

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



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2025**

For the Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education
Monday, February 24, 2025, 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 6:37 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. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE DULY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Thompson administered the Oath of Office to:
Natalie Pinkerton

V. 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>Absent</i>	Mrs. Natalie Pinkerton	<i>Present</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.

VI. CSA REPORT

- **Presentation of Student of the Month for February**

Mr. Thompson reported on:

- Budget 25/26
- Strategic Planning
- Upcoming dates.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor

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

VIII. MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Vesper 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.

January 27, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes

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

IX. PERSONNEL - Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Robyn Gardella, Mr. Havlusch, Mr. Murray

No committee update provided.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Personnel items 1 through 3.

1. Approve Substitutes

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

Teachers:

Barofski, Madison

Graham, Bonnie

Pavlock, Kaitlyn*

Beaman, Meghan
Bunn, Robert
Cavitch, Kathryn
Clark, Elizabeth
Denker, Sara*
Formichelli, Cosmo

Gratacos, Amber
Hawk, Payton
Kotulick, Barbara
Madonia, Heather
Mahon, Aylia
Meade, Deborah

Porter, Kimberly
Stein, Jeanne
Smith, Abigail L.
Taylor, Donna
Thompson, Emilia
Torres, Chenel
Wohlander, Jennifer

Nurses:

Conklin, Cindy
Leatherman, Lauren

Lennox, Genevieve
Titus, Pat

Wheatley, Brianne

Custodians:

Fielding, Richard

Quigley, Duane

* Pending Background Check.

2. Approve Retirement

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve with regret the resignation of Nancy Wheatley for the purposes of retirement upon the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Approve Extracurricular Activity Position

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Anthony Marinelli as the Video Club Production Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost of the club will not exceed \$900.

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

X. CURRICULUM - Ms. Nusser-Meany, Mr. Jonkoski, Mrs. Pinkerton, Mrs. Vesper

Ms. Nusser- Meany provided a committee update.

MOTION by Mr. Panetta, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Curriculum items 1 through 8.

1. Approve Fundraiser

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Student vs Faculty Basketball Game Fundraiser for the 8th Grade Class.

2. Approve Fundraiser

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Drama Apparel Fundraiser for the Drama Club. All proceeds will go towards props and drama items.

3. Approve Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Margaret Sheneman to attend a professional development conference, "American Young

Voices,” on March 5th at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. There is no fee for this workshop. The mileage of 57 miles will be reimbursed.

4. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the 2nd grade to visit the DaVinci Science Center on May 27, 2025. Cost per pupil is \$17.00 and a cost for transportation.

5. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the 3rd grade to visit the DaVinci Science Center on May 29, 2025. Cost per pupil is \$17.00 and a cost for transportation.

6. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the 2nd grade to visit the Pequest Trout Hatchery on April 15, 2025. Cost per pupil is \$5.00 and a cost for transportation.

7. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an overnight field trip for the 8th grade to visit Gettysburg on May 29, 2025 through May 30, 2025. Cost per pupil is \$330.00.

8. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for the Drama Club to visit Jacob’s Theatre in New York City on April 17, 2025. The cost per pupil is \$125.00.

9. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip for selected 8th grade students to visit a Teen Summit at Centenary University on March 20, 2025. The cost per pupil is \$0.

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

XI. OPERATIONS - Mrs. Gardella, Mr. Havlusch, Mr. Murray, Mr. Panetta

Mrs. Gardella provided a committee update.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Operations items 1 through 4.

1. Acceptance of the Financial Report January 2025

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 January 31, 2025 is 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 January 31, 2025; 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 January 2025

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 January 2025 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 January 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 February 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 February 2025 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 \$690,463.26 for February 2025; 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. Waiver of Requirements for Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(b), the White Township Board of Education approves the filing of a waiver of participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the 2025-2026 school year, due to the district projecting an enrollment of less than 40 Medicaid eligible students per the October 15, 2024 ASSA report.

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

XII. GOVERNANCE - Mrs. Vesper, Mr. Jonkoski, Ms. Nusser-Meany, Mrs. Pinkerton
Committee update

MOTION by Mr. Panetta, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve Policy item 1.

1. Approve Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Second Reading on the following Policy Updates:

- P 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
- P 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M) (Revised)
- P 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Revised)
- R 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Revised)
- P 5533 Student Smoking (M) (Revised)
- R 5533 Student Smoking (Revised)
- P 5701 Academic Integrity (Revised)
- P 5710 Student Grievance (Revised)
- P 7441 Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M) (Revised)
- R 7441 Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M) (Revised)
- P 8500 Food Services (M) (Revised)
- P 9320 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)
- R 9320 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)

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

XIII. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Gardella

Mrs. Gardella reported on winter sports.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor

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

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Vesper for the Board to enter into Executive Session at 7: 06 p.m.

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

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 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 legal matters.

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 30 minutes. Action may be taken.

BE IT RESOLVED to return to Open Public Session at 7:36 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Vesper for the Board to reconvene the public session.

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

XVIII. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mr. Panetta to acknowledge receipt of 1 HIB investigation deemed a HIB (#4).

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

XIX. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

MOTION by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the White Township Education Association and the White Township Board of Education.

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

XX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Vesper.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



William Thompson
Chief School Administrator