

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2026
7:00 PM – Middle School Cafeteria**

I. Call to Order

Board President Brian Drelick called the Regular Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on April 28, 2026 at 7:01 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		absent x	arrived at _____ p.m.
Ms. Kelly Stoll	present	x	absent	arrived at 7:03p.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: Mrs. J. Cimaglia, ES Principal
 Ms. M. O'Mara, MS Principal
 Mr. Joseph Roselle, Esq., SPS&K

Staff Member(s) Present: 10

Community Member(s) Present: 36
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 (Robin Marotta)
Finance, Facilities and Operations & Technology Infrastructure (Ron Hoffman)
Personnel, Negotiations, Grievance & Policy (Nick Demsak)
3. Board President's Report
4. HTEA Report
5. Superintendent's Report
[Fire and Security Drill Report](#)

6. Student Recognition:

2026 Sussex County Unsung Hero: Chase Diaz

2026 Sussex County Superintendent's Roundtable Recipient: Kayla Stanton

2026 Sussex County Caring Award Recipient: Chloe Clapp

HMS Spelling Bee Participants: Brooklyn Birdsall, Matteo Manger, Caleb Dunn, Grayson Snure, Marvin Francois, Brody Hintzen, Gina Campa, Veronica Velez, and Carson Keil

Spelling Bee Champion: Camila Luna

7. **Staff Recognition: Holly Romahn, STEM Pioneer Teacher Corps – Chosen Member**
8. [HIB Grade Reporting](#) – School Year 2024-2025 (Meg O'Mara)

V. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)

None

VI. Old Business

O/B-1

- May 7 - Budget Public Hearing
- May 12 – Regular Meeting
- June 9 – Regular Meeting and annual Reorganization
- June 23 - Annual Evaluation Workshop and Retreat

Motion to adopt: B. Drelick			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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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>

VII. Executive Session *if needed*

None

VIII. Return to Public Session

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

Roll Call

Mrs. Donna Carey	<u> </u>
Mr. Nick Demsak	<u> </u>
Mr. Brian Drelick	<u> </u>
Mr. Ron Hoffman	<u> </u>
Ms. Dana Kalczuk	<u> </u>
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	<u> </u>
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	<u> </u>
Mr. Ed Reinle	<u> </u>
Ms. Kelly Stoll	<u> </u>
Ms. Monica Rowland	<u> </u>
Mrs. Susan Verso	<u> </u>

Action following Executive Session if needed:

None

IX. New Business

N/B-1

Motion to approve the following resolution:

HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR HIGHLANDS REGION SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ADVOCATING FOR FAIR FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township Board of Education is committed to providing a **thorough and efficient system of free public education** for students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, Hardyston Township is a significant stakeholder in the New Jersey Highlands Region, with approximately **12,603 acres—or 60% of the Township's total land area**—designated as part of the **Highlands Preservation Area**; and

WHEREAS, the **Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act** was enacted to protect natural resources that provide drinking water to over 5 million New Jersey residents, placing the burden of preservation on municipalities like Hardyston; and

WHEREAS, the stringent regulations of the Highlands Act and the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) result in **limited potential for development** within the Township Highlands Preservation Area; and

WHEREAS, these state-mandated development restrictions and the prioritization of land preservation (with 73% of the Preservation Area already preserved as open space) inherently **limit the growth of the local tax base**, which is the primary source of funding for the Hardyston Township School District; and

WHEREAS, there is currently pending legislation in Trenton known as **Bill A4860, the "Fairness for School Districts in Development Restricted Areas Act,"** which seeks to provide additional State school aid to districts located in Highlands preservation areas; and

WHEREAS, this bill is sponsored by representatives including **Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia** and **Assemblyman Michael Inganamort**, who represent Hardyston in the 24th Legislative District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardyston Township Board of Education hereby formally declares its **support for Bill A4860** and any legislative efforts that provide fair and additional funding to school districts whose local revenue-generating capabilities are restricted by state-mandated environmental preservation acts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education calls upon the **Hardyston Township Council**, including **Mayor Stanley Kula, Deputy Mayor Anthony Alfano, and Council Members Brian Kaminski, Frank Cicerele, and Carl Miller**, to join in this cause by passing a similar resolution of support to present a unified front for the taxpayers and students of Hardyston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education urges our elected representatives in Trenton—**Senator Parker Space, Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia, and Assemblyman Mike Inganamort**—to continue their advocacy and aggressively pursue the passage of "Fairness for School Districts" legislation to ensure Hardyston receives its fair share of state support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Hardyston Township Council, and the representatives of the 24th Legislative District.

ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2026.

Motion to adopt: N. Demsak			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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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. March 24 – Regular Meeting
2. April 16 – Special Meeting

Motion to adopt: B. Drelick			Seconded By: D. Carey	
<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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 April report is based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.*

Background: HIB report for 4-28-26 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the May 12, 2026 BOE meeting (if necessary).

None

Motion of adopt: <u> </u>		Seconded By: <u> </u>		
<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	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lucarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marotta	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reinle	_____	_____	_____	_____
Stoll	_____	_____	_____	_____

FINANCE

F-1

Motion to approve \$38,623,67 in transfers for the month of March 2026.

F-2

Motion to approve the Bills List for the month of March 2026 in the amount of \$1,525,811,68.

F-3

Motion to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Comparison Report for February 2026.

F-4

Motion to approve the Board Secretary’s Monthly Comparison Report for February 2026.

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 February 28, 2026.

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 the fifth year of a five-year contract agreement, total cost of contract \$169,770.78 with Maschio’s Food Services Inc., effective September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 with the terms and conditions in adherence to state mandates:

1. Management Fee(s)/Guarantees

Management Fee

The School Food Authority shall pay Maschio’s annual management fee in the amount of \$10,440.00

The management fee shall be payable in monthly installments of \$1,044 per month commencing on September 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027.

2. Guarantee Subsidy

Maschio’s guarantees that the bottom line of the operational report (total revenue for all sources less program costs, including the management fee), will be a loss of \$0.00.

This agreement is compliant with all guidelines and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. This agreement can be terminated by either party with 60-days’ notice.

F-6

Motion to approve the following meal prices for the 2026-2027 school year:

Student Breakfast: \$2.50

Student Lunch: \$3.95

Staff/Faculty \$5.25

F-7

Motion to approve quoted contract QHTPS-01 with D.W. Clark & Sons, Inc. for the transportation of one (1) out-of-district student for the period of April 13, 2026, through on or before June 30, 2026.

F-8

Motion to approve the following resolution to approve the sale of technology equipment no longer in use:

Whereas, the Hardyston School District has older technology equipment that is no longer needed to meet the business or education requirements of the school district, and **Whereas**, it is in the best interest of the District to dispose of such property through trade in, negotiated sale, donation, public auction or in refuse (destruction).

Now, **THEREFORE BE IT AGREED AND RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Hardyston Public School District, the equipment listed below shall be sold 'as is' at auction to the highest bidder on GovDeals.com:

Lot of 40 Dell GG 217 Docking Station Holders & Monitor Stands (No Docks)

F-9

Motion to approve the following resolution to approve the sale of technology equipment no longer in use:

Whereas, the Hardyston School District has older technology equipment that is no longer needed to meet the business or education requirements of the school district, and **Whereas**, it is in the best interest of the District to dispose of such property through trade in, negotiated sale, donation, public auction or in refuse (destruction).

Now, **THEREFORE BE IT AGREED AND RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Hardyston Public School District, the equipment listed below shall be sold 'as is' at auction to the highest bidder on GovDeals.com:

Mixed bulk lot of laptop and Chromebook batteries,
10x Acer AP13J3K (11.25V, 3990mAh, 45Wh, lithium polymer internal battery packs)
5x Dell Type 6MT4T (62Wh)
4x Dell Type 5R9DD (43Wh)
Dell T54FJ (quantity varies)
Dell KM742 (quantity varies)
Dell 51K07 (quantity varies)
Dell JPFMR (quantity varies)
Dell G5M10 (quantity varies)
Acer AP13J4K (quantity varies)
2x APC UPS replacement batteries

ACTION ITEM(S): F-1 – F-9

Motion of adopt: R. Hoffman

Seconded By: N. Demsak

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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 withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve for the 2025-2026 School Year in the amount of \$68,202.86 for the following:

1) MS Asphalt Shingle Roof Repairs

Contract # Roofing & Envelope Services Bid #ESNJ 23/24, Co-op #65MCESCCPS

This withdrawal will leave a balance of \$38,705.45 in Maintenance Reserve.

ACTION ITEM(S): F/O-1

Motion of adopt: N. Demsak

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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 6471:

EVENT	DATE	REGISTRATION FEE	MILEAGE & OTHER EXPENSES	EMPLOYEE / BOARD MEMBER	BENEFIT
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Renewal, Newark	6/11/26	\$2,499.00	\$37.10	J. Helmstetter	Renewal of CPI Instructor certification

C/P-2

Motion to approve the amended 2025-2026 school calendar for the remainder of this school year as follows:

- Last day of school for students Tuesday, June 23
- Eighth Grade Graduation Monday, June 22
- Last day of school for teachers Tuesday, June 23
- Early dismissal days for all students Fri., June 19, Mon., June 22, Tues., June 23
- Early dismissal days for teachers Fri., June 19 and Tues., June 23
(Mon. will be a half day if teachers attend graduation.)

ACTION ITEM(S): C/P-1 – C/P-2

Motion of adopt: D. Carey

Seconded By: N. Demsak

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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
Gabriella Rosanelli	Teacher / Paraprofessional	Sub Cert in process
Frances Radziewicz	Paraprofessional	n/a

P-2

Motion to approve Andrew Tully as the district's Building and Grounds Supervisor, for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at an annual salary of \$72,000.

P-3

Motion to accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Amanda Herrmann, part time RBT/paraprofessional, effective April 10, 2026.

P-4

Motion to approve movement on the guide for Lisa Garofano, effective September 1, 2027, as outlined in the negotiated agreement, upon successful completion of courses and transcripts provided. Mrs. Garofano will move from BA+30 to MA+30.

ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-4

Motion of adopt: N. Demsak

Seconded By: R. Hoffman

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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

POL-1

Motion to approve a second reading and adopt the following policies/regulations:

[P0142.1](#) Nepotism

P1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator
P1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff
R1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff
P2530	Resource Materials
R2530	Resource Materials
P2535	Library Material
R2535	Library Material
P9130	Public Complaints
R9130	Public Complaints

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-1

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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>

POL-2

Motion to abolish the following policies/regulations:

P3362	Sexual Harassment
R3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure
P4352	Sexual Harassment
R4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-2

Motion of adopt: N. Demsak

Seconded By: D. Kalczuk

<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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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>

POL-3

Motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolution of the Hardyston Township Board of Education addressing Social Bullying and Enhancing School Climate:

WHEREAS, the Hardyston Township School District is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment where every student feels welcomed, valued, and treated fairly; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the significant impact that "Social Bullying"—including exclusion, rumor-spreading, and manipulation—can have on a student's mental health, social integration, and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the District currently operates under the robust framework of the New Jersey **Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, District Policy 5512**, and the established **Code of Conduct** to address Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying; and

WHEREAS, professional feedback from District administrators and school counselors has highlighted the importance of maintaining clear, legally compliant boundaries between "relational conflict" and "HIB" to ensure investigations remain effective and consistent with state law; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the need to preserve administrative flexibility when determining disciplinary consequences based on the unique variables of each case;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hardyston Township Board of Education formally adopts the following measures to further address the core concepts of social bullying while maintaining alignment with New Jersey state law:

1. **Integration of Social Bullying Concepts:** The District will incorporate the definitions and examples of social bullying into existing character education programs, including "The Habits of a Highly Successful Hornet," to ensure students understand the harm caused by these behaviors.
2. **Commitment to Educational Programming:** The District will explore free informational programs (such as through NJ4S) for students and staff to shine a specific light on the nuances of social dynamics and relational aggression.
3. **Promotion of a Culture of Kindness:** The Board supports the continued use of student-led initiatives, such as the **Kindness Club**, Art Club, and Journaling Club, to foster an environment where inclusion is a shared promise rather than just a regulation.
4. **Clarification of Procedures:** The District reaffirms that all reports of bullying will continue to be handled through the established HIB reporting system to ensure legal compliance, while "relational conflicts" will remain under the expert guidance of counselors and administrators using the Code of Conduct.
5. **Student Pledge Initiative:** The Board authorizes the creation of a "**Student Pledge**" to be displayed throughout District hallways, emphasizing kindness, responsible social media use, and the importance of being an "upstander" rather than a bystander.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hardyston Township Board of Education thanks the staff and administration for their diligent feedback and remains dedicated to evolving its practices to protect the emotional and social well-being of every student.

ACTION ITEM(S): POL-3

Motion of adopt: D. Kalczuk

Seconded By: N. Demsak

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </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>

XI. Written Communication**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 7:05 p.m. to discuss Attorney-Client Contract and Negotiations 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.

XIV. Return to Public Session

Motion to the Board of Education will return to public session at 8:30p.m.

Roll Call

Mrs. Donna Carey	<u> </u>
Mr. Nick Demsak	<u> </u>
Mr. Brian Drelick	<u> </u>
Mr. Ron Hoffman	<u> </u>
Ms. Dana Kalczuk	<u> </u>
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	<u> </u>
Ms. Clarissa Marotta	<u> </u>
Mr. Ed Reinle	<u> </u>
Ms. Kelly Stoll	<u> </u>

Ms. Monica Rowland _____

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 B. Drelick, and seconded by N. Demsak, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Verso
School Business Administrator /Board Secretary