

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 1, 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 6:00 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 the Flemington Borough Clerk and the Raritan Township Clerk.

Ms. Dawson took Roll Call.

Members Present

Jaclyn Arce  
William Bentley  
Warren Buckleitner  
Ryan Cirillo  
Lilian Colpas  
Gina Criscitiello  
Michael Owen  
Julia Whitley, arrived at 7:00 p.m.  
Ryan Birkenstock

Members Absent

Attorney Present

-

On the motion of Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Birkenstock, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet in Executive Session at 6:02 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: **PENDING LITIGATION**
- ✓ 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.

Mr. Cirillo 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**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Public Hearing & Presentation of Final 2025-2026 Budget; Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent, and Mrs. Tanya Dawson, Business Administrator

Dr. McGann thanked Board members for their support in all the challenges the district faced in developing the 2025-2026 budget. Increased costs for health insurance, utilities and special education along with decreases in SEMI funding and a potential loss of Title grant funding are some of the many challenges the District faced. She also thanked the Family Engagement Ad Hoc Committee for their contributions, the committee met frequently to discuss district updates and budget development. Dr. McGann reviewed goals of the strategic plan, how the budget supports them and noted that this year the State of New Jersey determined that the tentative budget of \$70 million was \$3.7 million under adequacy and the property tax levy was \$10 million below its local fair share, because of this determination the District is eligible to raise the local tax levy beyond the 2% cap and receive additional one time funding equal to 5% of the taxes raised. Ms. Dawson gave an overview of the financial oversight for the District, explaining that monthly reports are approved by the Board of Education and made publicly available each month, in addition annual audit and budget information can be found on the District website for the past decade. Ms. Dawson reviewed expenditures for the 2025-2026 school year including increases for salaries, insurance, pensions, transportation, and utilities. She reviewed the 5 year plan for improved financial stability through targeted reductions in expenditures, disciplined budgeting and careful alignment of resources with educational priorities along with a detailed analysis of the tax impact and how tax rates are calculated. Mr. Birkenstock also provided a review of the portions of the budget presentation regarding tax impact and how taxes are calculated.

## **CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD**

The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and bylaws. 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 comments 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.

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

Caitlin Ryan Pershe, Raritan Township - Thanked the Board, district administration and staff, shared support for the tax increase.

Valerie Bart, Raritan Township - Shared concerns about higher taxes and increased spending.

Kimberly Korlesky, FRSD Employee - shared support for the budget and asked the Board to support a tax increase.

Sue Vala, FRSD Employee - shared support for the budget, the tax increase and the Business Administrator. Spoke about the difficulties of being under adequacy and local fair share.

Kristen Stryker, Raritan Township - shared opposition to the tax increase.

Erin Killian, Raritan Township - Spoke in support for the budget and the tax increase.

Jessica Lombardo, Raritan Township - shared opposition to the tax increase.

Cindy Carson, FRSD Employee - Spoke in support of the budget and shared concerns about communication and cuts to the G&T program and educational support programs.

Sarah Stangota, Raritan Township - shared opposition to the tax increase.

Susan Mitcheltree, Raritan Township - Thanked the Board and district administration for their work on the budget, shared support for the tax increase and asked that the April 10, 2025 meeting minutes be clarified to state that she shared concerns that the Board choose not to fill a posted leave replacement position and instead used substitutes to fill the position for the remainder of the year.

Michelle Hurley, Raritan Township - shared strong opposition to the tax levy increase and concerns about the tax impact once combined with increases from other sources of the tax calculation.

Devon Emerick, FRSD Employee - shared support for the budget and the tax increase.

Colleen Pirone, Raritan Township - shared support for the budget and the tax increase and concerns for increased class sizes.

Erin Harmeyer, Raritan Township - shared support for the budget and the tax increase.

Gina Bellottie, Raritan Township - Urged the Board to adopt the budget and the tax increase and shared support for the gifted and talented programs.

Rebecca Peterson, Raritan Township - Shared opposition to the budget, tax increase and shared concerns over the tax impact.

Leigh Anne Cascio, FRSD Employee - spoke in support of the budget and the tax increase.

Sloan, FRSD Student - spoke about the loss of her favorite teachers next year and the strong bond she has with each one. Shared that she feels better with less kids in each classroom and that she likes being a part of the arts and band and that her sister likes the gifted and talented program.

Marco Tummolillo, Raritan Township - Shared opposition to the tax increase.

Katie Rayburn, Raritan Township - shared support for the budget and the tax increase.

Rachael White, Raritan Township - Spoke about meeting with State legislators and urged the community to continue to advocate for funding reform. Shared support for the budget and the tax increase.

Dr. McGann clarified that typically the District receives about \$300k for Title Funding, however the funding is not guaranteed. Ms. Dawson noted that federal funding was not included in the budget, with approval by the Hunterdon County Office of the DOE.

### **Committee of the Whole: Approval of the following resolution:**

#### **Motion by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Mr. Cirillo to adopt the 2025-2026 budget**

A general discussion took place between the Board members about the difficult situation they are in, noting each line item has been reviewed and no other cuts can be made; however a five year plan has been created, they also urged the community to reach out to State legislators about funding reform.

**Aye:** Ms. Arce  
Dr. Bentley  
Dr. Buckleitner  
Mr. Cirillo

**Ms. Colpas**  
**Mr. Owen**  
**Ms. Whitley**

**Nay:** Ms. Criscitiello  
Mr. Birkenstock

**Abstain: -**

**Resolution to Adopt the 2025-2026 Budget**

Adoption of the FINAL BUDGET pending NJ D.O.E. approval, with modifications to the TENTATIVE BUDGET approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent

**WHEREAS**, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on April 10, 2025, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

**WHEREAS**, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 16, 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the legal section of The Courier News on April 23, 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, in the proposed FY2026 State Budget, certain districts had the opportunity to apply to the Commission of Education to increase expenditures, including an allocation of Tax Levy Incentive Aid, in order to satisfy the thoroughness and efficiency standards established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46.

**WHEREAS**, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is below local fair share and spending below adequacy to be eligible to participate in this program.

**WHEREAS**, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is eligible to increase expenditures by \$3,070,762 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of \$146,227.

**WHEREAS**, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District has been granted approval to increase expenditures to support operations that, if left unsupported, could negatively impact the district's ability to meet the state's thoroughness and efficiency standards

**WHEREAS**, the FINAL BUDGET, including the increase in accordance with the tax levy incentive aid, was presented to the public during a public hearing held at the J.P. Case Middle School, Flemington, NJ, on May 1, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has now determined to make modifications to the Tentative Budget as follows:

Increase in Revenues:

Revenue Budget Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
10-1210-000	Tax Levy	\$62,802,473	\$65,727,008	\$2,924,535	Tax Levy Incentive Program
10-3190-000	Other State Aid	\$ 00.00	\$ 146,227	\$ 146,227	Tax Levy Incentive Aid
TOTAL		\$62,802,473	\$65,873,235	\$3,070,762	

Increase in Appropriations:

Budget Appropriation Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
11-120-100-101	Regular Programs Instruction	\$8,969,183	\$10,145,998	\$1,176,815	Grade 1-5 Teacher
11-130-100-101	Regular Programs Instruction	\$5,645,062	\$ 5,750,990	\$ 105,928	Grade 6-8 Teacher
11-000-270-511	Student Transportation	\$ 00.00	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	Transportation for Contracted Services
11-000-261-420	Required Maintenance.	\$ 347,275	\$ 422,275	\$ 75,000	Required Maintenance. Upgrades

11-240-100-101	Bilingual Education	\$ 760,887	\$ 855,887	\$ 95,000	Teacher
12-000-400-450	Construction Services	\$ 00.00	\$ 1,218,019	\$1,218,019	Partial Roof Replacement
TOTAL		\$15,722,407	\$18,793,169	\$3,070,762	

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in consideration of the above, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education hereby adopts the following FINAL Budget for SY 2025-2026:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$73,765,753	\$*65,727,008
Special Revenue	\$ 4,676,830	\$
Debt Service	\$ 5,941,820	\$ 4,969,450
Total Base Budget	\$84,384,403	\$70,696,458

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$376,300 of which the District will utilize \$376,300 in the 2025-2026 budget. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased health benefits in the amount of \$1,142,478 of which the District will utilize \$1,142,478 in the 2025-2026 budget.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$363,061. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to support educational programming. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2026, and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

**\*Still pending New Jersey Department of Education approval**

**Approval of Minutes** – Executive Session – April 10, 2025  
Regular Meeting - April 10, 2025

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

#### **THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:**

### **PERSONNEL**

Chairperson, Gina Criscitiello, Next Meeting – May 12, 2025

Ms. Criscitiello shared an update on the personnel committee which last met on Monday, April 14th. The first action the committee took was to approve a leave replacement hire for a 6th grade math teacher. Next, Mrs. Latzke went over the open position that our district is facing, which consists of two speech language pathologists, due to retirements and three leave of absence hires as well. Mrs. Latzke then finished up her portion of the meeting by updating the committee on all additional compensation, as well as achieving approval for the use of therapy dogs in the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. McGann took over the meeting and looked for committee approval regarding the 25-26 calendars for FREA secretarial staff and non-align staff as well. The Superintendent then went over her recommendation for the district's school nurse's summer hours and what their responsibilities entail. Committee approved. Superintendent closed out the meeting by giving an update on district goals.

**Personnel Item(s) 1-11 were approved under one motion made by Ms. Criscitiello, seconded by Mr. Birkenstock.**

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

**Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence**

1. Approval was given for district staff member(s) to take a leave of absence or amend their leave during the 2024-2025 school year.
2. 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.	Ponnusamy	Jeyanthi	RFIS	Teacher Math Grade 6 / K. Guarino	\$61,770 (prorated)/BA/1	May 2, 2025 - June 30, 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

3. Approval was given to transfer the following staff member(s) for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	From: Loc./Position	To: Loc./Position	Effective Dates
1.	Cook	Michelle	CO / Content Supervisor ELA & Social Studies	TBD / Vice Principal-12 Month	July 1, 2025

4. Approval was given to employ the following staff members for the 2025-2026 school year, as per the attached appendices, as follows:

Item	Staff	Appendix
1.	Tenured Administrators	A
2.	Non-Tenured Administrators	B
3.	Tenured Certificated Staff	C
4.	Non-Tenured Certificated Staff	D

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

5. Approval was given to employ the following staff members for the 2025-2026 school year, as per the attached appendices, as follows:

Item	Staff	Appendix
1.	Non-Tenured Non-Certificated	E
2.	Tenured Secretaries	F
3.	Non-Tenured Secretaries	G
4.	Cafeteria Aides	H
5.	Non-Aligned	I
6.	Teacher Assistants	J
7.	Transportation Aides	K

6. Approval was given to employ the following staff member for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Salary	Effective Dates
1.	Hance	William	CO	Treasurer of School Monies	\$6,245.00	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

7. Approval was given to confirm the 2024-2025 school year Teacher Assistant(s) salaries to reflect the \$500 (prorated) salary adjustment (based on FTE) for holding a substitute or teaching certification, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Effective Dates
1.	Howard	Jada	RFIS	Teacher Assistant	\$29,578*/4	April 28, 2025 - June 30, 2025
2.	Mittler	Kimi	CH	Teacher Assistant	\$32,261*/6	September 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\*Salary will be adjusted to include an additional \$500 (based on FTE) for holding teaching or substitute certification.

8. Approval was given to adopt the following calendars for the 2025-2026 school year:

1. FREA Secretary Calendar
2. Non-Aligned Employee Calendar

### All Staff – Additional Compensation

9. 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.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	To assist students in extracurricular activities as required by the IEP	30 shared hours	\$36/hr
2.	Wong	May	JPC			
3.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
4.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
5.	Hall	Bryce	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
6.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
7.	Sewall	Cate	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
8.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
9.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
10.	Squicciarini	Therese	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
11.	Vita	Matthew	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
12.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
13.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
14.	DeLaney	Tiffany	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
15.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
16.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
17.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
18.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
19.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
20.	Plichta	David	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
21.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
22.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
23.	Bubeer	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
24.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
25.	Phillips	Regina	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
26.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
27.	Wagner	Lauren	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
28.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
29.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
30.	Plichta	David	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr

31.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
32.	Marsigliano	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
33.	McAnlis	Melissa	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
34.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/9/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
35.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
36.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
37.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
38.	Meyer	Misti	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
39.	Hand	Gina	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
40.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
41.	Vita	Matthew	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
42.	Genito	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
43.	Logan	Jonathan	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
44.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
45.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
46.	DeLaney	Tiffany	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
47.	Counsel	Jeannie	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
48.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
49.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
50.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
51.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
52.	Vargas	Johnny	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
53.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
54.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
55.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
56.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	20 minutes	\$36/hr
57.	DeLaney	Tiffany	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
58.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
59.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
60.	Phillips	Regina	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
61.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
62.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
66.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
67.	DeLaney	Tiffany	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
69.	Hall	Bryce	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
71.	McAnlis	Melissa	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
70.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
65.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
72.	Plichta	David	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
64.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
73.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
68.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/15/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
74.	Cataldo	Lynn	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
75.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
76.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
77.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
78.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
79.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
80.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
81.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
82.	Vargas	Johnny	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
83.	Wagner	Lauren	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
84.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 4/16/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr



63.	Kucharski	Amy	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
64.	Librizzi	Sue	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
65.	Vallecilla	Amelia	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/8/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
66.	Mack	Paul	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
67.	Benedetti	Anthony	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
68.	Kucharski	Amy	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
69.	Quattrochi	Megan	RFIS	Class coverage - 4/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr

10. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) as home instructors outside of contracted hours during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate/Stipend
1.	Robertson	Kelly	RH	Home Instruction	700 Shared Hours	\$36/hr

11. Approval was given to amend the April 10, 2025 motion:

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.	Howard	Jada	RFIS	To assist in clubs, intramurals, and activity/concert nights as required by the IEP	45 hours	\$36/hr

to read:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Howard	Jada	RFIS	To assist in clubs, intramurals, and activity/concert nights as required by the IEP	45 hours	Hourly

## INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM

Chairperson, William Bentley, Next Meeting – May 15, 2025

No items or report.

## OPERATIONS & TRANSPORTATION

Chairperson, Ryan Birkenstock, Next Meeting – May 14, 2025

Mr. Birkenstock shared an update on the operations committee which last met. The Operations/Transportation Committee met on April 14th to continue discussions on the district's budget challenges and potential solutions. The Business Administrator informed the committee that even after accounting for the reduction of 65 positions, the budget still exceeds \$70,000,000 by \$262,358. The committee was advised that if the board chooses to revert to a 4% tax increase, additional reductions would be necessary.

The committee reviewed the Debt Service payment schedule and received clarification regarding the difference between the total amount due and the requested amount. This discrepancy was explained as resulting from debt service aid received from the State and interest earned on remaining referendum funds, which must be applied to reduce the amount owed by taxpayers.

A substantial portion of the meeting was dedicated to a detailed analysis of the tax levy. The committee examined the tax worksheet with emphasis on how the debt service tax levy is excluded from the percentage increase being applied to the general tax levy. The discussion led to the important distinction between the district's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and municipalities' calendar year (January to December), which affects how taxes are calculated and collected.

The Business Administrator explained that taxpayers receive an annual bill that includes taxes from January through June—covering the second half of the current school year—and from July through December—covering the first half of the new school year. This results in a gradual application of any tax rate change, producing a blended rate that represents the actual amount residents pay within a given calendar year.

The committee expressed concern that this method does not effectively communicate the full impact of a higher tax increase to residents. The committee emphasized that while the numbers the district advertises are correct for the 2025 tax year bill, they do not

reflect the increases that will be sustained for the 2026 tax year. The committee recognized that determining the total increase for the 2026 tax year bill is impossible since it will be blended with the tax levy increase for the 2026-2027 school year, which will be determined in May of next year. It was discussed that since the advertised numbers essentially only account for half of the year, taxpayers can conservatively expect a full tax impact of nearly double the advertised amount. The committee agreed that showing and discussing a "12-month" school year impact was important to ensure taxpayers understood the full impact of any tax levy increase.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about appropriate tax increase levels. Some committee members expressed hesitation about exceeding a 5.1% increase, citing the failed budget vote, while others maintained that the failed vote and the district's path to adequacy represent separate issues that warrant consideration of a higher increase. The committee requested an updated five-year budget forecast reflecting a 5.1% increase to help guide the board's decision-making process.

**Operations and Transportation Item(s) 1-5, including the addendum item were approved under one motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Dr. Bentley.**

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

1. Approval was given of the facility use agreement with the YMCA River Crossing for before and after school programs for the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Approval was given to award the district's RFP for food service management company contract (Base Year 2 of 5) to Maschio's Food Services Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Management Flat Fee of \$66,625  
 Guaranteed Return of \$40,000  
 Total Cost of Contract of \$1,383,034.18

3. Approval was given of the à la carte food items and the following school lunch prices for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student Lunch     \$3.75  
 Adult Lunch       \$4.25

4. Approval was given of the following school breakfast prices for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student Breakfast \$2.50  
 Adult Breakfast   \$3.00

5. Approval was given to award Transportation Bid 25-01 to the following vendors:

- a. Synder's Bus Service, - Packages A, B, C, D, K, N, O, R, S, T
- b. Krapf School Bus NJN, Inc. - Packages E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, P, Q

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>SNYDER</b>	<b>KRAPF</b>
PACKAGE A	\$336.24	
PACKAGE B	\$361.84	
PACKAGE C	\$378.70	
PACKAGE D	\$386.86	
PACKAGE E		\$580.00
PACKAGE F		\$446.00
PACKAGE G		\$438.00
PACKAGE H		\$442.00
PACKAGE I		\$436.00
PACKAGE J		\$452.00
PACKAGE K	\$353.94	
PACKAGE L		\$460.00
PACKAGE M		\$436.00

## POLICY

Chairperson, Jaclyn Arce, Next Meeting – May 12, 2025

No items or report.

## MISCELLANEOUS (INFORMATION-ACTION)

**Miscellaneous Action Item 1 was approved under one motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Mr. Cirillo.**

<b>Aye:</b> <b>Ms. Arce</b> <b>Dr. Bentley</b> <b>Dr. Buckleitner</b> <b>Mr. Cirillo</b> <b>Ms. Colpas</b>	<b>Ms. Criscitiello</b> <b>Mr. Owen</b> <b>Ms. Whitley</b> <b>Mr. Birkenstock</b>	<b>Nay:</b> -	<b>Abstain:</b> -
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### Information

- Suspensions for the month of April 2025:

School	Infraction	Duration
RFIS	Insubordination/Destruction of Property	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate use of district technology	2 Days
JPC	Insubordination, disruptive or unsafe behavior, inappropriate language	3 Days
JPC	Inappropriate language toward a staff member	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate language	1 Day
JPC	Fighting	2 Days
JPC	Fighting	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate language and unsafe behavior	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate behavior in school	1 Day
JPC	Assault of another student	3 days

- 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
January	1/14	1/10	1/17	1/17	1/27	1/28
February	2/7	2/24	2/5	2/24	2/25	2/4
March	3/6	3/31	3/13	3/19	3/21	3/12
April	4/9	4/29	4/8	4/3	4/4	4/29

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
January	1/16	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/29	1/23
February	2/24	2/25	2/19	2/25	2/6	2/25
March	3/20	3/31	3/25	3/11	3/13	3/27
April	4/8	4/16	4/14 & 4/30	4/14	4/10	4/10

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

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
RFIS	April 1, 2025	RFIS#4	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in report.
JPC	March 3-March 26, 2025	JPC#2	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in report.
JPC	March 10-April 2, 2025	JPC#3	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in report.
JPC	April 2, 2025	JPC#4	Yes	Remedial measures outlined in report.

**Action Items**

1. Approval was given to accept the following Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation(s) presented on the April 10, 2025, Board agenda, as follows:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
RH	March 24, 2025	RH#2	Not HIB	Remedial measures outlined in report.
FAD	March 13, 2025	FAD#1	Not HIB	Remedial measures outlined in report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Arce reported that the Board received a lot of correspondence and they are working to respond to them all.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board President advised that he would be sending out dates for the Superintendent's evaluation and the Board retreat.

**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.

Kristen Errickson, Raritan Township - spoke about the flawed State funding formula and in support of the budget.

Valerie Bart, Raritan Township - Clarified her earlier comments and shared support for the business administrator. Spoke about the effects of higher taxes on the community.

Colleen Pirone, Raritan Township - spoke in support of the Gifted & Talented program next year and shared concerns for what the program will look like next year.

Sarah Stangota, Raritan Township - Acknowledged that the Board has received a lot of correspondence lately, asked what is the expectation for a response to correspondence.

Donna Schenkel, Raritan Township - spoke about accountability from administration and legislators.

Dr. McGann shared that there has been a lot of discussion about the Gifted and Talented program and more will take place in the coming days, as soon as those discussions take place, plans will be announced. Dr. McGann shared that she is very grateful to serve for this district.

Mr. Birkenstock noted that the Board has received countless emails and they are working on responding to everyone.

On the motion of Mr. Birkenstock seconded by Ms. Criscitiello, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary