

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
7:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

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

Quorum confirmed: Yes No

Special Guest(s) Present: _____

Staff Member(s) Present: _____

Community Member(s) Present: _____
Other: _____

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

[Fire and Security Drill Report](#)

- 5. **Staff Recognition:**
Holly Romahn, Anton Banko Award, by the NJ Science Convention (NJSC)

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

“All regular and special meetings of the Hardyston Township Board of Education shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district, and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule one or more periods during each meeting for public participation. Each speaker will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes per subject with a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes for all speakers on that subject. Additional segments in two-minute increments must be approved by a majority vote of the Board quorum present.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves” (please provide name and municipality of residence).

VI. Executive Session if needed

Motion is presented by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Hardyston Township Board of Education enters private session at _____ p.m. to discuss _____, which is exempt from public participation pursuant to New Jersey Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, “Open Public Meetings Act.” Any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public when appropriate. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the closed session.

VII. Return to Public Session

Motion to the Board of Education will return to public session at _____ p.m.

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 _____

- Dr. Michael Ryder _____
- Mrs. Susan Verso _____

Action following Executive Session if needed:

VIII. Old Business

O/B-1

- 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

NB-1

Motion to approve the following resolution:

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01**

PARENTAL OPT-OUT FOR LESSONS AND CURRICULAR MATERIALS

Adopted: Sept. 9, 2025

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township School District is committed to respecting parental rights under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (June 27, 2025) affirms parents’ rights to opt their children out of lessons and curricular materials involving LGBTQ+-themed content that conflict with their beliefs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. **Notification:** The District shall notify parents/guardians at least one week in advance of lessons or curricular materials in subjects such as English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math or Health that include LGBTQ+-themed content, lessons on diverse family structures, or historical discussions of LGBTQ+ rights. Notifications will detail the material, its educational purpose, and scheduled use date(s).
2. **Opt-Out:** Parents/guardians may opt their children out of such lessons or materials by submitting a written request (via a standardized form on the District’s website) at least two school days prior. Opted-out students will engage in alternative assignments aligned with the same academic standards.
3. **Implementation:** The Superintendent shall develop guidelines including notification templates, opt-out forms, and alternative lesson plans.
4. **Interim Compliance:** Until guidelines are finalized, opt-out requests for lessons or materials will be honored promptly per the Court’s injunction.

ADOPTED on Sept. 9th, 2025.

Motion of adopt: _____ Seconded By: _____
MOTION YES NO ABSTAIN ABSENT

Alfano	_____	_____	_____	_____
Barrett	_____	_____	_____	_____
Carey	_____	_____	_____	_____
Demsak	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____	_____	_____	_____

X. Agenda Items:

MEETING MINUTES

1. August 12 – Regular Meeting and Annual Retreat

Motion of adopt:	_____	Seconded By:	_____	_____
<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	_____	_____	_____	_____
Barrett	_____	_____	_____	_____
Carey	_____	_____	_____	_____
Demsak	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____	_____	_____	_____

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

Background: HIB report for 9-9-25 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the October 14, 2025 BOE meeting (if necessary).

Motion of adopt:	_____	Seconded By:	_____	_____
<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	_____	_____	_____	_____
Barrett	_____	_____	_____	_____
Carey	_____	_____	_____	_____
Demsak	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____	_____	_____	_____

FINANCE

F-1

Motion to approve \$28,057.25 in transfers for the month of August 2025.

F-2

Motion to approve the Bills List for the month of August 2025 in the amount of \$569,163.28.

F-3

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

F-4

Motion to approve the Board Secretary’s Monthly Comparison Report for July 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 July 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-5

Motion to approve a Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year with Wallkill Valley Regional High School for three (3) Middle School students at the cost of \$65,000.

ACTION ITEM(S): F-1 – F-5

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

FACILITIES/OPERATIONS

F/O-1

Motion to approve the following 2025-2026 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
Girl Scout Troop 96849	MS Room 204A	Sept – June	7-8:30 PM	Tuesdays
Girl Scout Cookie Kick-Off	MS Gym/Café.	Jan. 9 <i>SD: 1/12</i>	5-9 PM	Friday <i>Monday</i>

F/O-2

Motion to approve the Emergency Evacuation Use Agreement between Hardyston Township Schools and Sussex County Community College.

ACTION ITEM(S): F/O-1 – F/O-2

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

CURRICULUM/PROGRAMS *Nothing to report*

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
Danielle Vallat	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert – Exp. 1/21/2030
Emily Beck	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert – Exp. 7/10/2030
Randi Manger	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert – Exp. 8/11/2030
Rasheedah Michel	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert - Exp. 10/2/2028
Kim Ivanov	Teacher	Standard Elementary Teacher

P-2

Motion to appoint/re-appoint the extra-curricular coaches and advisors for the 2025/2026 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.

Emmaline Kempf Chorus Advisor Step 6 \$2,561

P-3

Motion to re-approve the revised [Merit Goals](#) for the 2025-2026 school year as presented by the Superintendent of Schools, and approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

P-4

Motion to employ Alizah Demczak, School Counselor, for 1 additional day during the summer for general summer office requirements. Mrs. Demczak will be paid at her current per diem rate per 6 hour work day. Any additional days needed may only be granted upon subsequent request and Superintendent and BOE approval.

P-5

Motion to employ the following part time special education paraprofessional(s) for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the needs of the classified students and in conjunction with the ratified HTEA and with the condition that employment is terminated when the need for assigned services no longer exists.

Name	Step	Rate per Hour
Jenice Camarena	1	\$17.92
Emily Minter	1	\$17.92
Maria Testa	1	\$17.92

P-6

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby places Kristina Luciano on a Federal family medical leave of absence using accumulated sick days, for the period commencing September 2, 2025 through on or about October 21, 2025. Mrs. Luciano plans on returning to her current position October 22, 2025 or as soon as medically cleared.

P-7

Motion to approve Shakeel Danwatta as Long Term Substitute – Grades 5/6 Science Teacher, for the period beginning September 2, 2025 through on or about October 21, 2025, at a daily rate of \$175.00, as outlined in the current negotiated agreement.

P-8

Motion to approve Teresa Zinck as Long Term Substitute – Grades 5/6 Resource, for the period beginning October 8, 2025 through on or about November 26, 2025, BA, Step 1, \$60,375, prorated, as outlined in the current negotiated agreement.

P-9

Motion to approve Natalie Cammarata as ESL Teacher for the district, at a daily rate of \$175.00, as outlined in the negotiated agreement, for the period September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

P-10

Motion to approve the following mentors and buddies for the new staff members for the 2025-2026 school year:

Buddies: Diane Lapinski, Emmaline Kempf

Mentor: Kristen Meyer

P-11

Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Roula Wahad, part time paraprofessional, effective September 1, 2025. Mrs. Wahad accepted a full time position in another school district.

P-12

Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Danielle Vallat, part time paraprofessional, effective September 1, 2025. Mrs. Vallat would like to be a substitute for the district.

P-13

Motion to approve Skylar Cole, student in the Clinical Psychology Adolescents and Children Program at Montclair State University, to complete her second year practicum, which would be 1-2 days per week for the 2025-202 school year, with Dr. Jennifer Rosen, School Psychologist.

P-14

Motion to approve Glenn Eisenecker as part time custodian, Step 3, \$26,903.13 (.625 FTE), pro-rated, retroactive to September 4, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

P-15

Motion to approve Sam Contreras as Long Term Substitute – Elementary School Counselor, for the period beginning September 2, 2025 through on or about November 26, 2025, \$175/day, as outlined in the current negotiated agreement.

P-16

Motion to amend stipend agreement for Larissa Potosnak for both 504 Coordinator and I&RS Coordinator to change the coverage period to 12/2/25 – 6/30/25 and prorate the stipend amount from \$565/each to \$395.50 each.

Background: Mrs. Potosnak is on family leave and will return to her current position on 11/26/25.

P-17

Motion to amend stipend agreement for Alizah Demczak for both 504 Coordinator and I&RS Coordinator to cover the elementary school for the period 9/1/25 through 11/25/25 and prorate the stipend amount from \$565/each to \$169.50 each.

ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-17

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	_____	_____	_____	_____
Barrett	_____	_____	_____	_____

Carey	_____	_____	_____	_____
Demsak	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____	_____	_____	_____

POLICY

POL-1

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

- [0143P Board Member Election and Appointment](#)
- [0173P Duties of Public School Accountant](#)
- [0174P Legal Services](#)
- [0177P Professional Services](#)
- [1570P Internal Controls](#)
- [1570R Internal Controls](#)
- [1620P Administrative Employment Contracts](#)
- [1636.01P Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities](#)
- [2422P Statutory Curricular Requirements](#)
- [5117P Interdistrict Public School Choice](#)
- [5117R Interdistrict Public School Choice](#)
- [5339.01P Student Sun Protection](#)
- [6111P Special Education Medicaid Initiative \(SEMI\) Program](#)
- [6111R Special Education Medicaid Initiative \(SEMI\) Program](#)
- [6220P Budget Preparation](#)
- [6220R Budget Preparation](#)

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-1

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

POL-2

Motion to abolish the following policy:

- [1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – Covid-19](#)

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-2

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

XI. Written Communication

1. Thank you letter – Hardyston Township to Mrs. Cimaglia for Safety Town 2025

XII. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)

“All regular and special meetings of the Hardyston Township Board of Education shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district, and also need to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner, it shall schedule one or more periods during each meeting for public participation. Each speaker will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes per subject with a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes for all speakers on that subject. Additional segments in two-minute increments must be approved by a majority vote of the Board quorum present.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves” (please provide name and municipality of residence).

XIII. Executive Session if needed

A motion was presented by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Hardyston Township Board of Education enters private session at _____ p.m. to discuss _____ and, which is exempt from public participation pursuant to New Jersey Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, “Open Public Meetings Act”. Any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public when appropriate. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the closed session.

XIV. Return to Public Session

Motion to the Board of Education will return to public session at _____ p.m.

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 _____

Dr. Michael Ryder _____
Mrs. Susan Verso _____

Action following Executive Session if needed:

XV. Adjournment

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education as this time, a motion was presented by _____, and seconded by _____, to adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m.