MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 12, 2026

AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FRANKLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Board President opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M., with a roll call vote.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, F. Cliff Graham, John Friend, Rachel Kabbash, Stephanie Perna, Stephen Koger, John R. Giacchi, Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Meier, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Wayne Bartron, John VanKampen, Erin Henry

Mrs. Clohessey conducted 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 Meetings 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. Koger, seconded by Mrs. Perna, and carried out by roll call vote, approved the minutes of the following meeting:

That the minutes of the following meeting be approved as presented:

1. September 14, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes **ATTACHMENT 1**

YES – 6
ABSTAIN –0
NO – 0

PRESENTATIONS

National Junior Honor Society Students
DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Data Presentation – Janel Edwards

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

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

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.

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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 comments. 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 comments, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mr. Graham, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on the Agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Mrs. Clohessey read a letter from Mr. Wayne Bartron resigning his position as a member of the Board of Education effective October 31, 2026.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. New Jersey School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School updates - Ram Jam is this Friday. There will be a Parent Presentation, Protect Young Eyes, available to all Parents.

B. New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) results.

NJQSAC Areas	Initial Placement (September 2026)
Instruction and Program	72%
Fiscal Management	100%
Governance	100%
Operations	97%
Personnel	94%

C. To report that bus drills were held on September 14, 15, and 16, 2026 as well as October 5, 2026 for all students conducted by our Bus Company.

D. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of September 2026 were as follows:

- September 8, 2026 at 9:46 a.m. – Fire Drill
- September 15, 2026 at 9:45 a.m. – Lockdown Drill

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Stephanie Perna, Chair – Committee Report

On motion by Mr. Koger, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash, and carried out 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	Position	Effective Date
Carolyn Ryder	Supervisor of Instruction	December 31, 2026

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

Staff	Position	Effective Date
Dawn Iadarola	Long-term Substitute	October 15, 2026

C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves parental bonding leave under the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) for Employee ID #8142, from January 4, 2027, through March 28, 2027, as follows:

Employee	Leave Request Detail
Employee ID #8142	• Use of three accrued personal days at regular pay on January 4, 5, and 6, 2027, running concurrently with NJFLA leave. • The remainder of the leave, January 7, 2027 through March 28, 2027, shall be unpaid by the District, subject to applicable law and the collective bargaining agreement. • Anticipated return to work on April 5, 2027, following spring recess.

D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an amendment to the maternity and parental leave previously approved for Employee ID #8038 at the May 18, 2026 Board of Education meeting, as follows:

Employee	Leave Request Detail
Employee ID #8038	• Sick days requested: August 27, August 31, and September 1 - 4, 2026. • Parental bonding leave, unpaid by the District, from September 8, 2026, through December 1, 2026, with any New Jersey Family Leave Insurance (NJFLI) benefits subject to New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) approval • Additional Sick days requested (35 total, post-NJFLI): 12/2/26 - 12/23/26, 1/4/27 - 1/15/27, and 1/19/27 - 1/29/27 • Anticipated return to work on February 1, 2027

E. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following paraprofessionals for up to three (3) hours of supplemental pay for Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training, compensation upon submission of timesheets.

Paraprofessionals		
Alonso, Erika	Frye, Lisa	Neal, Justin
Arxer, Meghan	Frye, William	Nogueras, Christina
Awuah, Wendy	Gallardo, Josseline	Papadoupalos, Melissa
Baldassano, Kelly	Gonzales, Angela	Ratti, Donna
Barrientos, Yackelin	Gonzalez, Natasha	Riso, Rosalba
Barrise, Alicia	Guzman Nunez, Noemi	Ross, Jessica
Becker, Samantha	Halter, Melissa	Sanders, Laura
Bido, Elizabeth	Healy, Diane	Santos, Jessica
Brown, Aurora	Herrera, Katherine	Shea, Marissa
Cilurso, Michelle	Hetyei, Diana	Simone (Paugh), Lorraine
Clarke (Ulrich), Denise	Hoffman, Sabrina	Talmadge, Crystal
Constantinacos, Christa	Jurado, Paolette	Taylor, Yesenia
Counterman-O'leary, Ashley	Kopko, Gail	Torres, Jennifer
Cross, Jordan	Madera, Nancy	Vega, Jessica
Cuevas-Arce, Ivelisse	Mazzei, Johanna	Voegele, Dolores
Davenport, Elizabeth	McCann, Amy	Walters, Kelly
Davis, Lisa	McCarrick, Alyssa	Witherby, Diane
De Leon Garcia, Lisaury	McNamara, Sunisa	Yasin, Enas
DeVore, Lauren	Meyers, Cassandra	Zierold-Soares, Eve
Fedor, Kristina	Moldovany, Shannon	
Finamore, Emma	Morse, Betsy	
Frazer, Gina	Muniz, Angelica	

F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves compensation for the following New or Non-Stipend Club advisors for the 2026-2027 school year:

New or Non-Stiped Club	Advisor	Compensation
Fall Session -Academic Bowl	• Christy Kota	$500
Fall/Winter Fiber Arts Club	• Christy Kota • Lisa Grillo	$500 *To be split equally between the two advisors*
Spring Fiber Arts Club	• Christy Kota • Lisa Grillo	$500 *To be split equally between the two advisors*

G. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a $2.00 per hour compensation differential for the paraprofessionals listed below for providing higher level care for the 2026-2027 school year, per contract language:

Paraprofessionals Receiving $2.00 Per Hour Differential for Providing Higher Level Care	Dates
Katherine Herrera	August 27, 2026 - June 30, 2027
Jessica Vega	August 27, 2026 - June 30, 2027

H. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year, pending completion of required documents where applicable. Compensation upon completion of timesheets:

Name	Position	Compensation
Carlos Orozco	Substitute Teacher	$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Hannah Posser	Substitute Teacher	$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork
Dominique Warner	Substitute Paraprofessional	$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

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

Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Date
Sandra Molla-Saracco	3rd Annual School Health Conference in Somerset, NJ	Registration: $275.00	October 21, 2026
Michele Fuzia	Autism NJ 44th Annual Conference in Atlantic City, NJ	Registration: $550.00 Hotel: $151.83 Mileage: $131.60 Meals: $102.00 Parking/tolls: $50.00	October 22-23, 2026
Lauren Davies	Online Workshop- Best, Cutting-Edge Strategies for 5th Grade	Registration: $295.00	December 8, 2026
Kim Panaite	Online Workshop - Using AI to Support Struggling Readers	Registration: $295.00	December 8, 2026

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Stephen Koger, Chair – Committee Report

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

A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2025-2026 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). **ATTACHMENT 2**

FINANCE/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Erin Henry, Chair

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

Yes: 5
Abstain: 1 (Kabbash E only)
No: 0

A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated September 15, 2026 through October 12, 2026. **ATTACHMENT 3**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	$36,394.42
Fund 11	General Expense	$976,014.73
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	$62,546.00
Fund 20	Special Revenue	$56,484.79
Fund 30	Capital Projects	-
Fund 60	Cafeteria	$107.00
Fund 95	Student Activities	$570.00
	Total	$1,132,116.94

B. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the attached Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer of School Monies report for August 2026.

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of August 31, 2026, 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 31, 2026, 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 4**

C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of August 2026. **ATTACHMENT 5**

D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the budgeted three-year Meraki license renewal with Arctiq for the 2026-2027 school year (Quote #025589 v3), for a gross amount of $60,948.99, less anticipated E-Rate funding of $12,428.57, resulting in a total net cost to the district of $48,520.42.

E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves attendance and travel-related expenses for the attendees below for the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Annual Workshop in Atlantic City, NJ from October 19 - 22, 2026, for professional development in school governance, educational leadership, and district business operations, in accordance with the below cost schedule, in an aggregate amount not to exceed $3,316.08, allocated as follows:

Attendee	Total Travel Amount
Kathleen Clohessey, Board member	$820.52
John Giacchi, Superintendent	$624.52
Rachel Kabbash, Board Member	$622.00
Michael Meier, Business Administrator/Board Secretary	$820.52
John VanKampen, Board member	$428.52
Total	**$3,316.08**

Payment and reimbursement shall comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, Board Policy and Regulation 6471, and the applicable New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) overnight travel waiver, and shall be limited to actual, reasonable, eligible expenses within applicable reimbursement limits and the Board-approved annual travel budget, with required supporting documentation. Registration fees are excluded from this approval.

F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves submission of the Franklin Borough Board of Education's Three-Year Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and accompanying Form M-1, Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet, to the Sussex County Executive County Superintendent by November 15, 2026. The Board certifies that the plan is complete and complies with N.J.A.C. 6A:26, and includes activities and expenditures for each school facility that qualify as required maintenance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.3, are reasonable to ensure the facilities are kept open and safe for use or in their original condition, and maintain the validity of warranties.

G. Resolved that the Board of Education approves transportation services through the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for two students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, provided by Berkshire Transportation Corp. on Route Q-125, at a total route cost of $260 per day of service, effective September 16, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in accordance with the cooperative's transportation agreement.

H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the participation of staff from the Ogdensburg Borough School District to attend the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training at Franklin Borough School scheduled for October 12, 2026, at a rate of $55.00 per participant, and to authorize the School Business Administrator to invoice the Ogdensburg Borough School District based on actual attendance.

Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Membership resolution:

Whereas, the Franklin Borough Board of Education desires to become a member of the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System administered by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Franklin Borough Board of Education approves membership, effective upon completion of the required approvals, for the current system term ending November 23, 2029, and each renewal thereafter, unless the Board formally withdraws; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board President and School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary are authorized to execute the membership agreement and submit the documents necessary to obtain membership.

I. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following facility use requests for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with Policy and Regulation 7510 - Use of School Facilities and provided there are no conflicts with school activities. This approval is pending receipt of required documentation.

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Class II – Wallkill Valley Youth Basketball	Travel Team Tryouts: October 1, 2026 and October 8, 2026 from 5:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Main gymnasium: • Costs: ○ Facility Use costs for each four hours' use: ▪ Gymnasium *Waived - $1,500.00* ○ Other Fees: ▪ Service Fee *Waived - $300.00* **TOTAL COSTS: $0**

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Class II – Wallkill Valley Youth Basketball	Monday through Friday from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. from December 1, 2026 through March 19, 2027 provided there are no conflicts with school events *Note that Wallkill Valley Youth Basketball may not use the school on the following blackout dates:* *December: 3, 16, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31* *January: 1, 18* *February: 12, 15, 16* *March: 8* *Wallkill Valley Youth Basketball will be notified should additional blackout dates arise.*	Main gymnasium: • Costs: ○ Facility Use costs for each four hours' use: ▪ Gymnasium *Waived - $1,500.00* ○ Other Fees: ▪ Service Fee *Waived - $300.00* **TOTAL COSTS: $0**

OLD BUSINESS –N/A

NEW BUSINESS -N/A

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

On motion by Mr. Graham seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by roll call 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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On motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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
[ ] 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.

On motion by Mrs. Perna, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michael C. Meier

Michael C. Meier
Business Administrator / Board Secretary