School District, Belvidere School District and Harmony Township School District.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

**X. OPERATIONS** - Mrs. Vesper, Mr. Havlusch, Mr. Murray, Mr. Panetta

Mrs. Vesper gave a committee update.

**MOTION** by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve Operations items 1 through 16.

**1. Acceptance of the Financial Report June 2024**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the White Township Board of Education to certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10 further requires the White Township Board of Education receive and accept the monthly financial statements, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's reports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month ending June 30, 2024 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the White Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board Secretary and White Township Board of Education certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the district's financial obligation.

## **2. Approval of Budget Transfers for July 2024**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line-item accounts for each line-item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:22-8; and

**WHEREAS**, transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for the time period of July 2024 were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, that White Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for June in fiscal year 2024-2025, approved by the Chief School Administrator, so that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations.

## **3. Approval of August Bill List**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Boards of Education to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

**WHEREAS**, a list of bills for the month of August 2024 are being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified, approved and paid; and

**WHEREAS**, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the White Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, ratifies and approves the list of bills for payment in the sum of \$478,480.39 for August 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the White Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting.

#### **4. Approval to Enter Into A Cooperative Pricing Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency" has offered voluntary participation in a cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 26, 2024 the governing body of the White Township Board of Education, County of Warren, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services ; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

##### **TITLE**

This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the White Township Board of Education.

##### **AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Chief School Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

##### **CONTRACTING UNIT**

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

##### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

#### **5. Approve Related Services Rates**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following related services rates for the 2024-2025 school year with Warren County Special Services School District. There will be an additional 6% administration fee.

Service	Service Rate (Hourly)	Evaluation
Educational Support Services (LDTC)	\$95.50 - \$110.00	\$455.00
Psychologist Services	\$95.50 - \$110.00	\$455.00
School Counselor	\$95.50 - \$110.00	\$455.00
Speech Therapy	\$91.50 - \$105.00	\$455.00
Occupational Therapy	\$91.50 - \$105.00	\$455.00
Physical Therapy	\$95.50 - \$110.00	\$455.00
Teacher of the Deaf Services	\$148.00 - \$155.00	n/a

Behavioral Support Services (BCBA/Behavioral Supervisor)	\$95.50 - \$110.00 (3 hours/week minimum)	TBD
Social Work Services	\$82.50 - \$95.00	\$455.00
Reading Specialist	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Supplemental Instructor	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Basic Skills Instructor	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Home Instruction	\$70.50 - \$80.00	n/a

#### 6. Approve Parental Transportation Contract

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a parental transportation contract to transport KF3239745638 to and from Matheny School for the 2024-2025 at the cost of \$22,400.00

#### 7. Approval of Donation

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a donation of \$200.00 from Millie Rice to purchase school supplies for students needing assistance.

#### 8. Approve the Use of Facilities

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Media Center by the PTO from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm for PTO Meetings on the following dates:

09/11/24	11/13/24	01/08/25	03/12/25	05/14/25
10/09/24	12/04/24	02/12/25	04/09/25	

#### 9. Approve the Use of Facilities

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Cafeteria facility by the PTO for the Book Fair on September 23, 2024 through September 27, 2024.

#### 10. Approve the Use of Facilities

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the Gymnasium facility by the WTYAA from November 1, 2024 through March 15, 2025 from 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm for Winter Youth Recreational Basketball.

#### 11. Approval of Lunch Prices for 2024/2025

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve breakfast and lunch prices as follows:

Student Breakfast	\$2.25	Adult Breakfast	\$2.75
Student Lunch	\$3.75	Adult Lunch	\$4.25



**12. Approve the Indoor Air Quality Plan**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Indoor Air Quality Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

**13. Approve the Integrated Pest Management Plan**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

**14. Approve the Nursing Services Plan**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

**15. Approve School Physician**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Dr. Jeffrey Merkle as the School Physician at the rate of \$2,750 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**16. Approve Psychological Evaluation Provider**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Center for Assessment and Treatment located at 254B Mountain Avenue, Suite 300, Hackettstown, NJ to provide individual structured psychological interviews and assessments at a tentative cost of \$350 per assessment for the 2024-2025 school year.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

**XI. GOVERNANCE** - Mrs. Pinkerton, Mrs. Gardella, Mr. Jonkoski, Ms. Nusser-Meany

Mrs. Gardella gave a committee update.

**MOTION** by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mr. Murray to approve second reading of Governance items 1 through 13.

1. Adopt P #0141 Board Member Number and Term (Revised)
2. Adopt P #0141.1 Board Member Number and Term - Sending District (Revised)
3. Adopt P #2200 Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)
4. Adopt P & R #3160 Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
5. Adopt P&R #4160 Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
6. Adopt R #5200 Attendance (M) (Revised)
7. Adopt P #5337 Service Animals (Revised)
8. Adopt P #5350 Student Suicide Prevention (M) (Revised)
9. Adopt P #8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)

10. Adopt P & R #8467 Firearms and Weapons (M) (Revised)
11. Adopt P #9181 Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity  
Advisors/Assistants (Revised)
12. Abolish P #0164.6 Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M)
13. Abolish P #7231 Gifts From Vendors (M)

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

#### **XII. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Gardella**

Mrs. Gardella reported a resignation in administration and restructuring of administration. There is a change in the start time at the HS to 8:00 am, wood shop classes this year, fall sports, and discussions on the cell phone policy.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS**

**MOTION** by Mr. Panetta, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

#### **XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

The feasibility study was discussed. Presentation to the public in October 2024.

#### **XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

#### **XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor**

President Panetta opened the public hearing for public comment. No one from the public made any comments.

#### **XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mr. Panetta for the Board to enter into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor.

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board of Education discusses topics falling within certain specified exceptions to the requirement for public meetings;(N.J.S.A. 10:4-13) and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education wishes to discuss matters that fall within one or more of the statutory exceptions to open public meetings:

**BE IT RESOLVED** pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act(N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board adjourn from public session and enter into executive session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to personnel.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be. The Board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 45 minutes. Action will not be taken.

**BE IT RESOLVED** to return to Open Public Session at 7:24 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany for the Board to reconvene the public session.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor.

## **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mr. Murray.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori A. Tirone  
Board Secretary