

Toms River, New Jersey, October 15, 2025

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 15, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

Board President Mrs. Ashley Lamb 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 Asbury Park Press and The Star Ledger on September 4, 2025, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

A roll call of attendance indicated the following Board Members were present: Mrs. Maria Matarazzo, Mr. Joseph Jubert, Mrs. Katie Coyne, Mrs. Lisa Contessa, Ms. Kathy Eagan, Mrs. Paolo Pascarella, Mr. James Capone, and Mrs. Ashley Lamb.

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

Mr. Kevin Kidney was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:31 P.M.

A motion was made by Mrs. Contessa, seconded by Ms. Eagan 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 – To *Include* – RICE # 16445, #17365, #16749, #11585; Personnel; Legal Litigation; 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 – 6:33 P.M.

A motion was made by Mrs. Coyne, seconded by Mrs. Contessa and carried that the Board return to Regular Session at 6:33 P.M.

All members present voting Aye.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Mrs. Ashley Lamb led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Michael Citta welcomed everyone for attending the meeting and cleared up some misinformation and to talk about the conceptual plan of the possibility of a Special Education school in the District. Superintendent Citta promised to always take into consideration whether an idea is good for the students, does it support our staff and does it benefit our taxpayers, and the District's most at risk students in the best way possible. Superintendent Citta stated Toms River Regional Schools District has 18 schools with many people and stakeholders who have attended meetings and had conceptual conversations with surrounding county superintendents, Department of Education, and the county director of services, before bringing this concept to our staff. Conceptually, the idea laid out in concept form was well received for a lot of reasons. Superintendent Citta stated this could provide many opportunities for all students and this is being the beginning of a year-long process that may take even longer to develop. This was not a plan hatched or decided by the Board, this is not a plan to put the District's most at risk students locked away in a building and not provide mainstreaming opportunities. That could not be further from the truth. All of these plans are with the intention that all of our students should benefit including our most at risk with more mainstreaming inclusion opportunities which includes more benefits to all of our students. Superintendent Citta stated if there is potential for the betterment of students and the reallocation of dollars that benefits our taxpayers and our community, and with the District's financial crisis within this community and the potential for significant savings and reallocations to save programs and do things for kids, why not. Superintendent Citta stated, this is not about dollars and saving our budget, this is about the dollars that we spend and spending them the best way for all of our students

combined. When you have a \$30 million dollar budget hole year after year, if you initiated a plan or even talked about a plan that would affect children and programs, that would be filling a bucket, and a hole that takes away from students. That is not what this is. It is not a secret this District's enrollment in the last 10 years has significantly decreased about 1,300 students. At one point, the District had 17,000 strong in a model that actually had 2 middle schools, Kindergarten through 6th grade in our elementary schools, along with 3 high schools. However, while enrollment has decreased on the north side of town, our demographics have shifted exponentially. The District has gone up in our Special Education population from about 2,500 students to 3,207 students. In that same time, the District has grown from 30 self-contained programs to over 107 and growing. Our budget in that area has gone from \$38 to \$39 million dollars to what will be at the end of this year \$75 million dollars. Superintendent Citta stated if we don't address or talk as a community about how to best serve our kids and stay with status quo and hope for the state to do their fair share to the lowest spending district in Ocean County and in the State of New Jersey but specifically in Ocean County, what happens? Nothing good. Superintendent Citta stated those services have increased because of the needs of our students. The IEP's and the programs, and costs have gone up tremendously due to Related Services, Nursing, OT/PT, all these things are driving costs that are growing, in addition to Out of District Schools. The District has 116 Out of District students that are in programs with the average price for an Out of District student which runs between \$90,000 to \$150,000 per student. Superintendent Citta asked his Special Education Directors to go and visit these schools and look at the programs, and assess what these students are getting, and what they need in order to be successful, because obviously our District could not meet success for those 116 students inside the District which is why they are out of the District, what are they providing and how much does it cost if we had the resources in this District to do it ourselves and to do it in their backyard, and to do it where we can have the eyes of our loving community support our students. That price tag on average is closer to \$65,000 to \$70,000 per student. You are looking at \$8 million dollars a year and if you become a hub for the county, you are talking about lots of money that goes back to paying for all of the education of all 14,500 in a way that could be in the best interest of all of our kids. There has not been one decision about a program, a staff member, or anything, that would go into this model other than this is a concept and based on the homework that Superintendent Citta and his team has done, has a potential to bring lots of opportunities to a lot of students, but we cannot create those opportunities without the input of our community, our parents, and our teachers in developing the mindset for this or the programs for such savings. There are musts that have to happen, which start with the kids. There needs to be more

opportunity for children, more opportunity for mainstreaming and inclusion for a least restrictive environment, a reallocation of our transportation system to bring back with those savings before and after school programs for our elementary, middle and high schools. Superintendent Michael Citta is confident of the potential with everything that we do without adding \$1 to this budget to do this in a way we can sustain a community that has thrived for generations. We are the sixth largest municipality in the State of New Jersey with over 100,000 residents. We are an urban district without the urban funding, without the skyscrapers, without the urban feel. Superintendent Michael Citta stated many have moved their homes to Toms River because of the model that we have here in Toms River and moved here because generations upon generations have built a community surrounded by local community residential schools that you entrust to bring your children to in order to get on a pathway to get to three magnificent high schools to have the experiences that we knew when we were children and hope to create those same opportunities for those kids moving forward. By looking at the possibilities and investing in the community dialogue and concepts to do these things, we could possibly create and maintain that integrity for our District, but it has to be good for all of our students. There are many things that need to be discussed. Superintendent Citta stated he has put timelines on his planning, but if we do not meet our timelines, there is no guarantee given a very bold timeline for a 26-27 school year bringing the 6th graders back into the elementary schools and possibly doing a countywide specialized service building. This is going to be a collective conversation over the next few months, and I already tasked our transportation department to see how we can bring back the Mercedes Benz of transportation to make sure that kids are not on buses for two to two and a half hours a day to different programs, that things are in our own backyard, that we can have before and after school programs, basic skills and extra-curricular. What does that look like for 6th graders if they go back? Do you bring back elementary sports and opportunity for those things? Superintendent Citta stated, we can build all of that and would like to build it together and have those inputs together with the Board and our community. Superintendent Citta stated we recognize and understand that human reaction is always when you talk about trying to be progressive and you are trying to talk about doing something that is a little outside the box but strongly believes this could be good for kids and be the model for not only the county and the state, but also the country. Superintendent Citta discussed that we have to get control of out of control costs because if we maintain the status quo, we're going to end up right back where we have a \$30 million dollar problem a year, and as a community we could solve our own problem if we're willing to have those conversations and get together, listen to each other, take feedback to develop something that could possibly be really beneficial to all of our kids.

Superintendent Citta is excited about the conversations and the input we receive. This is not about putting children in a building and not looking at a student's IEP and giving them what they need or giving them the mainstream experience or the inclusion experience they so well deserve and need. This is about expanding and creating more of that. Superintendent Citta looks forward to all of the conversations and meetings he is going to have in the next couple of months and encourages everyone to get involved and open their eyes to what a possibility this can be. Superintendent Citta stated it is my job as the Superintendent of this District that we are extremely proud of to make sure we stay ahead of the curve and we talk to our students openly and come up with solutions together. If you are willing to have that conversation, have the input and talk through this process that is at its infant stages, we can do something remarkable. Superintendent Citta appreciated, and thanked everyone for their time and looks forward to future dialogue.

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.

Makayla Milanak, High School East
Alessia LoBello, High School North
Makayla Manzi, High School South

STUDENT/STAFF AWARDS

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

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)*

There were none.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, CARA DIMEO PRESENTS THE 2024-2025
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. A program was designed by the Commissioner of Education to grade each district in their efforts to implement the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights.

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. The 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. Each indicator is also 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- 78/78

Elementary- 77/78

During the 2024-2025 school year 254 acts of HIB were reported and investigated, of those 73 were confirmed as HIB according to statute. This number reflects a total reduction of 40 investigations; (the year prior we were down almost 100)...a true testament to the work all schools are doing to promote a positive climate and foster strong relationships in all schools. Additionally, we are proud to share that two of our elementary schools had NO investigations reported.

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

This year our continued area of focus is on implementing a districtwide K-12 community service program, to further our mission of fostering compassion and empathy and strong relationships.

Thank you to our anti-bullying specialists and administrators who serve as liaisons 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 THE RESOLUTION FOR THE 2024-2025 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. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the Approval of the Resolution for the 2024-2025 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: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

APPROVAL OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE M-1 HEALTH & SAFETY EVALUATION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS CHECKLIST FOR 2025-2026 COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN AND CAPITAL RESERVE CALCULATOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A motion was made by Mrs. Coyne, seconded by Mr. Jubert and carried that the Approval of the Submission of the M-1 Health & Safety Evaluation of School Buildings

Checklist for 2025-2026 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Capital Reserve Calculator to the Department of Education be approved.

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

APPROVAL OF THE NJQSAC DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 (ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Mrs. Coyne, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the Approval of the NJQSAC District Performance Review for School Year 2025-2026 (Attached) be approved.

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

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

A motion was made by Mr. Jubert, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the Approval of the First Reading of the Following Policies/Regulations and Bylaws as listed in the Agenda be approved.

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

- P 5516 - Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Revised)
- P 5516 - Use of Electronic Communication Devices (New)

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF SECOND READING OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES/REGULATIONS AND BYLAWS AS LISTED IN THE AGENDA

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

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

- P 0173 - Duties of Public School Accountant (Revised)
- P 0177 - Professional Services (M) (Revised)
- P 1570 - Internal Controls (M) (Revised)
- P 1570 - Internal Controls (M) (Revised)
- P 6220 - Budget Preparation Policy (M) (Revised)
- P 6220 - Budget Preparation Policy (Revised)
- P 0161 - Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation (Revised)

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Contessa, 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 17, 2025

19. Approval of Bills:

General	\$	10,510,019.62
Cafeteria	\$	34,199.89
Payroll (Gross) September 5, 2025	\$	4,927,465.79
(Gross) September 12, 2025	\$	6,310,552.33
(Gross) September 26, 2025	\$	6,268,464.10

20. Board Secretary's Agenda + Addendum

School Year 2025-2026

Purchases – Pages 1 through 36 - \$ 4,402,932.65

Award of Bids	Student Transportation
Jointures	Permission to Advertise
Resolutions	

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF THE BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22.1.11(c), I, Wendy Saxton, Board Secretary, certify that as of August 2025 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 2025 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 Mr. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Contessa and carried that the Approval and Certification of the August 2025 Secretary's Monthly Financial Reports be approved:

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

PERSONNEL AGENDA (# 1-19) + ADDENDUM (# 20-31)

A motion was made by Mrs. Contessa, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the following Personnel Agenda (# 1-19) + Addendum (# 20-31) be approved:

PERSONNEL ITEMS 1-19

CERTIFICATED STAFF 1-8:

1. Recommended for Employment:

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

A.	<u>Nicole R. Watts</u>	(R)	\$
	IS School Nurse	10/16/2025 - 6/30/2026	58,825.00 (Prorated)

2. Recommended Change of Employment:

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

A.	<u>Michelle C. Tursi</u>	<u>Change to:</u>	\$
	SB Tier 1 Paraprofessional	HSN Interpreter (R) 11/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	54,801.00 (Prorated)

3. Recommended Change of Contract Start Date:

A.	<u>Alayna Galati</u>	11/18/2025
	STR Health/Phys Ed	
B.	<u>Melissa Parente</u>	9/29/2025
	WS Sped Aut	
C.	<u>Danielle M. Passarelli</u>	10/6/2025
	ND PSH Aut	
D.	<u>Ali M. Radwin</u>	10/10/2025
	HSN Art	

4. Recommended Degree Changes/Salary Adjustments effective 9/1/2025 - 6/30/2026:

	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Angelina Zhirova</u> JAC ESL	BA+30	MA	+1,500

5. Recommended Salary Adjustments:

		<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Amy A. Ackerman-Ruch</u> HSS Spanish	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching one extra period per day)	+11,727.50 (Prorated)
B. <u>William T. Dowd</u> IN Math Gr. 7	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching one extra period per day)	+11,665.00 (Prorated)
C. <u>James P. Francis</u> HSS Spanish	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching one extra period per day)	+12,802.50 (Prorated)
D. <u>Yamilette I. Henke</u> IS Spanish	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching two extra periods per day)	+12,502.50 (Prorated)
E. <u>Erica L. Marra</u> HSN ESL	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching one extra period per day)	+12,065.00 (Prorated)
F. <u>Timothy J. O’Leary</u> HSS SPEAR	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching one extra period per day)	+12,552.50 (Prorated)
G. <u>Dyane K. Passarella</u> HSS ESL	10/3/2025 - 6/30/2026 (teaching two extra periods per day)	+22,106.25 (Prorated)

6. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

A.	<u>Employee #14621</u> JAC Basic Skills	Family Medical	9/22/2025 - 9/28/2025 9/29/2025 - 12/23/2025
B.	<u>Employee #13217</u> HSE Science	Family Ext.	9/20/2025 - 10/10/2025
C.	<u>Employee #17768</u> SB Teacher of the Deaf	Medical	9/18/2025 - 10/10/2025
D.	<u>Employee #16064</u> STR School Nurse	Family	10/14/2025 - 12/23/2025
E.	<u>Employee #16439</u> ND Preschool	Family	1/20/2026 - 4/22/2026
F.	<u>Employee #16786</u> ND Sped PSH Aut	Maternity	11/25/2025 - 6/30/2026
G.	<u>Employee #15382</u> WAL ESL	Maternity	12/1/2025 - 3/20/2026
H.	<u>Employee #15006</u> HSE Social Studies	Family	10/14/2025 - 2/27/2026

7. Retirements:

A.	<u>Brian E. Blake</u> IN Assistant Principal	1/1/2026
B.	<u>Amy L. Casais</u> ED Sped RR	1/1/2026
C.	<u>Deborah A. Schwartz</u> IN Supervisor of Instruction	1/1/2026

- D. Dennis K. Weidenbush 1/1/2026
HSE Social Studies

8. Resignations:

- A. Mariela B. Camejo 10/24/2025
WAL Speech Language
Specialist
- B. Jerilee Herrera 11/8/2025
IS Spanish
- C. Patrice R. Mazza 11/5/2025
IS BCBA
- D. John J. Ruhl 11/1/2025
HSN Technology

STAFF FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS 9-11:

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 9/1/2025 - 6/30/2026.

10. Ocean County Jail Teacher Approvals: (Attached)

- A. Recommend approval for the attached list of employees to receive payment for aiding inmates at the Ocean County Jail for the GED from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

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 9/1/2025 - 6/30/2026.

SUPPORT STAFF 12-18:

12. Special Education Paraprofessionals:

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

		\$
<u>Robert A. Baudo</u>	(R)	21,960.00
IS Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)
		(Re-Hire)
<u>Damaris Cambert</u>	(R)	21,960.00
HA Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)
<u>Yamillet Correa Rosario</u>	(R)	22,460.00
STR Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)
		(Re-Hire)
<u>Christopher F. Matias</u>	(R)	21,960.00
IS Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

B. Recommended Change of Employment:
{Code = (R) Replacement}

	<u>Change to:</u>	\$
<u>Lourdes V. Costa</u>	WASH Tier 2 Paraprofessional	21,960.00
WASH Cafeteria/Playground	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

C. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #13737</u>	Family	9/26/2025 - 10/25/2025
SB Tier 2 Paraprofessional		

D. Retirements:

<u>Carole L. Colella</u>	9/1//2025
WAL Tier 2 Paraprofessional	(correction from resignation)

E. Resignations:

Michelle Trautweiler 9/22/2025
WAL Tier 2 Paraprofessional

13. Cafeteria/Playground Aides:

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

<u>Kathleen A. Graciano</u>	(R)	\$
East Dover	10/20/2025 – 6/30/2026	7,095.21 (Prorated)

B. Recommended for placement on the substitute list at a rate of \$15.49 per hour:

	<i>Effective Dates</i>
<u>Theresa Bonassisa</u>	10/16/2025
<u>Lisa A. Bova</u>	10/04/2025
<u>Christine Mielnicki</u>	10/16/2025

C. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

<u>Employee #15677</u>	Medical	10/6/2025 – 10/10/2025
ND Cafeteria/Playground Aide		(Revised leave start date)

D. Resignations:

Lisa A. Bova 10/4/2025
Joseph A. Citta

14. Custodial Department:

A. Recommended for employment beyond the probationary period:

		<i>Effective Dates:</i>
<u>Nely Aguilar Benitez</u>	WAL Night Custodian	10/2/2025 – 6/30/2026
<u>Virginia Aguilar Tapia</u>	CG Night Custodian	10/19/20 – 6/30/2026

Jacob D. Doberentz STRE Night Supervisor 10/19/2025 – 6/30/2026

- B. Recommended for placement on the substitute list at a rate of \$17.82 per hour effective 10/16/2025:

Wayne Cooperman
Damaris H. Mata
Russell A. Nicosia
Frank J. Faliveno Jr.

- C. Recommended Salary Adjustment:

<u>Thomas F. Scollan</u>	9/29/2025 – 6/30/2026	+\$600.00
HA Head Custodian	(Black Seal Stipend)	(Prorated)

- D. Suspension without pay:

<u>Employee #16749</u>	9/30/2025 – 10/2/2025
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- E. Suspension with pay:

<u>Employee #17365</u>	9/26/2025 – 10/8/2025
<u>Employee #16749</u>	10/3/2025 – until further notice

- F. Terminations:

<u>Employee #16445</u>	9/24/2025
<u>Employee #17365</u>	10/9/2025

15. Food Services Department:

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

<u>Carol A. Baviello</u>	(R)	\$
IE Cafeteria Worker	10/16/2025 - 6/30/2026	9,980.10

B. Recommended Change of Employment:

<u>Julie M. Pulvirenti</u>	CG “Acting” Lead	\$40,661.00
CG Cafeteria Worker	Cafeteria Worker	(Prorated)
	9/22/2025 – 10/31/2025	

C. Recommended Salary adjustments/hourly changes effective 9/29/2025 – 6/30/2026:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Revised Hours</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Jennifer L. Lappino</u>	WAL Cafeteria Worker	4	13,423.80

D. Recommended for placement on the Substitute list at a rate of \$15.49 per hour effective 10/16/2025:

Maria Del Oilar Agapito Salas
Debra A. Margolin
Carolyn Stone

16. Maintenance Department:

A. Recommended for employment to complete the probationary period:

<u>Gerard A. O’Malley</u>	Tradesman – HVAC	<u>Effective Dates:</u> 9/20/2025 – 11/20/2025
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B. Recommended Salary Adjustment:

<u>Ryan C. Crisalli</u>	9/29/2025 – 6/30/2026	+\$1,200.00
Tradesman - Locksmith	(Tradesman License Stipend)	(Prorated)

17. Technology Department:

A. Recommended Leave of Absence Request:

<u>Employee #16892</u>	Family	10/8/2025 – 10/9/2025
Tradesman – Computer Serv		

Technician

18. Transportation Department:

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

		<u>\$</u>
<u>William P. Galgano</u>	(R)	31,449.60
Sped Bus Attendant	10/16/2025 - 6/30/2026	(Prorated)
<u>Kris E. Holiday</u>	(R)	35,838.00
Reg. Bus Driver	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)
<u>Michelle Moran</u>	(R)	35,838.00
Reg. Bus Driver	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

B. Recommended salary adjustments/hourly changes effective 10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Revised Hours</u>	<u>\$(Prorated)</u>
<u>Robert Delucia</u>	Reg Bus Driver	8	45,208.00
<u>David Felton</u>	Sped Bus Driver	8	45,208.00

C. Recommended for placement on the Substitute Bus Driver’s list at a rate of \$27.00 per hour effective 10/16/2025:

Brian J. Riley

19. Extracurricular:

A. Extracurricular New Club Recommendations:

HSS HOSA-Future Health Professionals
HSS Investment and Stock Market Club
HSS Volleyball Club

PERSONNEL ITEMS 20-31

CERTIFICATED STAFF 20-22:

20. Recommended Leave of Absence Requests:

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| A. | <u>Employee #14040</u>
HSE Math | Family | 1/22/2026 - 4/2/2026 |
| B. | <u>Employee #13217</u>
HSE Science | Family
Ext. | 10/11/2025 - 10/19/2025 |
| C. | <u>Employee #16901</u>
IS Guidance | Family
Maternity | 11/24/2025 - 4/22/2026
4/23/2026 - 6/30/2026
(revised leave dates) |

21. Retirements:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| A. | <u>Dennis K. Weidenbush</u>
HSE Social Studies | 11/1/2025
(revised date) |
|----|---|-----------------------------|

22. Certified Job Description: (Attached)

- A. Recommend approval of the attached certified job description:

Literacy Instructional Coach

STAFF FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS 23:

23. Title III 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 9/1/2025 - 6/30/2026.

SUPPORT STAFF 24-28:

24. Secretarial Services:

A. Recommended Change of Employment:

	<u>Change to:</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Lynn White</u>	Trans Admin Asst.-TREA	56,474.00
Transportation Secy (12 Mos.)	11/1/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

25. Special Education Paraprofessionals:

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

	(R)	<u>\$</u>
<u>Sophia M. Rivera</u>		21,960.00
STR Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/20/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

B. Recommended Change of Employment:
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

	<u>Change to:</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Christine G. Shecton</u>	PB Tier 2 Paraprofessional	21,960.00
PB Cafeteria/Playground Aide	10/16/2025 – 6/30/2026	(Prorated)

C. Rescind Employment Offer (Not Accepting Position):
{ Code = (R) Replacement }

	(R)	<u>\$</u>
<u>Robert A. Baudo</u>		\$21,960.00
IS Tier 2 Paraprofessional	10/16/2025 – 6/30/3036	

26. Custodial Department:

A. Termination during probationary period – verbal acceptance of resignation:

<u>Employee #17781</u>	10/8/2025
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27. Food Services Department:

A. Recommended Continued Change of Employment:

<u>Julie M. Pulvirenti</u> CG Cafeteria Worker	CG “Acting” Lead Cafeteria Worker 11/1/2025 – 11/7/2025	\$40,661.00 (Prorated)
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B. Recommended Leave of Absence Request:

<u>Employee #15683</u> CG Lead Cafeteria Worker	Family	10/24/2025 – 11/7/2025
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C. Recommended for placement on the Substitute list at a rate of \$15.49 per hour effective 10/16/2025:

Nadia R. Hynes

28. Technology Department:

A. Recommended Leave of Absence Request:

<u>Employee #16892</u> Tradesman – Computer Service Technician	Family Ext.	10/10/2025 – 10/17/2025
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29. Substitute Nurses/Athletic Trainer/Secretaries/Administrators (Attached)

30. Continuing Education Unit Credits (Attached)

31. Off Payroll Report (Attached)

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ITEMS (# 1-5)

A motion was made by Mr. Jubert, seconded by Mr. Capone and carried that the following Educational Programs Items (# 1-5) be approved:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ITEMS 1-5

1. Donations:

A. Recommend the attached be accepted with thanks.

2. Educational Activity Requests (Attached)

3. Student Services:

A. Out-of-District Day Placement Requests (Attached)

B. Tuition Pupils Received Requests (Attached)

C. Tuition Pupils Sent Requests (Attached)

4. Recommended Professional Leave Requests (Attached)

5. Recommended Professional Development Requests:

A. Strauss Esmay Associates
Harrassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) and the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act
Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Expenses not to exceed \$750.00

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Eagan, Pascarella, Capone, Lamb

Noes: None

Recused: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Kidney

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Eagan congratulated two High School East students who are performing extremely well in their academics.

Mr. Jubert had the opportunity to attend the South Toms River PTO's event called Touch a Truck. He complimented and thanked the students who attended from T.E.A.M. and the Hispanic Heritage Club assisted with this event.

Mrs. Coyne thanked Beachwood Public Works employees, the mayor, council, and Superintendent Michael Citta for working with her on a field project. A thank you also to Beachwood Elementary School, their staff and PTO who continue to keep our children's minds educated. Mrs. Coyne thanked the Board, administration, Superintendent Michael Citta, assistant superintendents, business administrator, and staff who work tremendously hard to ensure Toms River Schools remains one of the best school districts in this state despite the funding issues. Mrs. Coyne stated that Superintendent Michael Citta was a rare find, who continues to go above and beyond the call of duty in this position. Mrs. Coyne wished everyone a safe and Happy Halloween.

Mrs. Lamb stated our first day back was the best opening yet and was excited for this school year. Mrs. Lamb praised the great new Beachwood Elementary School sign. Mrs. Lamb discussed Superintendent Michael Citta's presentation for the special needs initiative for our District and throughout Ocean County, with the associated costs in this area. Mrs. Lamb hoped all were as excited about this program as she was and that everyone takes the time to go to the town hall, give feedback and be part of this process, because it was a great opportunity for Ocean County as a whole and was a turning point for Toms River.

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 Krista Whittaker.

Public comments were heard by Lily Pannella.

Public comments were heard by Jaclyn Wyzkowski.

Public comments were heard by Kristen Zielinski.
Public comments were heard by Emily Van Hoof.
Public comments were heard by Kim McMahon.
Public comments were heard by Justin Bosak.
Public comments were heard by Keri-Bo Bates.
Public comments were heard by Mike DeVita.
Public comments were heard by Theresa Rilli.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mrs. Contessa, seconded by Ms. Eagan and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

All members present voting Aye.

Wendy L. Saxton, Board Secretary