

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



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2025**

For the Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education
Monday, June 23, 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 6:32 p.m.

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this provision of the act, the White Township Board of Education has sent notice of this meeting to the New Jersey Herald and the Express Times stating date, time, and place and posted the same in the White Township School and Municipal Building.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

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

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

V. CSA REPORT

Mr. Thompson reported on:

- RTU Project, Roof Project, Loss of Power June 21st
- Comprehensive Equity Plan
- Summer Academy 07/14 to 08/07
- ESY at Belvidere
- Strategic Planning
- Send/Receive with Hope and Hope Representative on White Board
- Shared Services Committee

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Administrative Reports items 1 and 2.

1. Comprehensive Equity Plan - Needs Assessment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, authorize the Affirmative Action Team to conduct the needs assessment and develop the Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2025-2028.

2. Comprehensive Equity Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the White Township School District for the Three Year Plan for 2025 through 2028.

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

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 Mr. Panetta to approve the following meeting minutes.

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

May 19, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes

On a voice vote, all present were in favor except; Mr. Murray abstained due to not attending the May 19, 2026 meeting. The motion passed.

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

No committee meeting this month.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mr. Murray to approve Personnel items 1 through 9.

1. Approve Five-Year Chief School Administrator Contract

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Five-Year Chief School Administrator Contract starting July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 for William Thompson. The salary in the first year is \$173,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, the salary in the second year is \$177,325.00 for the 2026-2027 school year, the salary in the third year is \$181,758.00 for the 2027-2028 school year, the salary in the fourth year is \$186,302.00 for the 2028-2029 school year, and the salary in the fifth year is \$190,960.00 for the 2029-2030 school year.

2. Approve Part Time Custodian

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept and approve Richard Fielding as a Part-Time Custodian for the 2025-2026 school year at an hourly rate of \$17.50.

3. Approve Summer Hours for IT Support

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Dawn Werkheiser for summer IT support at \$21.00 an hour not to exceed 100 hours.

4. Approve Extra-Curricular Activity Position

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Anthony Marinelli as Webmaster (Head), Year 10+, at the stipend amount of \$3,373.00.

6. Approve Curriculum Writing Positions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following curriculum writing assignments for Summer of 2025 at the salary rate below:

Margaret Sheneman	Music	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Dawn Werkheiser	Technology	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Cathleen Gerkhardt	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Benradette Sissick	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Lisa Rosano	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Sherry Bellfy	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
Allyson Evans	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750

Deirdre Mulligan	Language Arts	\$250 a day	Not to exceed \$750
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7. Approve Summer Academy Positions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following staff for the Summer Academy. It will run Mondays through Thursdays, July 14th through August 7th for three hours a day.

Stephanie Quinn	16 days	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Stewart Quinn	16 days	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Kimberly Rosano	16 days	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Stephanie Bolen	16 days	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Deirdre Mulligan	16 days	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Lisa Rosano	Sub	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00
Bernadette Sissick	Sub	3 hours/day	\$50/hour.	\$2,400.00

8. Approve Summer ESY at Belvidere

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an hourly rate of \$17.90 for Robert Bunn to work at Belvidere June 30, 2025 through July 24, 2025. (Step and Salary remain at the 2024-2025 rate until settlement of the WTEA contract agreement.)

9. Approve Summer IEP Attendance

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve all certified staff to attend summer IEP meetings, as required, at their hourly rate.

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

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

No committee meeting this month.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve Curriculum item 1.

1. Tuition Contract - Bonnie Brae

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Private School Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Bonnie Brae (receiving) for Student ID #267835560 at a per diem cost of \$419.00 for a total of 180 day school year for a total of \$75,420 for tuition. (11.000.100.566.000.000)

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

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

No committee meeting this month.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Operations items 1 through 9.

1. Acceptance of the Financial Report May 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 May 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 May 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 May 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 May 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 May 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 June Bill Lists

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 months of June 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 \$825,108.17 from June 1 through June 20, 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. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Reserve Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permits a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a Board of Education to transfer anticipated current revenue or unexpected appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into the Capital Reserve account at year end; and

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education has determined that an amount, not to exceed \$500,000.00 may be used for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator authorizes the School Business Administrator to make a transfer into the Capital Reserves in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

5. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Maintenance Reserve Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permits a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a Board of Education to transfer anticipated current revenue or unexpected appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into the Maintenance Reserve account at year end; and

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education has determined that an amount, not to exceed \$750,000.00 may be used for such purpose of transfer,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, authorizes the School Business Administrator to make a transfer into the Maintenance Reserves in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

6. Approve Shared Services Agreement for Technology

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Shared Service Agreement with Belvidere for Technology Services for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$25,000.

7. Participation in Memorandum of Agreement for Related Services with WCSSSD

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a Memorandum of Agreement for the Participation in Related Services between Hope Township Board of Education and Warren County Special Services School District for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Service schedule:

Service	Service Rate (Hourly)	Evaluation
Educational Support Services	\$99.50 - \$110.00	\$435 - \$475
Psychologist Services	\$99.50 - \$110.00	\$435 - \$475
School Counselor	\$99.50 - \$110.00	\$435 - \$475
Speech Therapy	\$94.50 - \$105.00	\$435 - \$475
Occupational Therapy	\$91.50 - \$105.00	\$435 - \$475
Physical Therapy	\$95.50 - \$110.00	\$435 - \$475
Teacher of the Deaf Services	\$151.00 - \$155.00	n/a
Behavioral Support Services (BCBA/Behavioral Supervisor)	\$99.50 - \$110.00 (3 hours/week minimum)	TBD
Social Worker Services	\$88.50 - \$95.00	\$435 - \$475
Reading Specialist	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Supplemental Instructor	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Basic Skills Instructor	\$85.50 - \$95.00	n/a
Home Instruction	\$70.50 - \$80.00	n/a
Paraprofessional	\$38.00 - \$50.00	
Bilingual Evaluations		\$535
Music Therapy	Price Available on Request	

8. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the gymnasium facilities to WTYAA for basketball practice July 15, 2025 through August 15, 2025.

9. Approve the Agreement with White Township Education Association

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the White Township Education Association for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. The parties agreed to an increase of 3.7% for 2025-2026, an increase of 3.7% for 2026-2027, and an increase of 3.7% for 2027-2028.

Mr. Havlusch discussed maintenance and capital reserve transfers.

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

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

No committee meeting this month.

XIII. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Gardella

Mrs. Gardella reported on the Superintendent Search.

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 7:02 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 and personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in executive session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be. The Board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 30 minutes. Action will be taken.

BE IT RESOLVED to return to Open Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Havlusch, seconded by Mr. Murray 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 Mrs. Vesper to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

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

XIX. 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 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary