

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2025
7:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Board President Donna Carey called the Regular Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on July 8, 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	
Mrs. Jean Barrett	present	(virtual)
Mrs. Donna Carey	present	
Mr. Nick Demsak	present	
Mr. Brian Drelick		absent
Mr. Ron Hoffman	present	
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	present	
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	present	
Mr. Edward Reinle		absent
Dr. Michael Ryder	present	
Mrs. Susan Verso	present	

Quorum confirmed: Yes No

Special Guest(s) Present: Mr. Joseph Roselle, Esq. Board Attorney, SPS&K

Staff Member(s) Present: None

Community Member(s) Present: 4

Other: n/a

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hardyston School District together with our parents, families and community is dedicated to preparing our students for the 21st 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. Board President's Report
4. Superintendent's Report

V. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167) (please limit comments to action agenda items only)

None

VI. Executive Session *if needed*

None

VII. Return to Public Session

n/a

VIII. Old Business

O/B-1

- August 12 – Regular Meeting
- September 9 – Regular Meeting
- October 14 – Regular Meeting
- November 11 – Regular Meeting
- December 9 – Regular Meeting
- January 6 – Regular Meeting and Annual Reorg
- January 20 – Budget Workshop

IX. New Business

X. Agenda Items:

MEETING MINUTES

1. June 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

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

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	X			
Barrett	X			
Carey	X			
Demsak	X			
Drelick				X
Hoffman	X			
Lucarelli	X			
Marotta	X			
Reinle				X

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

Background: HIB report for 7-8-25 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the August 12, 2025 BOE meeting (if necessary).

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

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	X			
Barrett	X			
Carey	X			
Demsak	X			
Drelick				X
Hoffman	X			
Lucarelli	X			
Marotta	X			
Reinle				X

FINANCE

F-1

Motion to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Comparison Report for May 2025.

F-2

Motion to approve the Board Secretary’s Monthly Comparison Report for May 2025.

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 May 31, 2025.

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-3

Motion to accept a donation of \$2,500 from Ogdensburg Presbyterian Church to be used for our special education program.

F-4

WHEREAS, a number of school boards in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the **SCHOOLS HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** hereafter referred to as "SHIF", as permitted N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the SHIF has received approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance on August 10, 2015;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a school board joint insurance fund;

WHEREAS, the governing body of Hardyston Township Borough Board of Education hereinafter referred to as "SCHOOL BOARD" has determined that membership in the SHIF is in the best interest of said SCHOOL BOARD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD hereby agrees as follows:

- i. SCHOOL BOARD shall become a member of the SHIF for the period outlined in the SCHOOL BOARD's Indemnity and Trust Agreement.
- ii. SCHOOL BOARD will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
 - a.) Health Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the SHIF's Bylaws, and the SHIF's Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. SCHOOL BOARD accepts and approves the SHIF's Bylaws and agrees to be bound by the terms thereof.
- iv. SCHOOL BOARD shall execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.
- v. SCHOOL BOARD agrees to commit to the four principles of the SHIF which are:
 - a.) A long term philosophy on rates.
 - b.) A willingness to work with bargaining units to achieve plan design changes.
 - c.) Professional management with stability and commitment.
 - d.) Rating structure based on actuarial numbers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the SHIF as required by the SHIF's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the SHIF's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- i. Approval of the SCHOOL BOARD by the SHIF.

ii. Receipt by the SHIF of a Resolution from the SCHOOL BOARD accepting SCHOOL BOARD's SHIF assessment.

iii. Approval by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance of SCHOOL BOARD as a member of the SHIF.

F-5

Motion to approve Schenck, Price, Smith, & King to be contracted as general legal counsel for the Hardyston Board of Education for a one-month period from August 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025, as a "Professional Service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5, at the hourly rates of \$180.00 for partners and counsel, \$170.00 for associates, and \$115.00 for law clerks and paralegals.

ACTION ITEM(S): F -1 – F-5

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

<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> F-5 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> F-5 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> F-5 </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 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:

SCAG Mower
 Model #SCZ61V-34ev-EEI
 Serial #K0600523

Shall be donated to the Hardyston Township Department of Public Works, 149 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg, NJ 07419.

P-1

Motion to approve the following individuals for the 2025 Extended School Year Programs for the period June 30, 2025 through July 31, 2025:

Sandra Schmeal, Paraprofessional, 2.5 hours per day @\$15.49 per hour

P-2

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
Kim Unhock	RPO Substitute	n/a

P-3

Motion to accept, with regret the retirement letter from Sandra Burke, Math Coach, effective June 30, 2025. Mrs. Burke has been with the district for 26 years.

P-4

Motion to amend the start date of Ryan Scussel, part time custodian, from July 1, 2025 to September 1, 2025. Mr. Scussel was approved at the June 10, 2025 meeting.

P-5

Motion to approve Ryan Scussel for summer 2025 custodial help, 40 hour work week, at an hourly rate of \$16.00 (returning help).

P-6

Motion to approve Luis Moscoso as Long Term Substitute – Spanish facilitator, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$175.00 per day for three days per week with no benefits.

P-7

Motion to appoint the following individuals as the district’s Affirmative Action Team to conduct the needs assessment and develop the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the school years 2025 through 2028, with no additional stipend:

Dr. Michael Ryder	Jennifer Cimaglia	Meg O’Mara	Dr. Gulay Maffia
Alizah Demczak	Ronald Hoffman	Kristina Luciano	

P-8

Motion to accept, with regret the retirement letter from Cynthia Butti Whittaker, School Secretary, effective July 31, 2025. Ms. Whittaker has been with the district for 28 years.

ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-8

Motion of adopt: D. Carey	Seconded By: N. Demsak
<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u> <u>NO</u> <u>ABSTAIN</u> <u>ABSENT</u>

Alfano	X			
Barrett	X			
Carey	X			
Demsak	X			
Drelick				X
Hoffman	X		P-7	
Lucarelli	X			
Marotta	X			
Reinle				X

POLICY

POL-1

Motion was made by N. Demsak and seconded by R. Hoffman to restore the following stricken line to Section 2, Survey Design and Content of [9128.01 School Culture Surveys](#)

"Equity and inclusivity in the school environment."

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

Motion to approve a first reading of the following policy:

[9128.01 School Culture Surveys](#)

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-1

Motion of adopt: D. Carey Seconded By: J. Barrett

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

XI. Written Communication

XII. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)

None

XIII. Executive Session *if needed*

None

XIV. Return to Public Session

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 N. Demsak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Verso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary