

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

May 7, 2026

7:30 PM – Middle School Cafeteria

I. Call to Order

Board President Brian Drelick called the Budget Public Hearing of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on May 7, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., from the Cafeteria of the Hardyston Middle School, 183 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg, NJ 07419. President Brian Drelick 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

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	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Dana Kalczuk	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	present		absent x	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Mr. Edward Reinle	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Kelly Stoll	present	x	absent	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Monica Rowland	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: J. Cimaglia, ES Principal

Staff Member(s) Present:

Community Member(s) Present: 20

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

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-27

Presented by Susan Verso and Monica Rowland
Public Comments will follow Proposed Budget Presentation

Public Comment (Board Policy #1200) - Proposed Budget Comments Only.

T. Alfano, Hardyston
L. Donohue, Stockholm

For approval: RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2026-27 BUDGET

Adoption of the FINAL BUDGET, with modifications to the TENTATIVE BUDGET approved by the Executive County Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 24, 2026, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 17, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the legal notices section on the Hardyston School District website: <https://www.https.org/legal-notices/> on April 27, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the FINAL BUDGET was presented to the public during a public hearing held in Cafeteria of the Hardyston Township Middle School, 183 Wheatsworth Rd, Hamburg, NJ, on May 7, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has now determined to make modifications to the Tentative Budget as follows:

Budget Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
3080	Supplies	\$145,454.00	\$73,054	(\$72,400)	Reduction to individual supply lines
3060	Other Purchased Service	\$99,560.00	\$87,248.00	(\$12,312)	Reduction in Cost
2100	Grades 1-5 Salaries of Teachers	\$1,493,772.00	\$1,424,700.00	(\$69,072)	Teacher Non-renewal
6500	MD-Salaries of Teachers	\$202,598.00	\$167,432.00	(\$35,166)	Reduction in Force (Nurse)
49200	Energy (Natural Gas)	\$147,000.00	\$141,000.00	(\$6,000)	Reduction in budgeted amount
49220	Energy (Electricity)	\$235,000.00	\$229,000.00	(\$6,000)	Reduce in solar energy
46040	Salaries of Secretarial & Clerical	\$155,503.00	\$139,634.00	(\$15,869)	Reduced F/T secretary to P/T
52260	Transportation (Reg)	\$778,330.00	\$704,179.00	(\$74,151)	Reduce line w/ no effect on students
45060	Audit Fees	\$30,000.00	\$25,000.00	(\$5,000)	Offset for Cafeteria Audit
417000	Co-Curricular Salaries	\$27,292.00	\$25,414.00	(\$1,878)	Reduce three stipends
30580	Health Services Supply	\$14,770.00	\$10,770.00	(\$4,000)	Reduce supply line
4520	LLD Other Salaries for Instruction	\$104,212.00	\$170,912.00	\$66,700	Two RBT positions TBD
6520	MD Other salaries for Instruction	\$381,512.00	\$402,847.00	\$21,335	One paraprofessional TBD
7020	Resource Room Other Salaries	\$272,080.00	\$293,415.00	\$21,335	One paraprofessional TBD
29100	Tuition to Private School	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$115,000	Tuition for OOD student
100	Local Tax Levy Base Budget	\$12,048,799.00	\$11,971,356.00	(\$77,443)	Reduction in Healthcare adjustment
755	PEA Prior Year Carryover	\$21,432.00	\$141,333.00	\$119,901	Correction to revenue line
86280	Transportation PEA	\$0.00	\$74,151.00	\$74,151	Transportation for PEA students
87040	PEA Non-instructional Equipment	\$22,042.00	\$52,042.00	\$30,000	Equipment for PEA
86220	Other Purchased Prof Services	\$0.00	\$15,750.00	\$15,750.00	PEA (Gen Admin) support

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following FINAL Budget for SY2026-2027:

<u>Appropriation</u> <u>S</u>				<u>26-27</u>
	Total General Current Expense (Fund 11))			\$14,039,629
		Total Capital Outlay		\$78,673
	Charter School Tuition (Fund 10)			\$105,331
		General Fund		

		Total	
	Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)		\$1,818,088
	Repayment of Debt (Fund 40)		\$781,194
			Total Appropriations
			\$16,822,915
Revenues			26-27
	Local Tax Levy		\$11,971,356
	Misc. Revenue		
	Interest on Main Reserve		\$18,000
	Interest on Cap Reserve		\$18,000
		Total Revenue from Local Sources	\$12,007,356
St Sources	School Choice		\$127,939
	Transportation Aid		\$573,473
	Special Ed Aid		\$724,867
	Security Aid		\$91,690
	Adjustment Aid		\$0
	SEMI		\$0
	ExtraOrdinary Aid		\$235,000
		Revenue from State Sources	\$1,752,969
Otr Sources	Budgeted Fund Balance		\$463,308
	Withdrawal from Capital Reserve (10-307)		\$0
	Withdrawal from Maint Reserve (10-310)		\$0
		Total Operating Budget (Fund 10 & 11 & 12)	\$14,223,633
	Title I	(Updated 75% for Budget)	\$67,983
	Title IV	(Updated 75% for Budget)	\$4,567
	IDEA	(Updated 75% for Budget)	\$117,675
	PreSchool Expansion Aid		\$1,627,863
		Special Revenue Funds (Fund 20)	\$1,818,088
		Debt Service / Bond Repayment (Fund 40)	\$781,194
		Total Revenues	\$16,822,915

This budget incorporates the following revenue measures:

- The General Fund Tax Levy will be 5.97%.
- Taxes to be raised for the 2026-2027 School Budget: General Fund \$11,971,356 and Debt Service \$781,194.

Motion to adopt: B. Drelick			Seconded By: R. Hoffman	
MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Carey		<u> x </u>		
Demsak	<u> x </u>			
Drelick	<u> x </u>			
Hoffman	<u> x </u>			
Kalczuk		<u> x </u>		
Lucarelli				<u> x </u>
Marotta	<u> x </u>			
Reinle	<u> x </u>			
Stoll	<u> x </u>			

O/B-1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hardyston Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$191,416 to sustain existing programs and student services without reductions.

O/B-2

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hardyston Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a Health Care Costs adjustment as calculated in the budget software and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 subsection (d) in the amount of \$257,000. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health care.

OB-3

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district:

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and,

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, and annual school year threshold per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and,

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7. but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms: now,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Hardyston Township Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A23A-7 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District and Reimbursement Forms: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hardyston Township Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements (object '580') in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, to a maximum expenditure of \$40,000 for all staff members in the General Fund; and, that the school business administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Current expenditures for travel and related expenses for the 2025/2026 school year as follows:

Expenditures	\$2,228.86
Encumbrances	\$129.72
Funds Available	\$1,641.42

Motion to adopt:	B. Drelick		Seconded By: N. Demsak	
MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Carey	OB-3	OB-1, OB-2	_____	_____
Demsak	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____
Drelick	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____
Hoffman	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____
Kalczuk	OB-3	OB-1, OB-2	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____x_____
Marotta	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____
Stoll	_____x_____	_____	_____	_____

V. Executive Session *if needed*

None

VI. 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	_____
 Ms. Monica Rowland	 _____
Mrs. Susan Verso	_____

Action following Executive Session if needed:

VII. Adjournment

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education at this time, a motion was presented by B. Drelick, and seconded by R Hoffman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Verso
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary