

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2026

AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, Wayne Bartron, John Friend, Erin Henry,
Rachel Kabbash, Stephen Koger (Arrived 7:01), Stephanie Perna,
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Christopher Patterson, John VanKampen

The Board President opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M., with the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the following statement read by the Board Secretary:

This meeting is being conducted in compliance with the “Open Public Meeting Act – Chapter 231 – Public Laws of 1975.” Advance written notice of at least 48 hours was given specifying the time, date and to the extent known, the agenda, and stating whether formal action may or may not be taken and has been properly posted at the school, mailed to the Clerk/Administrator, and mailed to the New Jersey Herald and the Star Ledger.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash, and carried unanimously by voice vote, approved the minutes of the following meeting:

December 8, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes	ATTACHMENT 1
December 8, 2025 – Executive Session Minutes	
January 5, 2026 – Reorganization Meeting Minutes	ATTACHMENT 2

PRESENTATIONS

- A. National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Students provided updates on:
The Lion King Jr., the Drama Club, Staff vs. Students Basketball Game,
Winter 4 Kids - FEF will be hosting a family this year, PBSIS
- B. Student Recognition - PBSIS RAM Champions through the PBSIS Program –
Dr. Giacchi, Superintendent and Dr. Vallacchi, Principal presented the awards along with
Mrs. Clohessey, Board President.
 - Kindergarten
 - Ariana Rivera
 - Amalia Capellan
 - First Grade
 - Nicolina Scalo
 - Timothy Davis
- C. 2025-2026 Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan – Dr. Vallacchi, Principal

CORRESPONDENCE – N/A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mrs. Perna and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on Agenda items.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on the agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation and the agenda item you will address.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse comments, nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments made by a member of the public about a staff member or any other individual that may be considered defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comment, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

- Boy Scouts, Pack 90 addressed the Board to discuss building use.

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Mr. Bartron, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on the Agenda items.

BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. School updates
 - Our school will be closed on January 19, 2026, in observance of MLK Day. The teachers will have an in-service day.
 - He mentioned all the different events happening at our school.
 - We have two new staff members.
- B. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of December 2025 were as follows:

- December 11, 2025 at 1:19 p.m. – Fire Drill
- December 15, 2025 – Gym Lockdown Drills (Grades 2 - 8)
- December 16, 2025 – Gym Lockdown Drills (Grades K - 1)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Stephanie Perna, Chair – Committee Report

Discussion:

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, rescinds the appointments below:

Rescinded Staff Member	Rescinded Date	Rescinded Compensation
Jannah Leka – (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	December 8, 2025 <i>Date originally approved by the Board of Education</i>	\$19.62 per hour, plus \$2.00 per hour differential for providing higher level care, not benefit eligible
Michael Antonelli – Behaviorist	November 17, 2025 <i>Date originally approved by the Board of Education</i>	\$60.00 per hour not to exceed \$36,000, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of required paperwork where applicable:

Staff Member/Appointment	Start Date	Compensation
Jason Baldwin (1 FTE) – Full-time Evening Custodian	On or about January 12, 2026	\$44,000 per year (to be prorated), benefit eligible
Nicholas Kiss (.71 FTE) – Part-time Paraprofessional	January 5, 2026	\$19.62 per hour, plus \$2.00 per hour differential for providing higher level care, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Michael Russomanno (1) – Full-time Social Studies Teacher	January 5, 2026	MA +30, Step 14 at \$82,296 (to be prorated), benefit eligible

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year pending completion of required paperwork, where applicable. Compensation upon submission of timesheets. *(Note that benefits are not included for the substitutes listed below.)*

Name	Position	Compensation
Sabrina Gomes	Substitute Custodian	\$15.92 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Heather McKinnon	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Milenko Popovic	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Sabrina Mohammed	2026 Educational Support Professionals and Health and Safety Conference in Somerset, NJ	Registration: \$250.00 Mileage: \$51.98 TOTAL: \$301.98	February 6-8, 2026
Sabrina Mohammed	NJ School Association Spring Conference	Registration: \$259.00 Hotel: \$147.86 Milage: \$62.52 TOTAL: \$469.38	March 27-28, 2026
Lisa Grillo	Live Online Seminar – Dyslexia: Best Strategies to Increase Student Success	Registration: \$295.00	March 5, 2026
Lisa Grillo	Live Online Seminar – Science of Reading: Increase the Success of Your Struggling Readers	Registration: \$295.00	March 19, 2026
Lisa Grillo	Live Online Seminar – Dyslexia Early Intervention: Practical Strategies for Intercepting and Correcting Reading Difficulties	Registration: \$295.00	March 24, 2026

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Stephen Koger – Chair

Discussion:

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Mrs. Perna, and carried by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the findings of the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) report shared in Executive Session at the December 8, 2025 regular Board of Education meeting:

HIB Case Number	Finding	Determination
HIB 25-26-02	Substantiated	Accept/Reject/Modify

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar. **ATTACHMENT 3**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the 2025-2026 Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan. **ATTACHMENT 4**

FINANCE/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Erin Henry, Chair

Discussion:

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Mrs. Perna, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated December 9, 2025 - January 12, 2026. **ATTACHMENT 5**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	\$60,951.73
Fund 11	General Expense	\$982,224.36
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	0
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$100,135.92
Fund 30	Capital Projects	0
Fund 60	Cafeteria	\$53,865.51
Fund 95	Student Activities	\$1,445.00
	Total	\$1,198,622.52

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the attached Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer of School Monies report for November 2025.

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of November 2025, no budgetary line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1;

Therefore be it resolved that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 the Board of Education does certify that as of November 2025, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial

Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **ATTACHMENT 6**

C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of November 2025. **ATTACHMENT 7**

D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls Manual. **ATTACHMENT 8**

E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Franklin Borough Board of Education Purchasing Manual. **ATTACHMENT 9**

F. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the following monetary donation:

Donation From	To Be Used For	Amount
Franklin Borough School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)	Winter4Kids	\$2,000

G. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following service provider for the 2025-2026 school year:

Provider	Services
American Day CD Centers, LLC (High Focus Centers) PO Box 967 Duncansville PA 16635	Therapeutic Services

H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following psychiatric evaluation for the student listed below:

Student	Provider	Date/Services	Total Cost
#*****9262	American Day CD Centers, LLC (High Focus Centers)	12 days during the 2025-2026 school year for Intensive Outpatient Therapeutic Services	\$4,450.00

I. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a portion of the following employee’s salary to be charged to the IDEA Preschool Grant in the 2025-2026 school year:

IDEA Preschool Grant		
Name	Amount	Percentage of Salary
Wendy Awuah - Part-time Paraprofessional	\$10,512	50.61%

J. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the disposal of the following items:

Disposal of Obsolete/Surplus/Disposable Equipment/Materials		
Items	Date	ATTACHMENTS
Library Items	December 2025	ATTACHMENT 10

K. Resolved that the Board of Education amends the following facilities use request in accordance with [Policy 7510 - Use of School Facilities](#) and [Regulation 7510 - Use of School Facilities](#): (Note that this was originally approved at the December 8, 2025 Board of Education meeting.)

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Class II – Walkkill Valley Travel Soccer	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from December 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026	Zoom Room Gymnasium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility Use costs for each four hours' use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gymnasium <i>Waived - \$1,500.00</i> ○ Other Fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Fee <i>Waived - \$300.00</i> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL COSTS: \$0.00</p>

- L. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following facilities use request in accordance with [Policy 7510 - Use of School Facilities](#) and [Regulation 7510 - Use of School Facilities](#):

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
<p>Class II – Cub Scout Pack 90 - Roar and Rumble - Live Pro Wrestling Event Fundraiser</p>	<p>May 9, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>(Event is from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Additional time is for setup and breakdown.)</i></p>	<p>Main Gymnasium, locker rooms, bleachers, connecting hallways, bathrooms, and parking lot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility Use costs for each four hours' use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Main Gymnasium and locker rooms</i> <i>Waived - \$1,500.00</i> ○ Other Fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Service Fee</i> <i>Waived - \$300.00</i> ▪ <i>Custodial Overtime Fees -</i> <i>TBD</i> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL COSTS: \$TBD</p> <p><i>Additional Materials Needed:</i> <i>7 folding tables</i> <i>100 folding chairs - (Pack 90 will source 100 chairs as needed)</i></p>

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Regionalization Study – Dr. Giacchi provided an update to the Board.
- B. Ms. Henry discussed shared services, possibly having a pilot program.
- C. Mr. Bartron mentioned the shared nurse. Dr. Giacchi gave an update on how the shared service agreement works.
- D. Mrs. Kabbash spoke on the Regionalization presentation she attended in December. It seems the curriculum has a significant disparity in the sending districts to Wallkill. Mrs. Kabbash inquired about transportation stating that Wallkill has buses, why don't we all go to Wallkill versus hiring a Coop. Mrs. Kabbash does not want to regionalize.
- E. Mrs. Perna mentioned that the debt and taxes were negative.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Henry questioned what time the exterior lights go off? She feels it is too soon.
- B. Dr. Giacchi emailed all staff that use our building regarding our parking issue.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Discussion – N/A

On motion by Mr. Bartron seconded by Mr. Friend, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on non-agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation.

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Discussion: n/a

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Bartron and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Mr. Bartron, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary