

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2025
MINUTES

The In-Person Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the “Sunshine Law” by Mr. Birkenstock at 6:15 p.m.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on January 16, 2025 to the Hunterdon County Democrat and The Courier-News. Copies of the notice also have been placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools, posted on the District website and filed with Flemington Borough Clerk and the Raritan Township Clerk.

The Oath of Office was administered to new Board Member Mr. Michael Owen by Ms. Dawson, Board Secretary.

Ms. Dawson took Roll Call.

Members Present

Jaclyn Arce
Ryan Birkenstock
Warren Buckleitner
Ryan Cirillo, left at 6:27pm
Lilian Colpas, left at 6:27pm
Gina Criscitiello
Michael Owen
Julia Whitley
William Bentley

Members Absent

-

Attorney Present

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On the motion of Dr. Bentley, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet in Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. viva voce.

SUNSHINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Flemington-Raritan School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- ✓ Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: **HIB**
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: _____
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: _____
- ✓ Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: **Personnel**
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board ~~will~~/~~will not~~ return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

The Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Arce read the District Mission Statement.

As a Community of One, WE:

Foster social, emotional, and academic growth within a connected learning community
Respect, honor and embrace diverse family and community values by building collaborative partnerships
Strengthen opportunities that nurture creative and critical thinkers
Develop and inspire personal excellence.

Every Student - Every Day - Every Opportunity

BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Birkenstock welcomed Ms. Patricia Rees from New Jersey School Boards Association, representative serving Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties to present “Ethics for School Leaders”. Ms. Rees gave an overview of the School Ethics Act, the purpose of the act, the distinction between recusal and abstention, the process for requesting advisory opinions from the School Ethics Commission, filing ethics complaints with the SEC and potential conflicts to avoid along with information on upcoming training opportunities and mandated training requirements. The full presentation can be found on the District website.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. McGann presented “District Updates”, she reported that student enrollment is currently at 3,291 students, with a student-teacher ratio of 9.5:1 vs. the statewide average of 10.3:1 noting that the student population continues to grow in diversity with a 125% increase in multilingual learners from 2018-2024. Dr. McGann recapped the decline in State aid, reporting that State aid received in the 2024-2025 school year is less than what was received in the 2014-2015 school year. Despite steady cuts in aid, the preschool expansion award is a win for the district, bringing in additional State aid in the amount of \$1,228,968 for the 2023-2024 school year and \$2,219,912 for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. McGann shared that FRSD per pupil costs are one of the lowest in Hunterdon County at \$19,310 per pupil, however the 2% tax levy increase does not cover increases in major expenditures for the 2025-2026 school year such as increased costs for security, special education, contractual salaries and benefits. Dr. McGann invited members of the public to attend the Town Hall Meeting on January 27 to discuss the budget and stressed the importance of maintaining small class sizes, Class III officers in each school and junior varsity sports and reminded everyone that the special election to approve an increase to the tax levy will take place on March 11th, 2025. Budget information and the full presentation can be found on the District website.

Approval of Minutes – Executive Session - December 19, 2024
Regular Meeting - December 19, 2024
Regular Meeting - January 6, 2025

Mr. Birkenstock asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Birkenstock announced that the meeting minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for December 2024.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2024, further certifies that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of 6A:23A-16.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s known financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year 2024-2025.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A-16.10(a) as of December 31, 2024. As of these dates, sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s known financial obligations for the remainder of the school year 2024-2025.

Aye: Ms. Arce
Dr. Bentley
Dr. Buckleitner
Ms. Criscitiello

Mr. Owen
Ms. Whitley
Mr. Birkenstock

Nay: -

Abstain: -

The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment on items of concern regarding the agenda only. The second public comment is for comment on any issue. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

No comment.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Criscitiello shared an update on the personnel committee which last met on January 9th. Superintendent Dr. McGann began the meeting with the agonizing task of staff reduction conversations. The Superintendent discussed with the committee administrative personnel reductions. The discussion then went into how the abolishment of positions is affected by tenure, seniority, as well as bumping rights. At the present moment, that is all that can be said on that matter due to the uncertainty in budgetary line items that are not yet determined. We can't be certain these will be the only cuts. Dr. McGann then had to excuse herself to attend the Copper Hill PTO meeting. Mrs. Latzke then took control of the meeting and went over the district's resignations, new hires, open positions, additional compensation as well as substitute teacher recommendations. One art teacher will be entering blissful retirement, and we hired a much-needed cafeteria aid for Copper Hill. The committee approved all items. Next, Dr. McGann rejoined the committee and concluded the meeting by giving a goal update on district goal number three. Our next Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3rd.

Aye: Ms. Arce
Dr. Bentley
Dr. Buckleitner
Ms. Criscitiello

Mr. Owen
Ms. Whitley
Mr. Birkenstock

Nay: -

Abstain: -

1. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

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2. Approval was given for district staff member(s) to take a leave of absence or amend their leave during the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/ Degree/Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
1.	Cardona	Victor	JPC	Teacher Resource Program Pull-Out & In-Class Support Grade 7	\$74,360 (prorated) / BA / 10	February 27, 2025 - June 30, 2025	Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Science in Grades 5 - 8 (CE) / Students with Disabilities (CE) / Psychology (CE) / Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Grades 5 - 8 (CE) / Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

4. Approval was given to employ the following leave replacement(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position/Replacing	Salary/Degree/Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
1.	Buckley	Lyndsey	BS	Teacher Grade 3 / K. Castelblanco	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	March 27, 2025 - June 30, 2025	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6 (CEAS) / Rider University
2.	Tubman	Shannon	RFIS	Teacher Grade 6 Social Studies & Science / R. Jones	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	February 7, 2025 - February 26, 2025	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6 (CEAS) / Students with Disabilities (CE) Pending / The College of New Jersey
3.	Tubman	Shannon	RFIS	Teacher Grade 5 Resource Program Pull-Out / C. Buell	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	February 27, 2025 - June 30, 2025	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6 (CEAS) / Students with Disabilities (CE) Pending / The College of New Jersey

5. Approval was given to update the salary of the following staff member(s) to include an increase or addition of longevity per FREA contract for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc./ Position	Total Longevity Amount
1.	Dohner	Marianne	CH / Teacher Grade 1	\$1000

6. Approval was given to update the salaries of the following staff member(s) for advancement on the 2024-2025 Teachers Salary Guide, effective January 1, 2025, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc./ Position	From: Salary/Degree/Step	To: Salary/Degree/Step
1.	Jeges	Yasmin	FAD / Kindergarten	\$72,955 / BA+15 / 9	\$75,205 / MA / 9
2.	Kraus	Erin	CH / Preschool Disabilities	\$62,820 / BA / 4	\$63,945 / BA +15 / 4
3.	McCormack	Jennifer	BS / Support Skills: Reading	\$88,285 / BA / 15	\$89,410 / BA +15 / 15
4.	Morales	Madelin	CH / World Language	\$68,195 / BA+15 / 7	\$70,445 / MA / 7
5.	Terhune	Autumn	RH / Resource Program In-Class Support	\$62,820 / BA / 4	\$63,945 / BA +15 / 4

7. Approval was given to amend the October 10, 2024 motion:

to employ the following leave replacement(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position/ Replacing	Salary/ Degree/Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
2.	Ponnusamy	Jeyanthi	RFIS	Teacher Grade 5 Math & Science / (A. Lopez)	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	December 6, 2024 - April 9, 2025	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6 (Limited CE), Middle School with Subject matter Specialization Mathematics in Grades 5 - 8 (Limited CE), Teacher of Computer Science Technology (CE), Mission College, Arizona State University, Annamalai University, Thiagarajar College of Arts

to read:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position/ Replacing	Salary/ Degree/Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
2.	Ponnusamy	Jeyanthi	RFIS	Teacher Grade 5 Math & Science / (A. Lopez)	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	December 6, 2024 - May 1, 2025	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6 (Limited CE), Middle School with Subject matter Specialization Mathematics in Grades 5 - 8 (Limited CE), Teacher of Computer Science Technology (CE), Mission College, Arizona State University, Annamalai University, Thiagarajar College of Arts

8. Approval was given of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Flemington-Raritan School District (“Board of Education”) has determined for the 2025-2026 school year, to abolish certain positions and terminate employment for economic and budgetary reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is duly authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:11-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 et seq., to dismiss staff members employed in the District whenever, in the judgment of the Board of Education, it is advisable to abolish any such position for reasons of economy, because of a reduction in the number of pupils, a change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district, or for other good cause; and

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy, efficiency, and a need to restructure staff of the district, the following existing full-time employee (“FTE”) positions are recommended for elimination:

Item	Location	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	District	1.00	Early Childhood Preschool Supervisor	June 30, 2025
2.	District	1.00	Content Supervisor Math and Science	June 30, 2025
3.	District	1.00	Content Supervisor ELA & Social Studies	June 30, 2025

WHEREAS, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education finds it advisable to reduce the aforementioned positions in the District effective the end of the day on June 30, 2025;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Flemington Raritan Regional School District Board of Education as follows:

1. That upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following positions are hereby eliminated, effective as of the end of the day June 30, 2025, as a result of a reduction in force:

Item	Location	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	District	1.00	Early Childhood Preschool Supervisor	June 30, 2025
2.	District	1.00	Content Supervisor Math and Science	June 30, 2025
3.	District	1.00	Content Supervisor ELA & Social Studies	June 30, 2025

2. That the affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of his/her employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent is authorized to provide the necessary notification to the affected employees.

Non-Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

9. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Effective Dates	Certification/New/Replacement
1.	Byrne	Susan	CH	Cafeteria / Playground Aide	19.49/hr	January 27, 2025 - June 30, 2025	Replace M. Tranculov

All Staff – Additional Compensation

10. Approval was given to confirm extra compensation for the following staff member(s) during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Kiesling	Cassandra	FAD	Director - Winter Concert	2 hours	\$36/hr
2.	Barragan	Kathleen	FAD	Chaperone - Winter Concert	1.5 hours	\$36/hr
3.	Fiske	Jaquelin	FAD	Chaperone - Winter Concert	1.5 hours	\$36/hr
4.	Genito	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
5.	Bubeer	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
6.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
7.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
8.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
9.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
10.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/16/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
11.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
12.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
13.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
14.	Maguire	Anna	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
15.	Cobb	Cathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
16.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
17.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/17/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
18.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/18/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
19.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/18/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
20.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/18/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
21.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/18/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
22.	Hand	Gina	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
23.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
24.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
25.	Miller	Robert	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
26.	Bubeer	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
27.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
28.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
29.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
30.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
31.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
32.	Marsigliano	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
33.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
34.	Cobb	Cathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr

35.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
36.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
34.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/6/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
35.	Kodidek	Sherry	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/6/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
36.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
37.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
38.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
39.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
40.	Krukowski	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
41.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
42.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
43.	Healey	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
44.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
45.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
46.	Butler	Jacquelyn	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
47.	Counsel	Jeannie	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
48.	Licata	Sarah	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
49.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
50.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
51.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
52.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
53.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
54.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
55.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
56.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
57.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
58.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
59.	Cobb	Cathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
60.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
61.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
62.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
63.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
63.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/17/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
64.	Sewall	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/17/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
65.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/17/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
66.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/17/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
67.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/17/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
62.	Brace	Shannon	RFIS	School Spirit Club advisor*	10 hours	\$36/hr
63.	Benedetti	Tony	RFIS	Class coverage - 12/11/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
62.	Benedetti	Tony	RFIS	Class coverage - 12/19/24	40 minutes	\$36/hr
63.	Ibach	Benjamin	RFIS	Class coverage - 1/14/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr

*Club advisor salaries are funded by student activity fees

11. Approval was given to employ the following Reading Fleming Intermediate School staff to chaperone a maximum of 6 activity and/or concert nights during the 2024-2025 school year. A maximum of 8 staff members will be used per activity night. A maximum of 9 staff members will be used per concert night.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Amoriello	Thomas	RFIS	Activity/Concert Night Chaperone	15 hours	\$36/hr
2.	Arellano-Becerra	Fredy	RFIS	Activity/Concert Night Chaperone	15 hours	\$36/hr
3.	Marsh	Aileen	RFIS	Activity/Concert Night Chaperone	15 hours	\$36/hr
4.	Weitz	Jodi	RFIS	Activity/Concert Night Chaperone	15 hours	\$36/hr

12. Approval was given for the following staff member to be compensated for unused vacation days, upon retirement per contract, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Number of Vacation Days
1.	Kendzulak	Nancy	CO	Curriculum Office Secretary	25

13. Approval was given to appoint the following mentor(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Mentee				Mentor			
Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	*Stipend
1.	Raszka	Alyssa	SS	McKenzie	Laurie	SS	\$550
2.	Tullo-McVicar	Trinity	RFIS	Van Fleet	Jena	RFIS	\$550

*Individuals may receive prorated rates based on actual time in service.

Substitutes

14. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following applicant(s) as substitute(s) pending fingerprints, background check, and health exam, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name
1.	Alaburda	Corey
2.	Balinski	Amy
3.	Buckley	Lyndsey
4.	Day	Amanda
5.	Hernandez	Jessica
6.	Latini	Alessandra
7.	Lockrey	Emma
8.	Malherbe	Kristy
9.	Ragland	Desiree
10.	Schoeb	Maria
11.	Stancic	Ibis
12.	Tubman	Shannon

Field Placement

15. Approval was given for the following student(s) to complete their university requirements, at no cost to the District, pending fingerprints and health exam, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	School	Purpose	Cooperating Teacher/ Position/Loc	Effective Dates
1.	Ibrahim	Nora	Western Governors University	Student Teaching	Kathleen Mikalsen/Kindergarten/BS	January 24, 2025–April 28, 2025
2.	Senneca	Nicole	Rutgers University	Internship	May Wong/Special Services	January 21, 2025–May 12, 2025

Miscellaneous

16. Approval was given to confirm the following certified, registered, and insured therapy dogs and their handlers to visit and support the district, during the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

Item	Therapy Dog Provider	Name of Handler	Loc.	Purpose	Dog	Effective Dates
1.	Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs	Rosellen Perlowitz	District	Support students during scheduled times in the classroom and counseling office	Dino	January 2, 2025–June 30, 2025

INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM

Chairperson William Bentley, Next Meeting – February 6, 2025

Dr. Bentley shared an update on the Instruction and Program committee which last met on January 16th. Due to state regulation, Robert Hunter no longer qualifies for Title 1 funding. Therefore, they will be losing a Title 1-funded literacy coach, family night, and Academic Teacher Parent Teams funded by Title I funding. We are currently in the process of transitioning FAD from Targeting Assistance funding to Schoolwide funding. We discussed the K-2 Enrichment Program. K-8 enrichment is mandated by the state. This has always been part of our curriculum, but we are formalizing and optimizing what we currently have. The board is very grateful that the media specialists will open their libraries to students on days/times when the media specialist is not present. The library is open to all students as long as accompanied by a teacher. We will look into other ways to expand access at RFIS and JPC. We discussed High Impact Tutoring Funds. The committee approves the use of all remaining funds totaling approximately \$14,000 to be used to support MAP Reading Fluency with Coach (AI Tutoring). This gives us the most value and reach with our remaining funds. The committee would also like to extend a thank you to FAD teacher Katie Van Saun for donating an Ender 3D Printer.

Instruction and Program Item(s) 1-3 were approved under one motion made by Dr. Bentley, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.

Aye: Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Ms. Criscitiello	Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: - Abstain: -
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1. Approval was given to accept the following curriculum, professional development, and/or technology-related donation(s) for the 2024-2025 school year.

Item	Donation	Donor	Value	Location
1.	American Heart Challenge Kick-Off Assembly	American Heart Association	\$0	Copper Hill
2.	Ender 3D Printer	Katie Van Saun	\$500	FAD
3.	HSMC STEM Ecosystem Grant	NJ STEM Pathways Network	\$500	J.P. Case

2. Approval was given of the following travel expenditures for staff member(s) or their designated alternate to attend professional development conferences/workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent. All travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and professional development plans.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Workshop/Conference	Dates	Includes (see below)	Max. Amount
1.	Kostaris	Suzanne	Purchasing Workshop, Whippany, NJ	April 10, 2025	R, M	\$231
2.	Koch	Leigh Ann	Online Program Packages for School Nurses	January 31, 2025	R	\$169
3.	Abarca	Katherine	New Jersey TESOL/NJBE Conference, New Brunswick, NJ	May 22, 2025	R, M	\$352
4.	Hamblin	Danielle	2025 NJASA/NJPSA Women's Leadership Conference (Presenter), Somerset, NJ	April 7-8, 2025	R, M	\$499
5.	Burns	Rebecca	2025 NJASA/NJPSA Women's Leadership Conference (Presenter), Somerset, NJ	April 7, 2025	R, M	\$299
R = Registration Fee; M = Mileage; L = Lodging; F = Food; O = Other						

3. Approval was given to confirm the following travel expenditures for a staff member(s) or their designated alternate to attend professional development conferences/workshops retroactively. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent. All travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and professional development plans.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Workshop/Conference	Dates	Includes (see below)	Max. Amount
1.	Sellers	Alexis	Strategies for Success During Medical Emergencies, Virtual	January 17, 2025	R	\$295
R = Registration Fee; M = Mileage; L = Lodging; F = Food; O = Other						

OPERATIONS & TRANSPORTATION

Chairperson Ryan Birkenstock, Next Meeting – February 5, 2025

Mr. Birkenstock shared an update on the operations committee which last met on January 15th to discuss a range of topics, including routine approvals for the bills list, Treasurer's reports, and special education items. Dr. McGann and Ms. Dawson provided an update on personnel reductions and the current status of the budget. The committee discussed that two budget versions are being prepared simultaneously: one assuming the special election passes and another if it fails. A detailed budget will be shared and further discussed at our next meeting in February and again in March, once all budget components, including state aid numbers, which are finalized at the end of February, have been determined. At present, the budget faces an anticipated shortfall of approximately \$4.5 million. The committee stressed the importance of creating a sustainable budget for future years and requested a 5-year budget plan, which will include capital improvement projects and other priorities. This plan will serve as a tool to guide necessary budget cuts and provide a clearer financial outlook for the district. Additionally, the committee emphasized the need for simplified graphics that clearly illustrate the gap between the allowable 2% Tax Levy Cap and the district's rising costs, particularly in contracted salary obligations and annual healthcare increases, which alone exceed the 2% Tax Levy Cap. With the special election set for March 11th, Dr. McGann recommended moving the March 13th Board Meeting to March 17th to allow additional time to finalize the budget based on the election results. The committee agreed that this was a prudent decision. Ms. Dawson provided the committee with an update on the progress of the District's transportation department. Significant strides have been made in developing routes and addressing various administrative tasks to ensure readiness for the 2025-26 school year. The District's new Transportation Supervisor is expected to begin in February, at which point the focus will shift to developing and approving a bus driver job description to start recruiting for the 2025-26 school year. There is a considerable amount of planning and logistical work ongoing to ensure that the District's transportation services will be fully operational by September. With a new board and administration in place at Hunterdon Central, our District continues to collaborate closely with theirs, with the hope that they will rescind their decision to dissolve our 30-year transportation partnership and work toward a new agreement. Although time is of the essence, we are still hopeful that this can be accomplished. Just as a reminder, the district will be holding a budget town hall on January 27th. The committee will meet again on February 5th.

Operations and Transportation Item(s) 1-8 were approved under one motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.

Aye: Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Ms. Criscitiello	Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: - Abstain: -
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1. Approval was given of the transfer list from December 14, 2024 to January 16, 2025.
2. Approval was given of the bills list for the month of January totaling \$1,566,340.47.
3. Approval was given to purchase electric generation services through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID #E8801-ACESCPS
4. Approval was given to purchase natural gas services through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID #E8801-ACESCPS
5. Approval was given to contract with the following accompanist to assist with school performances, including rehearsals, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Watson	Stefanie	FAD	Winter & Spring Concert	15	\$50/hr

6. Approval was given of the affiliation agreements between Flemington-Raritan Regional School District and the following Universities for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - a. Western Governors University
 - b. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 - c. Seton Hall University

7. Approval was given to adopt the School Nursing Services Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.
8. Approval was given for the 2025 Extended School Year Program to run Monday - Thursday from July 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The ESY program will take place at Copper Hill Elementary School.

POLICY

Chairperson, Jaclyn Arce, Next Meeting – February 3, 2025

Ms. Arce shared an update on the Policy committee which last met on Thursday, January 16th, and will meet again on February 3. The committee approved an update to Regulation 7510 - Use of School Facilities to align with current policy information. The Superintendent noted difficulties in providing facility rentals for JP Case Middle School theater due to a lack of a theater technician. Staffing reductions and retirements have left the district unable to fill this role, as the theater's technical soundboard requires trained supervision. The committee expresses gratitude to Dr. Burns, the assistant superintendent, and the entire report card committee for their efforts on Regulation 5440, which focuses on honoring student achievement and recognizing honor roll students. The committee will finalize this regulation in our next meeting. The committee recommends adopting Policy 9163, Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events, in accordance with Strauss Esmay's recommendation. The committee recommended updates to Policy and Regulation 5533 regarding student smoking, supporting provisions for staff to notify the administration if a student appears under the influence. The committee continues its work on the policy audit and will begin reviewing new Policy Alert #234.

Policy item(s) 1-3 were approved under one motion made by Ms. Arce, seconded by Dr. Bentley.

Aye:	Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Ms. Criscitiello	Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: - Abstain: -
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1. Approval was given to present the following new policy and regulation for a 1st reading:
 1. R 5533 - Student Smoking
 2. P 9163 - Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (M)
2. Approval was given to present the following new policy for a 2nd reading and adoption:
 1. P 3146 - Conduct of Reduction in Force
3. Approval was given to adopt the following revised policy and regulation:
 1. P 5533 - Student Smoking (M)
 2. R 7510 - Community Use of School Facilities

MISCELLANEOUS (INFORMATION-ACTION)

Miscellaneous Action Item(s) 1 was approved under motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Dr. Bentley.

Aye:	Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Ms. Criscitiello	Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: - Abstain: -
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Information

1. Suspensions for the month of December 2024:

School	Infraction	Duration
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	1 Day
JPC	Threatening behavior	3 Days
JPC	Inappropriate language	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate language	1 Day
RH	Inappropriate physical contact	.5 Day

2. Drill(s) to date for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Month	Fire Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	RH	RFIS	JPC
September	9/12	9/9	9/10	9/10	9/12	9/6
October	10/8	10/21	10/2	10/11	10/24	10/17
November	11/6	11/19	11/12	11/15	11/13	11/4
December	12/10	12/19	12/3	12/13	12/9	12/17
Month	Security Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	RH	RFIS	JPC
September	9/17	9/6	9/16	9/13	9/24	9/23
October	10/17	10/24	10/14	10/21	10/9	10/28
November	1/18	11/20	11/19	11/18	11/4	11/25
December	12/18	12/4	12/19	12/6	12/10	12/3

3. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation(s) for the 2024-2025 school year*:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken

*No new reports for this agenda.

Action Items

1. Approval was given to accept the following Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation(s) presented on the December 19, 2024 Board agenda, as follows:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
RFIS	October 2, 2024	RFIS #2	No	Remedial actions are outlined in the report.
RH	December 9, 2024	RH #1	No	Remedial actions are outlined in the report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Arce reported that six correspondence were received regarding the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Birkenstock reminded new Board members that they have 90 days to complete their first year mandated training and all returning Board members must complete their current level of training within the year.

Mr. Birkenstock noted that the Board will continue the work of previous years to pass a resolution to send to State legislators regarding the State funding formula and to expect that at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Dawson reminded Board members that financial disclosure information will be shared in the coming days and to reach out with any questions.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

Mr. Birkenstock set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

Kent Davis, Raritan Township - spoke about sharing more information on the special election and concerns regarding comments made on social media regarding the same.

Mr. Birkenstock responded that there are strict rules pertaining to social media that limits the District's ability to comment. Dr. McGann noted that the Family Engagement Ad Hoc Committee and social media ambassadors from this group are helping to promote accurate information and acknowledged that, unfortunately, there is misinformation on social media. Mr. Birkenstock shared that it's one of the reasons they are heavily promoting public forums to discuss the budget to make sure that as much information as possible is available to the public.

On the motion of Dr. Bentley seconded by Ms. Criscitiello the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary