

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

April 14, 2026

AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, Wayne Bartron, John Friend, Erin Henry (6:02 arrival),
Stephen Koger, Rachel Kabbash, Stephanie Perna,
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Christopher Patterson, John VanKampen

The Board President opened the meeting at 6:02p.m.

Flag Salute & Pledge of Allegiance

PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

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.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Amended Preliminary Budget Presentation –
Mr. Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Dr. Giacchi, Superintendent

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC –FY 2026-2027 Amended Preliminary Budget

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Mr. Bartron and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting for public comment on the FY 2026-2027 amended preliminary budget.

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

April 14, 2026

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. Kabbash, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on the FY 2026-2027 amended preliminary budget.

BUDGET:

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting for public comment on the adoption of the amended preliminary budget for FY 2026-2027.

BE IT RESOLVED that the amended preliminary budget be approved for the 2026-2027 school year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following amended preliminary budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline and to advertise said amended preliminary budget in the NJ Herald in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing be held in the library at Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington Avenue, Franklin, New Jersey on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
2026-2027 Budget	\$13,401,791	\$1,888,054	\$15,289,845
Less: Anticipated Revenue	\$5,761,702	\$1,888,054	\$7,649,756
Taxes to be Raised	\$7,640,089	\$0	\$7,640,089

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2026-2027

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, a Board of Education must establish a maximum dollar limit for professional services and public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Board of Education hereby establishes the following maximums for the 2026-2027 fiscal year as follows:

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

April 14, 2026

Professional Service	Amount
Legal	\$25,000
Audit	\$38,964
Physician	\$8,000
Architect/Engineer	\$12,537

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs.

SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL MAXIMUM 2026-2027

WHEREAS, school district policy and N.J.A.C 6A:23a-7.1 et seq. provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount of \$346.43 as of March 19, 2026 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Franklin Borough Board of Education, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, hereby establishes the school district maximum for the 2026-2027 school year at the sum of \$32,750; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

MAINTENANCE RESERVE WITHDRAWAL

BE IT RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) the general fund appropriations include a \$253,844 withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5.

USE OF HEALTH CARE ADJUSTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Borough Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a Health Care Costs adjustment as calculated in the budget software and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 subsection (d) in the amount of \$291,220. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health care premiums.

USE OF BANKED CAP

BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Borough Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$222,898 for the purpose of supporting certificated and non-certificated staff salaries along with the increase in out of district tuition. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2027.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

April 14, 2026

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Discussion – N/A

On motion by Mr. Bartron seconded by Ms. Henry, 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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No one addressed the Board

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Ms. Henry 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 Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary