

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2025**  
**7:00 PM – MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**I. Call to Order**

Board President Donna Carey called the Regular Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on February 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., from the Cafeteria of the Hardyston Middle School, 183 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg, NJ 07419. President Donna Carey read the Open Public Meetings Act statement:

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the Minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law 1975, entitled, "Open Public Meetings Act," Hardyston Township Board of Education posted a meeting notice setting forth the time, date, and location of this meeting at the Office of Hardyston Township Board of Education and on the district's web site and mailed to the New Jersey Herald and to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Hardyston Township.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

Mr. Anthony Alfano	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mrs. Jean Barrett	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mrs. Donna Carey	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Nick Demsak	present		absent x	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Brian Drelick	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Ron Hoffman	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Edward Reinle	present		absent x	arrived at _____ p.m.
Dr. Michael Ryder	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mrs. Susan Verso	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.

Quorum confirmed:            ☒ Yes            ☐ No

Special Guest(s) Present:            None

Staff Member(s) Present:            2

Community Member(s) Present:    12

Other:                                      0

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Hardyston School District together with our parents, families and community is dedicated to preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by providing each student with a quality education, in a safe and caring environment, which allows all students to achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and Common Core State Standards at all grade levels and includes the knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem to be successful life-long learners in a culturally diverse democracy.*

### **IV. Workshop**

1. Updates to Agenda
2. Committee Reports:  
Curriculum, Programs, Educational Technology & Community Relations (J. Barrett)  
Finance, Facilities and Operations & Technology Infrastructure (A. Alfano)  
Personnel, Negotiations, Grievance & Policy (D. Carey)
3. Superintendent's Report
4. **Staff Recognition:**

Educator of the Year: **Diane Lapinski**, Hardyston Elementary  
**Kaitlin Gregory**, Hardyston Middle

Educational Services Professional: **Maureen (Molly) Hubbard**, Hardyston Elementary  
**Caitlin Carrigan**, Hardyston Middle

### **V. Public Comment (Board Policy #1200)** (please limit to agenda items only)

*None*

### **VI. Executive Session** *if needed*

*None*

### **VII. Return to Public Session**

*n/a*

Action following Executive Session if needed:

*None*

### **VIII. Old Business**

#### **O/B-1**

- February 25 – Budget Workshop
- March 11 – Regular Meeting
- April 22 – Regular Meeting and Budget Public Hearing
- May 13 – Regular Meeting

- June 10 – Regular Meeting
- June 24 – Annual Evaluation / Retreat
- July 8 – Regular Meeting
- August 12 – Regular Meeting

## IX. New Business

### N/B-1

The Board of Education hereby approves the sidebar agreement between the Board and HTEA dated February 11, 2025, subject to the terms and conditions therein and which the Board President and/or Superintendent is authorized to sign on behalf of the board.

Motion of adopt: D.Carey Seconded By: A. Alfano

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Demsak	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>

## X. Agenda Items:

### MEETING MINUTES

1. January 7, 2025 – Annual Reorg and Regular Meeting
2. January 21, 2025 – Budget Workshop

Motion of adopt: D. Carey Seconded By: S. Lucarelli

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Demsak	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>

**HIB REPORT** *All policies and procedures have been followed and met; the February report is based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.*

*Background: HIB report for 2-11-25 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the March 11, 2025 BOE meeting (if necessary).*

*No action*

## **FINANCE**

### **F-1**

Motion to approve \$34,960.95 in transfers for the month of January 2025.

### **F-2**

Motion to approve the Bills List for the month of January 2025 in the amount of \$1,475,269.36.

### **F-3**

Motion to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Comparison Report for December 2024.

### **F-4**

Motion to approve the Board Secretary's Monthly Comparison Report for December 2024.

*WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education regulation N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 require local school districts to file a monthly certification of budgetary line item status,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education acknowledges that Susan Verso, Board Secretary, certifies the following statement: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, I, Susan Verso, Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over-appropriated nor over-expended for the period ending December 31, 2024.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4 the board of Education certifies that as of after review of the board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate school district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.*

### **F-5**

Motion to approve application of the waiver of compliance for the district's participation in Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI):

**Whereas**, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2025-26SY, and

**Whereas**, the Hardyston Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having 40 or fewer Medicaid eligible classified students OR participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2025-26 budget year (\$2,864.40) (31 students projected).

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Hardyston Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Sussex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2025-26 school year.

**F-6**

Motion to approve the following resolution with the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the 2025-2026 school year:

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education is willing to provide the services to coordinate transportation for the Hardyston Board of Education for transportation along established routes to specific destinations in order to attempt to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education shall provide such services under the name of Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hardyston Board of Education that pursuant hereto the President and Secretary of the Hardyston Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to execute a duplicate of the Resolution which shall act as an agreement between the Hardyston Board of Education and the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the coordination of transportation of students for the 25-26 school year.

**F-7**

Motion to approve the following resolution:

**Hardyston Board of Education  
Resolution**

WHEREAS, Certain Accounts within the Hardyston Board of Education, with outstanding check balances from checks not returned or unclaimed; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be returned to each respective account balance or credited to surplus;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Hardyston Board of Education, that the following outstanding check balances within the following checking accounts be canceled or re-issued:

**General Fund Account**

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Check Date</b>	<b>Check Amount</b>
37430	01/30/2023	\$1022.00
38822	3/25/2024	\$129.00
*38866	4/9/2024	\$1167.00

*\*Replacement check issued.*

**Student Activities Account**

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Check Date</b>	<b>Check Amount</b>
*6623	06/14/2024	\$200.00
6627	06/14/2024	\$25.00
*6631	06/21/2024	\$48.00

*\*Replacement check issued.*

**F-8**

Motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Hardyston School District has equipment that is no longer needed to meet the operational requirements of the school district, and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the District to dispose of such property through trade-in, negotiated sale, donation, public auction or in refuse (destruction).

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AGREED AND RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Hardyston Public School District, the equipment listed below:

Quantity:

- (2) Carpet Extractors
- (1) Pommel horse
- (1) Gymnastics floor mat
- (2) Wooden Picnic Tables
- (8) Student Chairs
- (6) Student Desks

**ACTION ITEM(S): F-1 – F-8**

Motion to adopt: A. Alfano Seconded By: J. Barrett

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Demsak	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>

**FACILITIES/OPERATIONS****F/O-1**

Motion to approve the following 2024-2025 school year requests for use of the district facilities for the dates and times as indicated. All required paperwork and insurance confirmation will be on file; the main office will coordinate all dates and times.

NAME	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	DAY
Hardyston Men's Softball League	ES Softball and Baseball Fields	Apr – Sept	9 AM – 1 PM	Sundays

**ACTION ITEM(S): F/O-1**

Motion of adopt: A. Alfano

Seconded By: D. Carey

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Demsak	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>

**CURRICULUM/PROGRAMS****C/P-1**

Motion to approve the listed travel events in agreement with Chapter 53, Public Law 2007, Title 18A, and Board Policy 9250:

EVENT	DATE	REGISTRATION FEE	MILEAGE & OTHER EXPENSES	EMPLOYEE/BOARD MEMBER	BENEFIT
Small Step to Learning: Food, Fitness, Fun, SCCC	3/20/25	- 0 -	\$9.40	D. Lapinski	Training on preschool nutrition, programs, activities
Best Practices for Addressing Mental Health Issues in Schools	Anytime	\$295.00	VIRTUAL	M. Petronella	Prepare for mental health issues; learn strategies to support students
NJASA/ERF and NJPSA/FEA Women's Leadership Conference, Somerset	4/7/25	\$279/ea.	\$28.00 <i>carpooling</i>	M. Ryder G. Maffia	Both are presenting for session: "Forms for Staff and Leaders Collaboration: Strengthen a Community of Care and Support".
Education Leadership Network – SONJ	1/28/25	- 0 -	\$74.26	C. Carrigan	Representing Hardyston Schools as a new developing district for Unified Sports
Pattern of Strengths or Weaknesses: Analyzing Difficulties	4/11/25	\$60.00	Virtual	J. Rosen	In-depth analysis of using the pattern of strengths and weaknesses made with more complex cases

NJSBGA Annual Conference/Expo, Atlantic City	3/23-26/2025	\$350.00	\$464.10 (waiver provided for room)	A. Tully	Trainings/informational sessions for facilities managers
Woodcock Johnson V (WJV) Learning Lab	2/27/25	\$75/ea.	VIRTUAL	J. Rosen G. Gibson	Initial training to learn how to use the technology for new WJV assessment and cognitive batteries

### C/P-2

Resolved to approve the following parent-paid class trip(s) for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grade	Destination	Date	Cost Per Student
PK	TurtleBack Zoo, West Orange	5/19/25 (RD: 5/27)	Funded by PEA grant

### C/P-3

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 school year calendar as attached.

### **ACTION ITEM(S): C/P-1 –C/P-3**

Motion of adopt: J. Barrett Seconded By: B. Drelick

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Demsak	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Reinle	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>

### PERSONNEL

(All Personnel resolutions are based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.)

### P-1

Motion to approve the substitutes listed below to be placed on our substitute calling list for the 2024-2025 school year. Employment is on an emergent basis, if necessary, and contingent upon criminal history background clearance as required by P.O. 1986, C.116.

NAME	POSITION	CERTIFICATION
Kathleen Eichvalds	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert – Exp. 7/1/2026

Alexandra Kahlau	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert – Exp. 2/24/2029
Sabrina Carra	Custodian	N/A

### **P-2**

Motion to appoint/re-appoint the extra-curricular coaches and advisors for the 2024/2025 school year (step amount as per negotiated agreement):

*The Board of Education shall determine the requirements of and qualifications for all extracurricular positions in the district as dictated by the nature of the activity in accordance with N.J.S.A. 34:13A-23. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board shall appoint to all extracurricular assignments, those individuals who have the proper qualifications for the position and can meet the requirements of the position. In the event a qualified candidate cannot be found within the district, the Board may employ a qualified person from outside the district.*

Joshua Bennett	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Step 6	\$2,700.00
Whitney Dugan	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	Step 6	\$2,700.00

### **P-3**

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby places Juan Hurtado on an intermittent Federal family medical leave of absence under the Federal and State family leave acts, subject to modifications as may be necessary with medical documentation, commencing on or about February 24, 2025 and ending on or about March 7, 2025. Mr. Hurtado will provide dates with as much notice as practically possible.

### **P-4**

Motion to accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Patricia Rosendale, Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher, effective February 28, 2025. Mrs. Rosendale has been with the district for over 36 years.

### **P-5**

Motion to approve Taylor Gambert as Grade 6 – Language Arts Teacher for the period March 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025, BA, Step 5, \$60,951, prorated, as per negotiated agreement.

### **P-6**

Motion to approve reimbursement to the following paraprofessionals, at their current hourly rate, for a 6-hour CPI in-house training session on Monday, March 10, 2025 (teacher in-service day):

Elizabeth Kelly  
Erika Santos  
Roula Wahad

### **ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-6**

Motion of adopt: D. Carey      Seconded By: A. Alfano

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Demsak	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>

Drelick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>

## **POLICY**

### **POL-1**

Motion to approve a first reading of the following policies and/or regulations:

0174	Legal Services
5516P&R	Use of Electronic Communication Devices
5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
5533P&R	Student Smoking
5701	Academic Integrity
5710	Student Grievance

A discussion took place regarding Policy 0174. R.Hoffman requested to have the policy tabled for future discussion. After further deliberation among the members, R. Hoffman formally motioned to table Policy 0174, with Sue Lucarelli seconding the motion. A vote was taken, with members A.Alfano, D. Carey, R. Marotta and J. Barret voting NO and R. Hoffman, S. Lucarelli, and B. Drelick voting YES. The motion to table Policy 0174 did not pass with a vote of 4-3.

### **ACTION ITEM(S): POL-1**

Motion of adopt: D.Carey      Seconded By: A. Alfano

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Barrett	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Carey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Demsak	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>
Drelick	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Hoffman	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Lucarelli	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Marotta	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Reinle	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>      x      </u>

## **XI. Written Communication**

1. Thank you note – Project Self-Sufficiency for Stuff the Stocking

## **XII. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)**

*2 Members of the public spoke*

**XIII. Executive Session** *if needed*

*None*

**XIV. Return to Public Session**

*n/a*

Action following Executive Session if needed:

*n/a*

**XV. Adjournment**

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education as this time, a motion was presented by D. Carey, and seconded by A. Alfano, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Voice Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Verso  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary