

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
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

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| 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. |
| Ms. Dana Kalczuk | 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. |
| Ms. Kelly Stoll | 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 (Donna Carey)
Finance, Facilities and Operations & Technology Infrastructure (Ron Hoffman)
Personnel, Negotiations, Grievance & Policy (Nick Demsak)
3. Board President’s Report
4. Superintendent’s Report
[Fire and Security Drill Report](#)
5. Student Safety Data System Report – Sept.-Dec. 2025 (Meg O’Mara)
6. Staff Recognition:

Educator of the Year: **Lisa Napovier – Elementary School**
John Torppey – Middle School

Educational Services Professional: **Amy Vierzchalek – Elementary School**
Marianne Petronella – Middle School

HTEA Education Support Professional: **Marianne Monahan**

7. Student Recognition:

Elementary Math League Contest Winners: **Arinze Akamnonu, Matteo Domicolo**

8. Superintendent Search Process (Kathy Helewa)

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

Mrs. Donna Carey _____
Mr. Nick Demsak _____
Mr. Brian Drelick _____

Mr. Ron Hoffman _____
 Ms. Dana Kalczuk _____
 Mrs. Susan Lucarelli _____
 Ms. Clarissa Marotta _____
 Mr. Ed Reinle _____
 Ms. Kelly Stoll _____

Dr. Michael Ryder _____
 Mrs. Susan Verso _____

Action following Executive Session if needed:

VIII. Old Business

O/B-1

- February 24 – Budget Workshop
- March 17 – Regular Meeting
- April 14 – Regular Meeting
- April 28 – Public Budget Presentation
- May 12 – Regular Meeting

O/B-2

[2025-2026 Budget Calendar](#)

IX. New Business

NB-1

Motion to approve the proposal from Kathleen Helewa Educational Consultants to conduct Superintendent Search Services, in the amount of \$12,000.

Motion of adopt: _____ Seconded By: _____

| <u>MOTION</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

X. Agenda Items:

MEETING MINUTES

1. January 6 – Regular Meeting and Annual Reorganization
2. January 20 – Budget Workshop

| Motion to adopt: | Seconded By: | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>MOTION</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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 2-10-26 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the March 17, 2026 BOE meeting (if necessary).

| Motion of adopt: | Seconded By: | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>MOTION</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

FINANCE

F-1
Motion to approve \$19,500 in transfers for the month of January 2026.

F-2
Motion to approve the Bills List for the month of January 2026 in the amount of \$1,437,847.11.

F-3
Motion to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Comparison Report for December 2025.

F-4
Motion to approve the Board Secretary’s Monthly Comparison Report for December 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 December 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 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 2026-27SY, 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 2026-2027 budget year (\$15,318.72) (36 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 2026-2027 school year.

F-6

Motion to approve the following resolution with the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the 2026-2027 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 26-27 school year.

ACTION ITEM(S): F-1 – F-6

| <u>MOTION</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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 |
|---|----------------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| Top Soccer | HMS Gym | 4/15-5/27 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Wed. |
| Wallkill Valley Baseball Board Meetings | HMS Café/Media | Feb – June | 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM | 1x/month |

ACTION ITEM(S): F/O-1

| <u>MOTION</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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 |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Hot Issues in Special Education Law | 2/24/26 | \$170.00 | ONLINE | G. Maffia | Strengthen the district’s understanding of current spec. ed. Law |
| Sussex County School Counselors Assoc. Meeting, Stonewood Tavern, Byram | 2/19/26 | - 0 - | \$14.95 | L. Potosnak | Opportunity to collaborate with other counselors; special speakers on agenda |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------|--|---------------|--|
| NJDOE series of AAC workshops, William Paterson University | 2/26, 3/19 | - 0 - | \$50.76 <i>(total mileage for 2 sessions)</i> | M. Hubbard | Learning the best resources for our growing non-speaking and minimally speaking population |
| NJDOE series of AAC workshops, William Paterson University | 4/16, 5/21 | - 0 - | \$50.76 <i>(total mileage for 2 sessions)</i> | F. Benvenuto | Learning the best resources for our growing non-speaking and minimally speaking population |
| Sussex County School Counselors Assoc. Meeting, Stonewood Tavern, Byram | 2/19/26 | - 0 - | \$16.92 | A. Demczak | Opportunity to collaborate with other counselors; special speakers on agenda |
| Annual Building & Grounds Conference/Expo, Atlantic City | 3/22-25/26 | \$350.00 | \$368.68 <i>(hotel plus mileage)</i> | P. Clipperton | Training/workshops on the new State requirements |

C/P-2

Resolved to approve the following parent-paid class trip(s) for the 2025-2026 school year:

| Grade | Destination | Date | Cost Per Student |
|-------|--|--------|---|
| PreK | “Going on a Bear Hunt”, William Paterson University, Wayne | 3/6/26 | Free; transportation cost funded by PEA |
| 5 | Liberty Science Center, Jersey City | 4/1/26 | TBD |

C/P-3

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school year calendar as attached.

ACTION ITEM(S): C/P-1 – C/P-3

| MOTION | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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 2025-2026 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 |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Carly Trovato | Teacher / Paraprofessional | Sub Cert – Exp. 1/14/31 |
| Christine Taylor Larco | Nurse | Sub Cert - Exp. 10/19/28 |
| Breanna Frasco | Teacher / Paraprofessional | Sub Cert – Exp. 4/30/27 |
| David Sasso | Teacher | Standard Certification |
| Allison Stanton | Teacher / Paraprofessional | Sub Cert Exp. 11/14/30 |
| Hazel Escalon | Teacher / Paraprofessional | Sub Cert – Exp. 4/24/30 |

P-2

Motion to approve movement on the guide for Jennifer Dugan, from MA to MA+15, as outlined in the current negotiated agreement, effective September 1, 2026.

P-3

Motion to approve movement on the guide for Diane Lapinski, from BA to BA+15, as outlined in the current negotiated agreement, effective September 1, 2026.

P-4

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby places Nicole Pirrello 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 January 12, 2026. Ms. Pirrello will provide dates with as much notice as practically possible.

P-5

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.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Robert Demeter | Academic Bowl Advisor | Stipend: \$526/15 hours |
| Jake Lombardo | Reading/Writing Club | Stipend: \$526/15 hours |
| Kevin Castner | Whiffle Ball Intramural | Stipend: \$526/15 hours |
| Jill Helmstetter | Volleyball Intramural | Stipend: \$526/15 hours |

Holly Romahn
Dan Kornak

Coding Club
Chromebook Repair Club

Stipend: \$526/15 hours
Stipend: \$526/15 hours

P-6

Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mark Postas, part time custodian, effective February 6, 2026.

P-7

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 |
|---------------------|------|---------------|
| Agila Kaliyaperumal | 2 | \$18.42 |
| Alexa Rivera | 1 | \$17.92 |

P-8

Motion to approve two 1:1 part time paraprofessional positions at the elementary school. These are IEP driven.

P-9

Motion to approve Patricia Rosendale as volunteer advisor for the 2026 Academic Bowl.

ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-9

| MOTION | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| Carey | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Demsak | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Drelick | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Hoffman | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Kalczuk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Lucarelli | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Marotta | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reinle | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Stoll | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

POLICY *Nothing to report*

XI. Written Communication

1. Project Self Sufficiency – Season of Hope, Stuff the Stocking thank you note

XII. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)

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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

- Mrs. Donna Carey _____
- Mr. Nick Demsak _____
- Mr. Brian Drelick _____
- Mr. Ron Hoffman _____
- Ms. Dana Kalczuk _____
- Mrs. Susan Lucarelli _____
- Ms. Clarissa Marotta _____
- Mr. Ed Reinle _____
- Ms. Kelly Stoll _____

- 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.