

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 Vierzhalek – 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)

None

VI. Executive Session *if needed*

None

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:

n/a

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: N. Demsak	Seconded By: K. Stoll			
<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

X. Agenda Items:

MEETING MINUTES

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

Motion of adopt: B. Drelick			Seconded By: R. Marotta	
<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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).

No action.

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

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

Motion of adopt: R. Hoffman

Seconded By: S. Lucarelli

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

Motion of adopt: R. Hoffman

Seconded By: R. Marotta

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 of adopt: D.Carey

Seconded By: S. Lucarelli

MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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	Coding Club	Stipend: \$526/15 hours
Dan Kornak	Chromebook Repair Club	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 of adopt: N. Demsak

Seconded By: R. Hoffman

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</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>
Kalczuk	<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Stoll	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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)

None

XIII. Executive Session *if needed*

A motion was presented by B. Drelick and seconded by N. Demsak that the Hardyston Township Board of Education enters private session at 8:28p.m. to discuss District Leave Position 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. No action anticipated.

All in favor.

XIV. Return to Public Session

Motion to the Board of Education will return to public session at 10:10 p.m.

Motion made by B. Drelick and seconded by R. Hoffman.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Mrs. Donna Carey	<u> x </u>
Mr. Nick Demsak	<u> x </u>
Mr. Brian Drelick	<u> x </u>
Mr. Ron Hoffman	<u> x </u>
Ms. Dana Kalczuk	<u> x </u>
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	<u> x </u>
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	<u> x </u>
Mr. Ed Reinle	<u> </u>
Ms. Kelly Stoll	<u> x </u>
Dr. Michael Ryder	<u> N/A </u>
Mrs. Susan Verso	<u> x </u>

Action following Executive Session if needed:

None.

XV. Adjournment

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education as this time, a motion was presented by B. Drelick, and seconded by N. Demsak, to adjourn the meeting at 10:12p.m.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Verso
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary