

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
7:02 PM**

I. Call to Order

Board President Donna Carey called the Regular Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on September 9, 2025 at 7:02 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	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Brian Drelick	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Ron Hoffman	present		absent	x 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	x	absent	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: Mr. Paul Green, Attorney, SPS&K

Staff Member(s) Present: Mrs. J. Cimaglia, ES Principal

Community Member(s) Present: 13
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

- 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: 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> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

Reinle x _____

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 of adopt: D. Carey

Seconded By: N. Demsak

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____
Barrett	<u> x </u>	<u> 2422P </u>	_____	_____
Carey	<u> x </u>	_____	<u> 2422P </u>	_____
Demsak	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____	_____	_____	<u> x </u>
Lucarelli	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	<u> x </u>	_____	_____	_____

POL-2

Motion to abolish the following policy:

- 1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – Covid-19

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-2

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 8:43 p.m.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Verso" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan Verso
Board Secretary