

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING October 13, 2025

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

PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, Wayne Bartron, Stephanie Perna,
Christopher Patterson, John Friend, Erin Henry
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Rachel Kabbash, Stephen Koger, 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 Mr. Bartron, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried by the following roll call vote, approved the minutes of the following meetings as presented:

1. September 15, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENT 1

Yes - 5
Abstain - 1 (Ms. Henry)
No - 0

PRESENTATIONS

- A. National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Students

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Retirement Notification – Mrs. Alison Hendershot’s retirement letter was read out loud by Mrs. Clohessey.
- B. School Use Thank You Letter - Franklin Historical Society submitted a thank you letter for waving the building use fee. Mrs. Clohessey read the letter and Dr. Giacchi explained why the fee was waived.

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Agenda Items

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Bartron 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.

No one addressed the Board

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. To report a Special Board of Education meeting will be held Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Giacchi provided the following information:

- A. School updates
- B. To report that bus drills for preschool through 8th grade were completed on October 3, 2025

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C. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of September 2025 were as follows:

- September 8, 2025 at 9:36 a.m. – Fire Drill
- September 12, 2025 at 9:40 a.m. – Lock Down Drill

D. To report that on Veterans Day the Franklin Band will be performing and the County Historian will be attending our Veterans Honor Service.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Stephanie Perna, Chair – Committee Report

Discussion: N/A

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

A. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following resignation for the purpose of retirement:

Staff Member	Position	Effective Date
Alison Hendershot	Elementary Teacher	January 1, 2026

B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following resignations:

Staff Member	Position	Last Day Worked
Caitlin Collins	Part-time Paraprofessional	On or about October 31, 2025
Alyssa Novak	Part-time Physical Education/Health Teacher	On or about October 31, 2025

C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the following stipend for mentoring the novice teacher listed below: *(Note that this was originally approved at the September 15, 2025 Board of Education meeting. Also note that novice teacher Alyssa Novak was mentored at another district for 16 weeks of the required 30 weeks, and \$220 of the required \$550 stipend was paid to the mentor at that time.)*

Mentor	Stipend	Novice Teacher
Nicholas Speer	Prorated stipend for 11 weeks of mentoring from August 27, 2025 - November 14, 2025	Alyssa Novak - last day on October 31, 2025

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- D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following unpaid days, pending a memorandum from the Franklin Education Association (FEA) stating the approval of unpaid days is not precedent setting:

Employee	Unpaid Days
#8150	12/1/2025
#8264	10/2/2025, 10/3/2025, 10/6/2025, 10/7/2025
#493	1/20/2026
#7929	11/5/2025

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the Full-time Equivalent (FTE) for the following paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year as listed below:

Staff Member	New FTE	Effective Date
Natasha Gonzalez	.75	October 2, 2025

- F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following custodial stipend for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Member	Position	Stipend
David McDole	Assistant to the Head Custodian	\$1,800

- G. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, extends home instruction as listed below, compensation upon submission of timesheets: *(Note that this was originally approved at the September 15, 2025 Board of Education meeting.)*

Student	Staff member	Compensation	Dates
#*****9262	Kristen Bauer – Teacher	\$45.00 per hour, up to ten (10) hours per week	Beginning September 30, 2025
	Sarah Blondina – Paraprofessional	\$19.62 per hour, up to ten (10) hours per week	Beginning September 30, 2025

- H. 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
Gina Frazer (.71 FTE) – Part-time Paraprofessional	October 6, 2025	\$19.62 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

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Roger DeGroat (.71 FTE) – Part-time Physical Education/Health Teacher	On or before November 3, 2025	BA Step 1 at \$62,207 per year (prorated to \$44,167), not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation
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- I. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following referees for the 2025-2026 school year. Compensation upon submission of timesheets:

Staff Member	Position	Compensation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Ellis • Kristina Fedor 	Referee	\$95 per game

- J. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development (PD), compensation is at the contracted hourly rate per employee and payable upon submission of timesheets:

CPI Training					
Two (2) Hours Per Paraprofessional					
Paraprofessional		Paraprofessional		Paraprofessional	
Erika	Alonso	Gina	Frazer	Lorraine	Paugh
Adam	Alvarado	Lisa	Frye	Frances	Radziewicz
Meghan	Arxer	William	Frye	Donna	Ratti
Wendy	Awuah	Natasha	Gonzalez	Rosalba	Riso
Kelly	Baldassano	Ann	Grabkowski	Jessica	Ross
Yackelin	Barrientos	Diane	Healy	Laura	Sanders
Tyler	Bauer	Diana	Hetyei	Marissa	Shea
Matthew	Bove	Paolette	Jurado	Kim	Siccardi
Aurora	Brown	Gail	Kopko Frieling	Ryan	Silvestri
Matthew	Cardenas	Angela	Lanham	Eve	Soares
Michelle	Cilurso	Nancy	Madera	Crystal	Talmadge
Denise	Clarke	Michelle	Maher	Yesenia	Taylor
Caitlin	Collins	Johanna	Mazzei	Denise	Tirado
Christa	Constantinacos	Amy	McCann	Jennifer	Torres
Ashley	Counterman-O'Leary	Sunisa	McNamara	Jessica	Vega

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Jordan	Cross	Shannon	Moldovany	Angela	Vitrano
Ivelisse	Cuevas-Arce	Mary Ann	Monteaperto	Dolores	Voegele
Elizabeth	Davenport	Angelica	Muniz	Kelly	Walters
Lisa Ann	Davis	Justin	Neal	Diane	Witherby
Lauren	DeVore	Christina	Nogueras		
Daniel	Engelhardt	Melissa	Papadoupalos		
Kristina	Fedor	Nicole	Paragh		
Johanna	Ferrari				

- K. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following New or Non-Stipend Clubs per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Franklin Board of Education and the Franklin Education Association (FEA):

New or Non-Stipend Club and Dates	Advisor	Compensation
Fall/Winter Fiber Arts Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Grillo • Christy Kota 	\$500 to be split equally between the two advisors
Spring Fiber Arts Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Grillo • Christy Kota 	\$500 to be split equally between the two advisors

- L. 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
Samantha Genader	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Camille Jadotte	Substitute Nurse	\$250 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

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

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Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Melissa Devido	American Speech/Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, Washington DC	Registration: \$459.00 <i>Plus Hotel: N/A</i> <i>Meals: N/A</i> <i>Mileage: N/A</i> <i>Parking/Tolls: N/A</i>	November 20 - 22, 2025

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Stephen Koger – Chair (Mrs. Clohessey for Mr. Koger)

Discussion: *N/A*

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

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJ QSAC) District Performance Review (DPR) Self-Assessment to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) through NJDOE Homeroom.
- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2024-2025 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act to the NJDOE.
- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a contract for \$24,000 with William Patterson University to provide Master Teacher/Preschool Instructional Coach support services for the 2025-2026 school year.
- D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Winter4Kids Ski Program contract for the 2025-2026 school year at \$450 per participant. The program runs for six (6) sessions on the following dates:

Winter4Kids Ski Program	
Session 1:	January 07, 2026
Session 2:	January 14, 2025
Session 3:	January 21, 2026
Session 4:	January 28, 2026
Session 5:	February 4, 2026
Session 6:	February 11, 2026

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E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following field trips:

Grade	Location	Dates	Cost
2	Tamerlaine Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. 141 Clove Road Montague NJ 07827	May 14, 2026 (Rain date May 29, 2026)	\$702.00 <i>plus transportation</i>
8	Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre 242 West 45 th Street New York NY 10036	May 27, 2026	\$4,439.50 <i>plus transportation</i>
	Dallas BBQ 241 W 42nd St New York NY 10036		\$1,818.75
	Madam Tussauds 234 W 42nd St New York NY 10036		\$1,653.12
3	NJ Performing Arts Center One Center Street Newark NJ 07102	June 5, 2026	\$512.00 <i>plus transportation</i>

FINANCE/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Erin Henry, Chair

Discussion: N/A

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

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated September 16, 2025 - October 13, 2025. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	\$439,128.96
Fund 11	General Expense	\$618,646.24
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	\$3,175.00
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$75,585.08
Fund 30	Capital Projects	\$339,997.64
Fund 60	Cafeteria	-
Fund 95	Student Activities	\$4,439.50
	Total	\$1,480,972.42

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

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of August 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 August 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 3**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of August 2025. **ATTACHMENT 4**
- D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of Form M-1 (Annual Maintenance Reserve Worksheet) to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on or before November 15, 2025.
- E. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts book donations from Christy Kota and others for the school library. **ATTACHMENT 5**
- F. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the donation of \$207.86 from Weis Markets for the weis4school rewards program.
- G. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Shared Nursing Services Agreement with Wallkill Valley Regional High School, Hamburg School, and Ogdensburg School for the 2025-2026 school year.
- H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the second payment application to Northeastern Interior Services in the amount of \$62,394.58 for the Annex Bathroom project.
- I. Resolved that the Board of Education approves travel expenses related to the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Annual Workshop to be held October 20 - 23, 2025 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey:

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Name	Hotel \$122/ Night	Mileage 312 miles @.47	Food Allowance	Tolls and Parking	Total
Clohessey, Kathleen	\$366	\$146.64	\$238	\$50	\$764.64
Bartron, Wayne	\$366	\$146.64	\$238	\$50	\$764.64
Kabbash, Rachel	\$366	\$0	\$238	\$0.00	\$604.00
Giacchi, John	\$0	\$146.64	\$238	\$50	\$434.64
Sarmiento, Carlos	\$366	\$146.64	\$238	\$50	\$764.64

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

Provider	Services	Cost
Highland Psychiatric Associates Dr. Jain Sanjeevani 70 S Sparta Avenue, Suite 206 Sparta NJ 07871	Psychiatric Evaluation	\$1,250.00 per evaluation

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

Student	Provider	Date/Services	Cost
#*****4773	Highland Psychiatric Associates Dr. Jain Sanjeevani	October 15, 2025 Psychiatric Evaluation	\$1,250.00

- L. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student	Provider	Dates	Cost
#*****9262	LearnWell 2 Main Street, Suite 2A Plymouth, MA 02360	September 22, 2025 through September 29, 2025	\$63.00 per hour for 10 hours per week

- M. Resolved that the Board of Education approves using funds from the 2025 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) for Ben Shaffer Recreation to make the following upgrades to the school playground:

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Playground	Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare site for upgrades 	\$10,200.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add four (4) swings • Add a new/expanded border • Add new mulch 	\$16,536.62

N. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following facilities use requests in accordance with Policy and Regulation 7510 - Use of School Facilities:

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
<p><u>Class II</u> – Girl Scout Troop 95328</p>	<p>From 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on multiple dates throughout the school year provided there are no conflicts with school events:</p> <p>October 7 & 21, 2025 November 18, 2025 December 2 & 16, 2025 January 6 & 20, 2026 February 3, 2026 March 3 & 17, 2026 April 21, 2026 May 5 & 19, 2026 June 2, 2026</p>	<p>School cafeteria or other available space:</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"> ▪ Cafeteria <i>Waived - \$500.00</i> ▪ Classrooms <i>Waived - \$250.00</i> ○ Other Fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Fee <i>Waived - \$300.00</i> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL COSTS: \$0</p>
<p><u>Class II</u> – Walkkill Valley Recreational Basketball</p>	<p>Monday through Friday from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. from November 3, 2025 through March 20, 2026 provided there are no conflicts with school events</p> <p><i>Blackout dates are to be determined.</i></p>	<p>Main gymnasium:</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"> ▪ 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</p>
<p><u>Class II</u> – The Center for Prevention and Counseling –</p>	<p>Tuesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. <i>(the program runs from</i></p>	<p>School cafeteria and classrooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility Use costs for each four hours' use:

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Strengthening Families	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) on the following dates: October 21, 28, 2025 November 4, 18, 25, 2025 December 2, 9, 16, 2025 January 6, 13, 20, 2026 <i>Note that November 4th is a blackout date. An alternate date is yet to be determined.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cafeteria <i>Waived - \$500.00</i> ▪ Classrooms <i>Waived - \$250.00</i> ○ Other Fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Fee <i>Waived - \$300.00</i> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL COSTS: \$0</p>
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OLD BUSINESS

- A. Board of Education Goals – Mrs. Clohessey provided an update.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mrs. Kabbash went to the Sussex County Meeting. Mr. Sarmiento will send out the notes from the meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Discussion – N/A

On motion by Mr. Bartron seconded by Mr. Patterson, 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.

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.

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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.

No one addressed the Board

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered Executive Session at 7:19 pm.

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mrs. Perna and carried unanimously by voice vote, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from the portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1)-9;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall forthwith enter closed session to discuss the following matter(s) concerning:

- Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law – HIB #25-26-01
- Personnel
- Appointment of a public official
- Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
- Pending or anticipated litigation
- Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
- Protection of the safety or property of the public
- Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
- Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiation of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
- Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said discussion may be disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

The Board returned to regular session at 7:22 pm

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Bartron, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary