

## 7:00 PM – MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

## I. Call to Order

Board President Donna Carey called the Special Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on March 18, 2025 at 7:05 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 |
| Mrs. Jean Barrett    | present |
| Mrs. Donna Carey     | present |
| Mr. Nick Demsak      | present |
| Mr. Brian Drelick    | present |
| Mr. Ron Hoffman      | present |
| Mrs. Susan Lucarelli | present |
| Ms. Clarissa Marotta | present |
| Mr. Edward Reinle    | present |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Dr. Michael Ryder | present |
| Mrs. Susan Verso  | present |

Quorum confirmed: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Special Guest(s) Present: None

Staff Member(s) Present: Mrs. J. Cimaglia, ES Principal  
Dr. G. Maffia, Dir. Of Special Education

Community Member(s) Present: 10

Other: n/a

## **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. Superintendent's Report – Budget Presentation

### **V. Public Comment (Board Policy #1200)**

*One member of the public spoke.*

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

*None*

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

*n/a*

### **Roll Call**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Mr. Anthony Alfano   | _____ |
| Mrs. Jean Barrett    | _____ |
| Mrs. Donna Carey     | _____ |
| Mr. Nick Demsak      | _____ |
| Mr. Brian Drelick    | _____ |
| Mr. Ron Hoffman      | _____ |
| Mrs. Susan Lucarelli | _____ |
| Ms. Clarissa Marotta | _____ |
| Mr. Ed Reinle        | _____ |
| <br>                 |       |
| Dr. Michael Ryder    | _____ |
| Mrs. Susan Verso     | _____ |

Action following Executive Session if needed:

*n/a*

### **VIII. Old Business**

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

**Motion to approve**, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the tentative 2025-2026 school budget for submission and approval to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

The Hardyston Township Board of Education has proposed programs and services in this budget in addition to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The Hardyston Township Board of Education approves this “tentative” budget to be presented to the Sussex

Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval prior to advertising in the New Jersey Herald and on the district's web site. The budget will be approved by the County Superintendent prior to the public meeting. The budget will be revised, if necessary, at the public hearing on May 6, 2025.

The motion further provides authorization to the Superintendent and SBA to modify the budget shown below, if necessary, based on the final preparation of this budget for approval.

|                              |  |   |                             |                     |
|------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>Appropriations</u></b> |  |   |                             | <b><u>25-26</u></b> |
|                              | <b>Total General Current Expense (Fund 11)</b> |   |                             | \$13,828,849        |
|                              |  | <b>Total Capital Outlay</b>                               |                             | \$132,173           |
|                              | Charter School Tuition (Fund 10)               |   |                             | \$118,474           |
|                              |  | <b>General Fund Total</b>                                 |                             |                     |
|                              | Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)                 |   |                             | \$1,611,667         |
|                              | Repayment of Debt (Fund 40)                    |   |                             | \$773,519           |
|                              |  |   | <b>Total Appropriations</b> | \$16,484,682        |
| <b><u>Revenues</u></b>       |  |   |                             | <b><u>25-26</u></b> |
|                              | Local Tax Levy                                 |   |                             | \$11,297,000        |
|                              | Misc. Revenue                                  |   |                             | \$300,000           |
|                              | Interest on Main Reserve                       |   |                             | \$1,500             |
|                              | Interest on Cap Reserve                        |   |                             | \$1,500             |
|                              |  | <b>Total Revenue from Local Sources</b>                   |                             | \$11,600,000        |
| <b>St Sources</b>            | School Choice                                  |   |                             | \$122,451           |
|                              | Transportation Aid                             |   |                             | \$534,888           |
|                              | Special Ed Aid                                 |   |                             | \$688,271           |
|                              | Security Aid                                   |   |                             | \$88,190            |
|                              | Adjustment Aid                                 |   |                             | \$0                 |
|                              | SEMI   |   |                             | \$0                 |
|                              | ExtraOrdinary Aid                              |   |                             | \$225,000           |
|                              |  | <b>Revenue from State Sources</b>                         |                             | \$1,658,800         |
| <b>Otr Sources</b>           | Budgeted Fund Balance                          |   |                             | \$700,696           |
|                              | Withdrawal from Capital Reserve (10-307)       |   |                             | \$70,000            |
|                              | Withdrawal from Maint Reserve (10-310)         |   |                             | \$50,000            |
|                              |  | <b>Total Operating Budget (Fund 10 &amp; 11 &amp; 12)</b> |                             | \$14,709,496        |
|                              | Title I  | (Updated 80% for Budget)                                  |                             | \$60,692            |
|                              | Title II                                       | (Updated 80% for Budget)                                  |                             | \$18,132            |
|                              | IDEA   | (Updated 80% for Budget)                                  |                             | \$127,768           |
|                              | PreSchool Expansion Aid                        |   |                             | \$1,405,075         |
|                              |  | <b>Special Revenue Funds (Fund 20)</b>                    |                             | \$1,611,667         |
|                              |  | <b>Debt Service / Bond Repayment (Fund 40)</b>            |                             | \$773,519           |
|                              |  |   | <b>Total Revenues</b>       | \$16,484,682        |

This budget incorporates the following revenue measures:

- There will be an increase in the General Fund Tax Levy of 2.45%.
- Taxes to be raised for the 2025-2026 School Budget: General Fund \$11,297,000 and Debt Service \$773,519.

- Budgeted Fund Balance to offset tax levy \$700,696.
- Withdrawal from Capital Reserve of \$70,000 for ES A/C installation.
- Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve of \$50,000 for additional maintenance reserve used in budget for FY26.

## **OB-2**

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district:

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and,

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, and annual school year threshold per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and,

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7. but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms: now,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Hardyston Township Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A23A-7 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hardyston Township Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements (object '580') in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, to a maximum expenditure of \$40,000 for all staff members in the General Fund; and, that the school business administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Current expenditures for travel and related expenses for the 2024/2025 school year as follows:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Expenditures    | \$1,388.05 |
| Encumbrances    | \$170.00   |
| Funds Available | \$2,685    |

## **ACTION ITEM(S): O/B-1 – O/B-2 Tentative Budget 2025-2026**

Motion to adopt: D. Carey      Seconded By: R. Hoffman

| <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>  X  </u> | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>  | <u>      </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>  X  </u> | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>  | <u>      </u> |

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

*One member of the public spoke.*

**X. Executive Session *if needed***

*None*

**XI. Return to Public Session**

*n/a*

**Roll Call**

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Mr. Anthony Alfano    | _____     |
| Mrs. Jean Barrett     | _____     |
| Mrs. Donna Carey      | _____     |
| Mr. Nick Demsak       | _____     |
| Mr. Brian Drelick     | _____     |
| Mr. Ron Hoffman       | _____     |
| Mrs. Susan Lucarelli  | _____     |
| Ms. Clarissa Marotta  | _____     |
| Mr. Ed Reinle         | _____     |
| <br>Dr. Michael Ryder | <br>_____ |
| Mrs. Susan Verso      | _____     |

Action following Executive Session if needed:

*n/a*

**XII. 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 S. Lucarelli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Susan Verso*

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary