

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



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 28, 2025**

For the Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education
Monday, July 28, 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 6:34 p.m.

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE DULY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Tirone administered the Oath of Office to: Tina Ritchie

V. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Robyn Gardella	<i>Present</i>	Mrs. Catherine Lensi	<i>Present</i>	Mr. Frank Panetta	<i>Present</i>
Mr. Tim Havlusch	<i>Absent</i>	Mr. Kevin Murray	<i>Absent</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>
				Mrs. Tina Ritchie	<i>Present</i>

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

VI. CSA REPORT

Mr. Thompson reported on:

- **Strategic Plan**
- **Student Safety Data System**
- **Staffing/Facilities**
- **Summer Academy**
- **Curriculum Writing**

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MOTION by Ms. Nusser-Meany, seconded by Mrs. Lensi to approve Administrative Reports items 1 and 2.

1. Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the White Township School District Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Submission of the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report for the reporting period January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve Administrative Reports item 3.

3. Strategic Plan 2025-2028

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Strategic Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor

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

IX. MINUTES

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve the following meeting minutes.

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

June 23, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes

On a voice vote, all present were in favor except; Mrs. Ritchie abstained due to not attending the June 23, 2025 meeting. The motion passed.

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

Mr. Panetta provided a committee update.

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi , seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Personnel items 1 through 7.

1. Approve Kindergarten Orientation Program Staff

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve staff for the Kindergarten Orientation program, August 25-26, 2025 as follows:

Cathleen Gerhardt	\$59.80 an hour - not to exceed 11 hours
Krista Schaarschmidt	\$59.80 an hour - not to exceed 11 hours
Justine Mahon	\$56.33 an hour - not to exceed 11 hours

2. Approve Preschool Orientation Program Staff

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve staff for the Preschool Orientation program, August 26, 2025 as follows:

Kimberly Rosano	\$50.86 an hour - not to exceed 3 hours
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3. Approve Summer ESY at Belvidere

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve an hourly rate of \$18.12 for Dana Yuhas to work at Belvidere June 30, 2025 through July 24, 2025.

4. Approve Substitute Rates

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following rates for the 2025-2026 school year.

Nurse	\$175.00 per day
Teachers	\$115.00 per day
Custodians	\$17.00 per hour

5. Eighth Grade Fundraisers

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the following 8th grade fundraisers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Bake Sale	Easter Flowers	Children's Activities During Conferences
Boon Supply	Family Diner Night	Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale
Box of Candy Sale	Lawn Signs	Krispy Kreme Donut Sale
Car Wash	Sub Sale	Roadside Clean Up
Dances	Student vs Staff Basketball Game	

6. Approve Professional Development - Conference

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Erika Puskas to attend the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Conference at Rutgers University October 20, 2025. The registration cost is \$90.00. It will be paid with Title II funding. She will receive \$.47 per mile.

7. Approve Professional Development - Conference

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Margaret Sheneman to attend the Sing! Dance! Play! 2025 Summer Symposium on July 14, 2025 through July 16, 2025, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Online. The registration cost is \$100.00.

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

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

Ms. Nusser-Meany provided a committee update.

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to approve Curriculum items 1 through 7.

1. IDEA Grant Application 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the White Township Board of Education approves administration to submit the application to the State of New Jersey and accepts the award of the 2025-2026 IDEA grants.

Basic	\$99,303	Tuition for Out of District Student
Preschool	\$5,411	Tuition for Out of District Students

2. Tuition Contract - Matheny Private School

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Matheny Medical and Educational Center (receiving) for Student ID #3239745638 at a cost of \$129,800.00. (11.000.100.566.000.000)
And extraordinary services of \$46,200.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

3. Tuition Contract - DCCF LLC - Limitless

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the Developmental Summer Program, July 1, 2025 through August 15, 2025 between the White

Township Board of Education (sending) and DCCF, LLC - Limitless (receiving) for Student ID #9760912165 at a cost of \$11,469.00. (11.000.100.566.000.000)
And extraordinary services of \$5,096.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

4. Tuition Contract - Celebrate the Children

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year and extended school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Celebrate the Children (receiving) for Student ID #9760912165 at a per diem cost of \$466.00 for a total of 180 day school year for a total of \$83,880.00 for tuition. (11.000.100.566.000.000)
And extraordinary services for a tentative total of \$37,800.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

5. Tuition Contract - Celebrate the Children

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year and extended school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Celebrate the Children (receiving) for Student ID #9132106692 at a per diem cost of \$466.00 for a total of 23 days tentative ESY and 180 day school year for a total of \$94,598.00 for tuition. (11.000.100.566.000.000)
And extraordinary services for a tentative total of 42,630.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

6. Tuition Contract ESY - Warren Hills Regional School

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 extended school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Warren Hills Regional School Board of Education (receiving) for Student ID #5404077684 at a cost of \$2,860.00 for tuition. (11.000.100.562.000.000). And extraordinary services of \$2,560.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

7. Tuition Contract - Warren Hills Regional School

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the White Township Board of Education (sending) and Warren Hills Regional School Board of Education (receiving) for Student ID #5404077684 starting August 25, 2025 at a cost of \$28,600.00 for tuition. (11.000.100.562.000.000). And extraordinary services of \$39,600.00. (11.000.217.320.000.000)

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

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

Mrs. Gardella provided a committee update.

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve Operations items 1 through 9.

1. Acceptance of the Financial Report June 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 June 30, 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 June 30, 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 June 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 June 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 June in fiscal year 2024-2025, approved by the Chief School Administrator, so that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations.

3. Approval of June and July 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 and July 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 \$302,542.96 from June 21 through June 30, 2025 and sum of \$304,508.53 for July 1, 2025 through July 24, 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. Resolution to Increase the Bid Threshold

WHEREAS, Lori A. Tirone, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, possesses a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certificate;

WHEREAS, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b), has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts with a Qualified Purchasing Agent, from \$44,000 to **\$53,000**, effective July 1, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the White Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of **\$53,000** for the school district, and further authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Qualified Purchasing Agent, to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount.

Furthermore, for contracts in the aggregate that are less than the bid threshold but fifteen (15%) or more of the amount, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall award contracts after soliciting at least two competitive quotations.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (c), is authorized to award contracts that are in the aggregate less than fifteen (15%) percent of the bid threshold without soliciting competitive quotations.

5. Approve Send/Receive Agreement between Hope Township and White Township

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Send/Receive Agreement for the education of students in 6th through 8th grades in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8, et seq. between the Hope Township Board of Education and the White Township Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. It is a two (2) year agreement with a tuition cost of \$8,500.00 per student per year.

6. Approval of Vendors for Contracts in 2025 and Anticipated Contracts in 2026 - Report to the Board

BE IT RESOLVED, the White Township Board of Education is presented below with a list of vendors that would be required to be approved by the Board of Education subject to the

requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42.2 et seq, for anticipated contracts to be renewed, awarded, or to expire during the 2025/2026 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47, the White Township Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the following contracts below previously awarded by the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these contracts are, have been, and/or will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18. et. Seq, NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR, part 2000.

AGRA	GST	Sanico
Benecard	Hope Township BOE	SHIF
Brightspeed	Hunterdon County ESC	Standard Insurance
Comcast	J&B Therapy	Vantage Communications
Direct Energy	JCP&L	Western Pest Services
Elizabeth Gas	Pitney Bowes	WEX
First Hope Bank	R&L DataCenters	XEROX

7. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the use of the parking lot for a car wash by the BHS Girls Basketball Booster Club on Sunday, July 27, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8. Approve Parental Transportation Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a parental transportation contract to transport Student ID #3239745638 to and from Matheny School for the 2025-2026 school year at the cost of \$24,200.00

9. Approve School Physician

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Dr. Eric Molnar as the School Physician at the rate of \$2,750.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion on Warren County Special Services School District providing transportation for Warren County Technical School.

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

Mrs. Vesper provided a committee update.

XIV. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Gardella

Mrs. Gardella provided information on the Belvidere Superintendent search.

XV. OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed petitions for the 2025 Election. Mr. Havulsch and Mrs. Vesper filed petitions.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed apartments at the old A&P shopping center.

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Privilege of the Floor

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

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany for the Board to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 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 7:54 p.m.

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

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

XIX. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by Mrs. Lensi, seconded by Mrs. Vesper to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

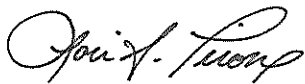
On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

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

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori A. Tirone".

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary