

**Toms River, New Jersey, October 16, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools took place at High School North, 1245 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Board President Ms. Kathy Eagan read the following Opening Statement:

“Good Evening, Welcome to a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools.”

“This meeting was announced to the public through a notice published in The Star Ledger and the Asbury Park Press on October 1, 2024, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Ms. Kathy Eagan led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OATH OF OFFICE – UNTIL THE TERM EXPIRATION DATE WHICH IS THROUGH DECEMBER 2025**

The oath of office was administered by Board Attorney William Burns to the following approved Board member.

***Beachwood Borough***  
*Katie Coyne*

**ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE**

A roll call of attendance indicated the following Board Members were present: Mr. James Capone, Mrs. Katie Coyne, Mrs. Jennifer Howe, Mr. Kevin Kidney, Mrs. Paola Pascarella, Mrs. Anna Polozzo, Mr. Joseph Nardini and Ms. Kathy Eagan.

Mrs. Ashley Lamb arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Citta, Assistant Superintendents DiMeo, Ricotta, Thomas, Business Administrator Doering, Board Secretary Saxton, and Board Attorney Burns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:05 P.M.**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mr. Kidney and carried that the following Executive Session Resolution be approved:*

Resolved, that the Board of Education, at this time, move to a closed session to be held in High School North Executive Session Meeting Room, 1245 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, New Jersey, for the purpose of:

Executive Session Resolution – To *Include* – RICE #10711, #15567; Personnel; Legal Litigation Update; Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report; Fire & Security Drill Report; Suspension Report; Other. Subject to change.

as outlined under the Open public Meetings Act.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.**

*A motion was made by Mr. Nardini, seconded by Mrs. Howe and carried that the Board return to Regular Session at 7:30 P.M.*

*All members present voting Aye.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Ms. Kathy Eagan led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Michael Citta shared a moment of silence for two Toms River School students, Leigha Cirillo and Ingrid Rivera-Zuniga.

Superintendent Michael Citta stated the following:

To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, families, and community:

Anyone paying attention to what's happening in Toms River Regional Schools and if I know this community well, which I do, that includes most if not ALL of you— knows what's going on. So much of what you're hearing and reading lately is a distraction from the true problem confronting our school community. I therefore don't want to beat around the bush, but get right to the point.

When you hear pointed accusations that this district and school board are responsible for raising your taxes— we did not, and in fact this board voted down the budget that included the tax hike it is both false and a distraction.

When you hear that we've been holding political rallies in schools, it's both false and a distraction. Our political and legal education classes have hosted candidates or representatives from both major parties for many, many years. We've hosted mock trials, have had students participate in a Model Congress, and invited guest speakers who are Republican, Democratic, and independent. You can easily look up all of this, as we've always been transparent about it.

When you hear we're being forced to sell one or more of our schools to make ends meet, like what's happening in Jackson that is not true. It is both false and a distraction.

This frustrates me on a personal level, sure. I try my best to be candid and up front about what's facing this district and community, and to address and denounce these distractions. Hopefully you watched our roundtable discussion with three of our amazing students, which we recorded last week. This was not the first such video we've recorded. I provide updates at every monthly board meeting. We hosted Town Hall meetings last spring. I speak openly and honestly to our local and statewide media contacts, and my door is always open.

More importantly, this frustrates me as a member of this community. Because I've been clear since Day One about where the problem lies, which is Trenton, New Jersey. The problem is that Trenton has taken millions of dollars in state aid away from us. Our attention should be focused on Trenton because the solution is in Trenton.

The fact that your taxes have been raised by the State Department of Education— and again, not this board— for example, IS part of the problem. The finger-pointing about who's responsible moves us away from that fact. Trenton is responsible. Not anyone here in our community.

The fact that I have to explain how our PLE classes work is ridiculous and annoying. But it's part of the plan. THEIR plan.

These distractions and falsities are strategic. The attempts to fracture this community in our moment of crisis are appalling, yes, and they're also intentional, and they must be refuted.

I understand and accept that, as superintendent, I'm often the target of these attacks and distractions. Do I want to be on the front of the Asbury Park Press with a headline that contains the word "disgusting?" Not really! But that's fine. So long as everyone in this community sees these distractions for what they are, and remains educated on the actual problems that face us, who's responsible for them, and who's working toward a solution.

There are two things I'd like to ask this community. One, stay educated. You have some very important decisions approaching in the coming days, weeks, and months. As I've noted here, we've worked hard to relay the truth, the realities we're facing, and the facts at hand, and it's all out there to read, watch, and digest. Find your way to the truth, and let that guide your decisions.

Two, stay united. I've said before that we must stand strong, together and united in this effort to restore our state funding, and even if it sounds like a cliché, it's absolutely true. We must oppose the state's will, which is to cause the demise of this community. That is not an exaggeration. They want to see Toms River Regional Schools and our community fail. The proof is in the millions of dollars they've taken from our students, their unwillingness to work toward a solution, and our literal lawsuit against them.

Know that when they attack me, they are in fact attacking you and undermining this community's values. So please, let us stand strong, and loud, and together in this fight. Let us recognize the distractions so that we can ignore them, and let us remain bound and united by our tried and true mantra:

**WE ARE TR!**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives from all three high schools updated Board on the academic and athletic successes taking place at their respective schools, as well as events taking place and fund raising activities.

Ryan Macom, High School East  
Gabriela Kostova, High School North  
Sophia Citta, High School South

### **STUDENT/STAFF AWARDS**

The list of student, staff and volunteer award recipients is attached to the minutes.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Budget & Finance Committee – Mrs. Polozzo**

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools met on October 9, 2024 at High School North Media Center, Toms River, New Jersey from 6:00 P.M. to 6:13 P.M. The meeting was streamed for public viewing. Committee Chair, Anna Polozzo, read the following opening statement:

“Good evening, welcome to the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools. Notice of this meeting was published in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger on October 1, 2024, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

In addition to the Committee Chair, in attendance were Board members- Kathy Eagan, Jennifer Howe, Ashley Lamb, Joe Nardini and Paola Pascarella, Superintendent- Michael Citta, Assistant Superintendents- Jim Ricotta, Cara DiMeo and Pat Thomas, Business Administrator- Bill Doering, Board Secretary- Wendy Saxton and Board Attorney- William Burns. The meeting was open to the public and an opportunity for in-person public comment was provided after the last committee meeting of the evening.

As we do every month, the committee reviewed the expenditures listed in the Purchasing Agenda, which was emailed to the Board, and posted in the Board's Google Docs folder, prior to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The Purchasing Agenda also included items of zero value, bids, change orders and resolutions. Purchasing Agenda questions by various individual Board members were answered by Mr. Doering and other members of the administration. The Purchasing Agenda for this month is in the amount of \$15,408,314.58 for the 2024-25 school year. The Budget & Finance Committee is recommending the approval of the Purchasing Agenda by the full Board.

Next, the committee was then presented with District lease, sponsorship and other rental agreements totaling \$7,600 for the month of October 2024 (2024-25 cumulative total is \$60,784) and these are also recommended for approval at the regular board meeting.

The committee was then advised that the bonds were sold on October 2, 2024 in conjunction with the previously authorized 2017 ESIP bond refunding. The projected savings were estimated at approximately \$600,000 total (\$40,000/year) with a net present value savings of 3.6%, and the district is pleased that the actual bond sale resulted in total savings of approximately \$1,000,000 (\$71,000/year) with a net present value savings of 6.78%. The closing for the bond refunding is scheduled for October 15, 2024.

Finally, Mr. Citta advised the committee that the district is working in collaboration with Steve Corso (retired Superintendent/Business Administrator) and Princeton Logistics to provide supplies for Hurricane Helene relief to be delivered to Buncombe County, North Carolina.

### **Building & Grounds Committee – Mr. Nardini**

The ESIP & Building Initiative Committee of the Board of Education of Toms River Regional Schools met on October 9, 2024, starting directly after the curriculum committee meeting.

Mr. Nardini read the following opening statement: "Good evening and welcome to the ESIP & Building Initiative Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Toms

River Regional Schools. Notice of this meeting was announced to the public through a notice published in the Asbury Park Press and the Star-Ledger on October 1, 2024, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

In attendance were board members Joe Nardini, Paola Pascarella, Anna Polozzo, Ashley Lamb, Jennifer Howe, and Kathy Eagan, Superintendent Mike Citta, Business Administrator William Doering, Assistant Superintendents James Ricotta, Cara DiMeo, and Pat Thomas; Manager of Facilities- Sam Pepe, Manager of Capital Projects Mark Wagner. The meeting was open to the public. An opportunity for public comment was provided.

## **ESIP PROJECTS**

The Intermediate South and Citta Elementary Energy Management Project- All work is complete and the project is closed out. The district is now completing smaller, energy saving projects with remaining funds.

## **BUILDING INITIATIVES PROJECTS**

Projects recently completed were reviewed including: Site 181-Group 2 (HS North, Intermediate South, Early Learning Center) Colliers continues to work on a resolution with Newport Construction on the Nesbit units, which are installed at HS North. They have had recent discussions with Newport and their subcontractors, and will be sharing an update on this issue shortly. Site 172A- District Wide Security project with JCT Solutions. Most punch list items have been completed and JCT is providing final close out documents next week including warranty information, updated as-built documents, operation and maintenance manuals, and camera model product data records.

Projects currently under construction were reviewed including: Site 186A- Group 4 (HSS, PBE, WSE) Site 188- Group 6 (HSE, EDE, SBE) Newport Construction Company ( NCC) is down to a small list of remaining open items including some glass replacement at WSE secure vestibule & failed compressor at HSS D23 (these items are covered under warranty). Colliers will be providing the final closeout documents in the very near future for both projects.

The district received final AIA credit change orders and final pay applications for both projects. These documents are in review at this time.

## **PROJECTS-NEW**

Mr. Wagner shared that we are looking into replacing the boiler at Intermediate North during the 2025-2026 school year. A revolving door at JBAC was beyond repair and has been replaced. A new dishwasher has been installed at South Toms River Elementary along with a new playground at STR Elementary that was grant funded. District staff also installed new dishwashers at North Dover, West Dover and Pine Beach Elementary Schools. Intermediate South kitchen equipment needed a compressor replacement and that project has been completed.

## **PROJECTS-OLD**

Mr. Wagner provided an update on site 174 Intermediate South construction project that is moving forward with Remington Vernick, Becht B.T, Pravco, with district representatives onsite daily to check on progress and as built conditions. Phase 1 & 2 will be completed within days except for some canopy roof work where we are awaiting material delivery. The window replacement project for West Dover and Washington Street, Site 196 grant project, has been delayed due to the window manufacturer. Windows for the West Dover Elementary School are scheduled for the end of next week and we are scheduling installation dates with the contractor and school administration.

This project will begin on October 14th after school hours. The boiler replacement project for 1144 Hooper is moving along at this time. We have received a recommendation from Colliers Engineering to perform an additional round of testing of the monitoring wells at our maintenance facility located at 123 Walnut Street, that has been completed and we await the results. Our grounds department has been working to replenish fall zone material at all playground locations. Facilities continue to accomplish this work, along with daily work orders that continue to be sent to the department daily with our reduced staff.

## COMMUNICATION

The district received 3 requests from Gutami Solar LLC, to lease district owned property.

### Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Lamb

The Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education of Toms River Regional Schools met on October 9, 2024, within a virtual live-streamed meeting on the internet, beginning at 6:15 PM.

Committee Member, Ashley Lamb, read the following opening statement: “Good evening and welcome to the Curriculum Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Toms River Regional Schools. Notice of this meeting was announced to the public through a notice published in the Asbury Park Press and The Star Ledger on October 1, 2024 which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

In attendance were Board President Kathy Eagan, board members Jennifer Howe, Paola Pascarella, Anna Polozzo Ashley Lamb & Joseph Nardini. Assistant Superintendents- James Ricotta, Cara DiMeo, & Pat Thomas, Business Administrator William Doering and Board Secretary Wendy Saxton were in attendance, as well. The meeting was live streamed to the public and an opportunity for public comment was provided.

Ms. DiMeo opened the meeting with a quick snapshot of the agenda. Mrs. Cicala, Director of Curriculum, provided details about the recently held district DEAC Committee meeting, which was held to review proposed changes to two indicators on the nurses’ evaluation rubric.

Mr. Green presented the 2023-24 district assessment results from the AP and SAT exams.

Mr. Fastnacht presented the results from the 2023-24 state assessments, including the NJSLA, ACCESS and DLM.

Comments and questions ensued from members of the board.

**Personnel Committee – Mrs. Howe**

A Personnel Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools took place at the High School North, Guidance Office, 1245 Old Freehold Rd., Toms River, New Jersey on October 9, 2024 at 5:43 p.m. This meeting is not publicly advertised as the committee reviews personnel information which includes names of individual staff members as well as possible new staff members.

In attendance were committee members, Kathy Eagan, Board President, Jennifer Howe, Ashley Lamb and Anna Polozzo. Also in attendance were Pat Thomas, Assistant Superintendent, James Ricotta, Assistant Superintendent, Cara DiMeo, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Citta, Superintendent, Megan Osborn and William Burns, Esq.

The meeting was opened at 5:43 p.m. by Jennifer Howe, Michael Citta, Superintendent, discussed with the members, extra curricular and staffing at the board meeting on Wednesday October 16, 2024.

The committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**Policy Committee – Mrs. Lamb**

The Policy Committee of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools took place at HSN Guidance Office on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 5pm.

In attendance were Ashley Lamb, Anna Polozzo, Kathy Eagan and Jennifer Howe, Superintendent Michael Citta, Assistant Superintendents, James Ricotta Jr., Cara DiMeo and Patrick Thomas. Assistant Superintendent Patrick Thomas, presented the following:

- P 2415.60 Beachwood Title I-School Parent and Family Engagement (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Section 1116(a)(2)
- P&R 3160 Physical Examination (M) 42 US 12101N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-5 N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3
- P&R 4160 Physical Examination (M) 42 US 12101N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-5 N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

- P 5337 Service Animals (R) N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.3 28 CFR §35.136 28 CFR §36.104
- P 5350 Suicide Prevention (M) N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112 N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.; 6A:14-1.1
- Discussion only: P 2422 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education

Members of Central Administration answered questions regarding the policies and regulation.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS AND PRESS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY** (*limited to 3 minutes as per Board Policy # 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings, the first public session will be limited to a total of 30 minutes*)

Public comments were heard by Krista Whittaker.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, CARA DIMEO PRESENTS THE 2023-2024 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR DETERMINING GRADES UNDER THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT**

On January 5, 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act was signed into law to strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating and responding to incidents of HIB of students that occur on school grounds and off school grounds under specified circumstances.

The State Commissioner of Education revised the NJDOE model HIB policy which was shared with individual school districts to aid them in the revision of their own policies in order to align them with the amended law.

A program was designed by the Commissioner of Education to grade each public school and school district in their efforts to implement the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. The program of self-assessment was developed in consultation with experts in anti-bullying strategies and school climate improvement and representatives from various districts throughout the state. This self-assessment document was revised in 2022-23.

Based on feedback that the NJDOE received from the field during the first year of implementation. Additionally, in school year 2021-2022 the policy language included the addition of the 338 form, which provides families an opportunity to make an anonymous report about an alleged incident.

As it is each year, the Commissioner's program and Guidance for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act was distributed to all of our school anti-bullying specialists.

The first step of the grading program was for each school through its school safety/school climate team to complete a self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR.

This self-assessment tool is organized into eight core elements which include various HIB programs, trainings, curriculum, HIB personnel and HIB incident reporting and investigation procedures. All documentation of compliance is maintained at the school level.

Each indicator is organized into categories of compliance and each level is assigned a score equivalence. All scores are added together to come up with individual school grades, all school grades are then added together and averaged to come up with a district grade.

Tonight I am here to share the scores for our district and the number of incidents reported, investigated, and deemed acts of HIB. The self-assessment portion of the score for our district is -77 out of a possible 78 points. When broken down by level:

High School- 76/78

Intermediate- 77/78

Elementary- 77/78

During the 2023-2024 school year 294 acts of HIB were reported and investigated, of those 93 were confirmed as HIB according to statute. This number reflects a total reduction of approximately 100 investigations; a true testament to the work all schools are doing to promote a positive climate and foster strong relationships in all schools.

This self-assessment serves as an opportunity to reflect upon our progress in implementing the law and to reinforce and strengthen our HIB prevention and intervention programs, policies and practices.

Administrators from each of our 18 schools have shared HIB data with staff members, analyzed such data and targeted specific areas to focus efforts to promote

positive school culture and climate. Our school district plans to further assess strengths and vulnerabilities for learning by conducting our annual school climate survey and using this data to measure our program implementation.

This report is reflective of the efforts of our staff in all areas of school life:

Our school safety/school climate teams, parents, students, nurses, student assistance counselors, guidance counselors, secretaries, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, our school resource officers, safety officers, and other support staff.

This year the objective(s) of each safety team are to continue to review disciplinary & HIB data to identify trends and set goals for improvement. Teams have been asked to engage community stakeholders to provide current based education and support for students and staff. Our teams will also be auditing student education to identify any gaps.

All members of our school community have received training and updated communication on ABR as well as continue to implement and update programs and activities designed to promote a positive school climate.

Each school has assigned one person to serve as anti-bullying specialist and one administrator as a liaison to the district wide committee. These people volunteer countless hours to trainings, investigations, program planning and additional school safety team meetings. We recognize and acknowledge the hard work by these individuals and all members of our school community who share in the goal of providing our young people with a safe and positive learning environment.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR THE 2023-2024 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR DETERMINING GRADES UNDER THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT (ATTACHED)**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Lamb and carried that the Motion for the Approval of Resolution for the 2023-2024 New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (Attached) be approved.*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF THE M-1, COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN AND CAPITAL RESERVE CALCULATOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

*A Motion was made by Mrs. Howe, seconded by Mrs. Polozzo and carried that the Motion for the Approval of Submission of the M-1, Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Capital Reserve Calculator to the Department of Education be approved.*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND BYLAWS AS LISTED IN THE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Nardini and carried that the Approval and Adoption of the First Reading of the Following Policies, Regulations and Bylaws as listed in the Agenda be approved.*

{ Code = (M) Mandated; (R) Recommended }

- P 2415.60 Beachwood Title I-School Parent and Family Engagement (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Section 1116(a)(2))
- P&R 3160 Physical Examination (M) 42 US 12101N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-5 N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3
- P&R 4160 Physical Examination(M) 42 US 12101N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-5 N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3
- P 5337 Service Animals (R) N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.3 28 CFR §35.136 28 CFR §36.104

- P 5350 Suicide Prevention (M) N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112 N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24 N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.; 6A:14-1.1
- P 2422 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (M) N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2; 18A:35-5.4; 18A:37-17; 18A:40-33; 18A:35-4.23a; 18A:35-4.23; 18A:35-4.26; 18A:35-5; 18A:40A-1; 18A:35-5.1 through 5.3; 18A:7F-4.3; 18A:35-4.3; 18A:35-4.19 through N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.22; 18A:6-111 through 113; 18A:35-4.28 and 18A:35-4.29; 18A:35-4.32 and 4.33; 18A:35-4.35 and 4.36; 18A:35-4.34; 18A:35-4.5a; 18A:35-4.36a; 18A:35-4.38; 18A:35-4.39; 18A:35-4.40; N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43; 18A:35-4.7; 18A:35-5, 7, and 8; 18A:35-4.31; 18A:37-13 et seq

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS #15 THROUGH #20 AS LISTED IN THE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the Approval of the Agenda Items #15 through #20 as listed in the Agenda be approved.*

**15. Approval of the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report**

**16. Approval of District Facility Lease, Sponsorship and other Rental Agreements (attached)**

**17. Approval of the Fire & Security Drill Report**

**18. Approval of Minutes: (Regular and/or Executive, where applicable)**

*September 11, 2024 (revised)*

*September 18, 2024*

**19. Approval of Bills:**

<b>General</b>		\$	<b>13,634,001.02</b>
<b>Cafeteria</b>		\$	<b>73,062.37</b>
<b>Payroll (Gross)</b>	<b>September 6, 2024</b>	\$	<b>4,816,213.83</b>
<b>(Gross)</b>	<b>September 13, 2024</b>	\$	<b>6,247,513.72</b>
<b>(Gross)</b>	<b>September 27, 2024</b>	\$	<b>6,194,253.36</b>

**20. Board Secretary's Agenda**

**School Year 2024-2025**

*Purchases – Pages 1 through 43 - \$ 15,408.314.58*

**Zero Values**

**Contract Extensions**

**Contract Renewals**

**Permission to Advertise**

**Award of Bids**

**Student Transportation**

**Jointures**

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF THE BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2024**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22.1.11(c), I, Wendy Saxton, Board Secretary, certify that as of August 2024 no budgetary line items account has obligations and payments (contracted orders) which exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1, that the district's accounts have been reconciled and are in balance.

Through the adoption of this resolution, we the Toms River Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-2.11(c), certify that as of August 2024 after a review of the Secretary's monthly report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the Business Administrator and other appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-2.11 (c) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's needs.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mr. Kidney and carried that the Approval and Certification of the August 2024 Secretary's Monthly Financial Reports be approved:*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan  
Noes: None  
Recused: None  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None*

**PERSONNEL AGENDA (# 1-25) + ADDENDUM (# 26-32)**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Howe, seconded by Mr. Nardini and carried that the following Personnel Agenda (# 1-25) + Addendum (# 26-32) be approved:*

**PERSONNEL ITEMS 1-25**

**CERTIFICATED STAFF 1-7:**

**1. Recommended for Employment:**

**{Code = (R) Replacement; (TR) Temporary Replacement; (New) New Position}**

A.	<u>Amanda Nowicki</u>	(R)	\$
	CG Sped Aut	10/17/2024 - 6/30/2025	60,230.00 (prorated)
B.	<u>Jessica O'Donnell</u>	(R)	\$
	WAL Kindergarten	10/17/2024 - 6/30/2025	57,030.00 (prorated) (Re-Hire)

**2. Recommended Change of Employment:**  
**{Code = (R) Replacement; (TR) Temporary Replacement; (New) New Position}**

	<u>Change to:</u>	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Matthew D. Smith</u> IS Life Skills	HSE Assistant Principal 10/17/2024 - 6/30/2025	99,154.00 (Prorated)

**3. Recommended Degree Changes/Salary Adjustments effective 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025:**

	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Joyce Kaack</u> HSS Spanish	MA	MA+30	+1,000

**4. Recommended Change of Contract Start Date:**

A. <u>Angel Orellana</u> HSN Sped RR	9/25/2024
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**5. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:**

A. <u>Employee #15270</u> HSE Sped Aut	Family	1/16/2025 - 4/7/2025
B. <u>Employee #11399</u> JAC Basic Skills	Family	10/24/2024 - 11/6/2024
C. <u>Employee #16433</u> ED Kindergarten	Family	1/2/2025 - 3/31/2025
D. <u>Employee #15850</u> ED Kindergarten	Maternity	10/14/2024 - 12/20/2024
E. <u>Employee #15382</u>	Family	1/24/2025 - 4/17/2025

	WAL Grade 4	Maternity	4/18/2025 - 6/30/2025
F.	<u>Employee #13741</u> HA Art	Family	9/23/2024 - 10/25/2024
G.	<u>Employee #15726</u> IS Life Skills	Family	11/18/2024 - 11/27/2024

**6. Resignations:**

A.	<u>Hope L. Sarana</u> ND School Nurse	10/19/2024
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**7. Retirement:**

A.	<u>Colette F. Jurasinski-Urso</u> WAL Grade 1	2/1/2025
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**STAFF FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS 8-12:**

**8. Title I Approvals: (Attached)**

- A. Recommend approval for the attached list of employees to receive payment under Title I Funds for the school year commencing 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.

**9. Title I SIA Approvals: (Attached)**

- A. Recommend approval for the attached list of employees to receive payment under Title I SIA Funds for the school year commencing 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.

**10. Title III “English for Adults” Program Approvals: (Attached)**

- A. Recommend approval for the attached list of employees to receive payment under Title III and Title III Immigration Funds for the school year commencing 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.

**11. Hispanic Heritage Program Approvals: (Attached)**

- A. Recommend approval for the attached list of employees to receive payment under the listed budget accounts for the Hispanic Heritage Program for the school year commencing 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.

**12. Basic Skills Program Approvals: (Attached)**

- A. Recommend approval for teachers (staff TBD) to be voucher paid for Basic Skills instruction under the listed budget account commencing October 2024 through June 2025.

SUPPORT STAFF 13-22:

**13. Business Office:**

- A. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

<u>Carolyn M. Lavin</u>	(R)	\$47,500.00
AES/Employee Benefits Coordinator	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

**14. Secretarial Services:**

- A. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #15180</u>	Family Ext.	10/19/2024 – 1/12/2025
HSE Guidance Secretary	Medical	1/13/2025 – 6/30/2025
<u>Employee #17464</u>	Medical	11/21/2024 – 12/16/2024
HSS Guidance Secretary		

**15. Special Education Paraprofessionals:**

- A. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

<u>Laura M. Amato</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
SB Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

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<u>Robyn Bergman</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
ELC Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Samantha V. Cambert</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
BW Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>David M. Campau</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
SB Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2025 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Jessica L. Dalton</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
ELC Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Katherine Y. Elizondo-Mata</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
WD Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Adriana R. Goni</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
WD Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Mary T. Grekoski</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
ND Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Katherine M. Hollingworth</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
ND Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Yeimy Y. Linares-Barbosa</u>	(R)	\$20,630.00
HSE Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Samantha R. Luongo</u>	(R)	\$23,424.00
WAL Tier I Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Emma C. McCaulley</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00
IS Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Maheen M. Mirza</u>	(R)	\$20,630.00
WD Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Mirsada Pelinkovic</u>	(R)	\$20,130.00

Toms River, New Jersey, October 16, 2024

ED Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Karen B. Wohl</u>	(R)	\$21,130.00
IS Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

B. Recommended change of salary:

<u>Danielle Dyer</u>	9/23/2024 – 6/30/2025	+\$500.00
ELC Tier I Paraprofessional	(Non-Cert BA Stipend)	
<u>Dana M. Shapiro</u>	9/23/2024 – 6/30/2025	+\$500.00
IS Tier I Paraprofessional	(Non-Cert BA Stipend)	

C. Recommended change of employment:

	<i>Change to:</i>	
<u>Sophia Boehm</u>	WAL Tier I Paraprofessional	\$23,424.00
WAL Tier II Paraprofessional	10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

D. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #15944</u>	Family	9/1/2024 – 9/29/2024
HSN Tier II Paraprofessional		(Revised leave end date)
	Medical	10/1/2024 – 10/16/2024
		(Rescind leave dates)
<u>Employee #17041</u>	Personal	11/1/2024 – 2/12/2024
WS Tier I Paraprofessional		

E. Resignations:

<u>Carole M. Conaghan</u>	10/1/2024
ELC Tier II Paraprofessional	
<u>Alyssa Fornicola</u>	9/1/2024
JAC Tier II Paraprofessional	

Sandra Mauro 10/8/2024  
PB Tier II Paraprofessional

Leonard M. Paschall 9/1/2024  
WD Paraprofessional

**16. Cafeteria/Playground Aides:**

A. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

Lindsay Janocko (R) \$6,855.28  
Walnut Street 10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025 (Prorated)

Marilyn L. Scilla (R) \$6,855.28  
West Dover 10/21/2024 – 6/30/2025 (Prorated)

B. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

Employee #10111 Personal 10/1/2024 – 10/15/2024  
East Dover  
Employee #14101 Personal 10/21/2024 – 11/6/2024  
Hooper Ave

C. Resignations:

Maria Kofman 10/1/2024  
West Dover

**17. Custodial Department:**

A. Recommended for employment and approval to attend training to receive Black Seal/Low Pressure License to be reimbursed upon issuance of license at a cost of no greater than \$465.00.

**Toms River, New Jersey, October 16, 2024**

- |                            |                        |             |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Freddie H. Williams</u> | (R)                    | \$47,769.28 |
| CG Night Supervisor        | 10/17/2024 – 4/18/2025 | (Prorated)  |
- B. Recommended for employment beyond the probationary period:

		<u>Effective Dates:</u>
<u>Jason E. Celentano</u>	SB Night Custodian	10/19/2024 – 6/30/2025

**18. Food Services Department:**

- A. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

<u>Virginia Aguilar Tapia</u>	(R)	\$9,512.10
WAL Cafeteria Worker	10/17/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)
<u>Raven N. Frontiero</u>	(R)	\$9,512.10
IE Cafeteria Worker	10/17/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

- B. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

<u>Timothy A. Paar Jr.</u>	(R)	\$9,512.10
WAL Cafeteria Worker	10/17/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

- C. Recommended salary adjustments/hourly changes effective 10/1/2024 – 6/30/2025:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Revised Hours</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Christie A. Cohen</u>	PB Cafeteria Worker	5	16,194.75

- D. Recommended for placement on the substitute list at a rate of \$15.13 per hour effective 10/17/2024:

Anne E. Wnorowski

**19. Grounds Department:**

- A. Suspension without pay:

Employee #10711

9/25/2024 – 9/27/2024

**20. Maintenance Department:**

A. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #16184</u>	Family	10/14/2024 – 1/4/2025
Tradesman - Carpenter		

**21. Security Department:**

A. Recommended Salary Adjustments:

<u>Daniel G. Shufeldt</u>	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	+\$1,000.00
Security Guard	(Shift Differential Stipend)	(Prorated)

**22. Transportation Department:**

A. Recommended for Employment:  
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

<u>Jill L. Phillips</u>	(R)	\$25,435.80
Sped Bus Attendant	10/17/2024 – 6/30/2025	(Prorated)

B. Recommended salary adjustments/hourly changes effective 10/1/2024 – 6/30/2025:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Revised Hours</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Keith W. DePhillips</u>	Regular Bus Driver	8	44,243.00
<u>Scott W. Reiss</u>	Sped Bus Attendant	8	31,305.60

C. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #16822</u>	Family	9/23/2024 – 11/18/2024
Regular Bus Driver	Ext.	

D. Recommended for placement on the substitute Bus Driver’s list at a rate of \$27.00 per hour effective 10/17/2024:

Charles DeLuca  
Claudia E. Starling

E. Suspension with pay:

Employee #15567                      10/1/2024 – 10/16/2024

F. Terminated:

Employee #15567                      10/17/2024

**23. Extracurricular:**

A. Half Year Extracurricular Recommendations & Payments Updates and Additions (2024 – 2025):

<u>Daniela Benitez Toledo</u>	IS Spanish Heritage Club	-\$405.80
<u>Lori A. Gelormine</u>	HSE Flag Squad	+\$981.25
<u>Laura A. Kinlin</u>	IN Tech Club	+\$405.80
<u>Sandra L. Murdoch</u>	IN Tech Club	-\$405.80
<u>Riley VanDeventer*</u>	HSE Flag Squad	-\$981.25
<u>Betty L. Velez Gimbel</u>	IS Proofreader	-\$307.00

B. Winter 2024 – 2025 Coaching Recommendations & Payments: (Attached)

High Schools East, North and South  
Intermediates East, North and South

*\*On Approved Sub List*

**24. Substitute Nurses/Athletic Trainer/Secretaries/Administrators (Attached)**

**25. Off Payroll Report (Attached)**

**PERSONNEL ITEMS 26-32**

**CERTIFICATED STAFF 26:**

**26. Recommended Degree Changes/Salary Adjustments effective 9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025:**

	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Beth M. Blaine</u> IE Health/Phys Ed	BA	MA	+3,200
B. <u>Michelle L. LeFevre</u> IE Spanish	BA	MA	+3,200

**SUPPORT STAFF 27-30:**

**27. Special Education Paraprofessionals:**

A. Resignation:

Heather R. LaForte 11/7/2024  
HSE Tier II Paraprofessional

B. Retirement:

Cathleen A. Scuderi 7/1/2025  
IS Tier II Paraprofessional

C. Recommended Change of Contract Start Date:

David M. Campau 10/28/2024  
SB Tier II Paraprofessional

D. Transfers for the 2024-2025 school year: (Attached)

**28. Custodial Department:**

A. Terminations:

Employee #17523

10/26/2024

**29. Food Services Department:**

A. Recommended Change of Contract Start Date:

Maria Policriti

9/23/2024

IN Cafeteria Worker

B. Recommended salary adjustments/hourly changes effective 10/17/2024 – 6/30/2025:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Revised Hours</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Nicole A. Svenson</u>	IE Cafeteria Worker	5	15,999.75

**30. Security Department:**

A. Recommended for Employment:

{ Code = (R) Replacement }

Michael D. Durante, Jr.

(R)

\$34,500.00

Security Guard

11/1/2024 – 6/30/2025

(Prorated)

**31. Continuing Education Unit Credits (Attached)**

**32. Substitute Nurses/Athletic Trainer/Secretaries/Administrators (Attached)**

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: Howe #23B*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ITEMS (# 1-8)**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lamb, seconded by Mrs. Polozzo and carried that the following Educational Programs Items (# 1-8) be approved:*

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ITEMS 1-8**

1. **Application for Reimbursement of Professional Graduate Courses (Attached)**
2. **Donations:**
  - A. Recommend the attached be accepted with thanks.
3. **Educational Activity Requests (Attached)**
4. **Extracurricular:**
  - A. Recommended approval for High School North Bowling to host the Rule the River Bowling Tournament on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This event will take place at the Ocean Lanes in Lakewood, NJ. The event will be at no cost to the Board of Education.
  - B. Recommended approval for High School South to host the Roll with the Indians Invitational Bowling Tournament on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This event will take place at the Ocean Lanes in Lakewood, NJ. The event will be at no cost to the Board of Education.
5. **Funded Programs:**
  - A. Recommend approval of the Ocean County Health Department Alcohol Education: Safe and Smart Contracts for the 2024-2025 SY (Attached)
6. **Graduate Reimbursement (Attached)**
7. **Student Services:**
  - A. Out-of-District Day Placement Requests (Attached)

- B. Tuition Pupils Received Requests (Attached)
- C. Tuition Pupils Sent Requests (Attached)
- D. Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Requests (Attached)

**8. Recommended Professional Leave Requests (Attached)**

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Capone, Coyne, Howe, Kidney, Lamb, Pascarella, Polozzo, Nardini, Eagan*

*Noes: None*

*Recused: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Kevin Kidney showed his appreciation for Pine Beach Elementary School celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> year open as one the oldest buildings in the District, thanked Mrs. D’Amico and the T.E.A.M. students who exemplify what unity means, and discussed Hurricane Helene and Milton fundraisers.

Mrs. Katie Coyne introduced herself as representing the town of Beachwood, thanked the board for the warm welcome, looks forward to serving families in the community, and will support them to the best of her ability and with their best interest in mind.

Mrs. Anna Polozzo thanked the staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, building secretaries and custodians who have guided the students in their education and expressed her gratitude to everyone who came out to show their support, and students support wearing purple by supporting the passing of a student.

Mrs. Ashley Lamb thanked Mrs. Coyne for supporting her community, thanked Mr. Citta for leading the community spending countless hours working to advocate for the District and fight for the students and staff, thanked the Board for their unity working

together for the same common goal, thanked Board Attorney William Burns for being so helpful with the law suit, and wished Mrs. Howe good luck on her upcoming election.

Mrs. Jennifer Howe discussed the fundraiser donation collection for the hurricane victims, the Kindness Campaign, senior themed days, the High School East girls' soccer team who refinished the bathrooms, thanked the High School East Varsity Football coach for agreeing to play a football game last minute with the Field of Dreams, discussed state test scores, and the school unity for the passing of a student.

Superintendent Michael Citta discussed the District's Professional Development Day, data dive into the student's state test scores, and was proud of the District's educators and the growth of the students in spite of the lack of funds in order to support the District's needs, challenges and hurdles that come with a population that sometimes was transient with South Toms River Elementary having one of the largest growth models per child in the entire District. Superintendent Michael Citta discussed the pathways and hurdles that some of the District's students have to overcome, graduating with the same opportunities, the staff's commitment to closing gaps and achieving success for struggling students. Superintendent Michael Citta discussed that education was not looking at an individual, their percentages and scores in ELA or math, education is the journey from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, to post-secondary school and those student's achievements tell a strong story about who we are as a District.

Mr. Joe Nardini stated he was an advocate for the Kindness Campaign, that his grandchildren love sharing stories with him and every story was about an act of kindness. Kindness begins with the District's amazing teachers, administration and staff.

Ms. Kathy Eagan, thanked all for their support at the Board of Education Meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS AND PRESS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY** *(limited to 5 minutes as per Board Policy # 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)*

Public comments were heard by Robyn Gudzak.

Public comments were heard by Kim Davis.

Public comments were heard by Chris Raimen.

Public comments were heard by Krista Whittaker.

Public comments were heard by Jamie Tesaro.

Public comments were heard by Scott Campbell.

Public comments were heard by Nicholas Lion.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Mr. Nardini, seconded by Mrs. Polozzo and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:24 P.M.*

*All members present voting Aye.*

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*Wendy L. Saxton, Board Secretary*