

**nLOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2026**

Call to Order:

Work Session:

Work Session Meeting:

Roll Call:

Cynthia Baldacchini
Lauren Cox
Monica DiVito
Ember Loefflad
James Morris
Lauren Randle
Lindsey Selby
Patricia Smith
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Van Cathcart, Superintendent
Katie Siciliano, Board Secretary
Brett Gorman, Board Attorney

Agenda Items:

Board Discussion on Agenda Items

Non-Agenda Items:

LTPD Summer Camp Busing
Labor Management Committee Proposal

Other Matters:

Motion to enter Executive Session

Motion:_____ **Second:**_____

All In Favor:_____

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Employee #4155; #5100; #6106; #5514

Other Matters:

Motion to return to Regular Meeting:

Motion:_____ **Second:**_____

All In Favor:_____

July 22, 2026

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

Cynthia Baldacchini
Lauren Cox
Monica DiVito
Ember Loefflad
James Morris
Lauren Randle
Lindsey Selby
Patricia Smith
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Van Cathcart, Superintendent
Katie Siciliano, Board Secretary
Brett Gorman, Board Attorney

Salute to the Flag

Statement:

Notice of this meeting of the Lower Township Board of Education, listing the Agenda as known, was posted on the Lower Township Elementary Schools Website and posted at the Municipal Building, and a copy thereof delivered to the Township Clerk; in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with:

District Policy: #0164 Conduct of Board Meetings
District Policy: #0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings

1} APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting & Executive Meeting

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

Vote:

Cynthia Baldacchini
Lauren Cox
Monica DiVito
Ember Loefflad
James Morris
Lauren Randle

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Lindsey Selby
Patricia Smith
Gary Douglass

2} CONSENT AGENDA:

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON CONSENT ITEMS ONLY:

PLEASE NOTE: *Each speaker shall identify him/herself by giving their name and address and will be allowed to speak once for a period not to exceed four minutes. The public comment portion of all Board Meetings shall not exceed forty minutes in total. Prior to the roll call vote, any member of the board may ask for discussion on any of the items within the block. The following items are believed to be items of a routine nature and will be moved as a block of action items. Prior to the roll call vote, any member may ask for discussion on any of the items without the block.*

R. Routine Matters

R-1 Approval of Financial Statements:

Secretary's and custodian's reports for **June 30, 2026**, which are in agreement as certified by the Board Secretary, that no budgetary account has been over-expended, in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.12 (a), (d). To be supplied. TBS

R-2 Approval of Transfers: June 24, 2026 - July 30, 2026 {Backup R-2} TBS

R-3 Approval of Bill List: June 24, 2026 - July 30, 2026 {Backup R-3}

R-4 Approval of Cafeteria Report: None.

R-5 Approval of Travel: None.

P. Personnel:

- 1.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approves the on-call daily substitutes being rehired for the 2026-2027 school year. (Backup P-1)
- 2.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of JoAnn McLaughlin, 6th Grade Teacher at the Sandman Consolidated School, effective July 22, 2026. (Backup P-2)
- 3.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the following transfers, effective 2026-2027:

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED FROM</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
Amanda Pierce-Gangloff	4th Gr. @ Maud	6th Gr. @ Sandman
Brooke Strauss	5th Gr. @ Sandman	4th Gr. @ Maud
Michelle Keeler	Intervention @ Maud	3rd Gr. @ Maud

- 4.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Holly Saini as Nurse's Clerk at the Maud Abrams School, at the salary

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of \$22,026, effective September 1, 2026.

5. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Danielle Murray as Nurse's Clerk at the Sandman Consolidated School, at the salary of \$22,026, effective September 1, 2026.
6. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Amanda Eckel as Nurse's Clerk at the Carl T. Mitnick School, at the salary of \$22,026 effective September 1, 2026.
7. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Amanda Felsing as Paraprofessional at the David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School, at the salary of \$24,147, effective September 1, 2026.
8. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Morgan Robbins as Temporary Preschool LLD Teacher at the David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School, at the rate of \$175.00 per diem, effective September 1, 2026 to December 23, 2026. (Backup P-8)
9. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lower Township Board of Education authorizes the temporary employment of Mark Hunter from August 17, 2026 through October 14, 2026, at a daily rate of \$162.48 (\$42,246 annually), subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the settlement agreement. (Backup P-9)
10. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the following FMLA/FLA:

EMPLOYEE
#5566

POSITION
Custodian

EFFECTIVE DATE
7/1/26 - 10/12/26

H. Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying:

1. The Board affirms the actions taken by the Superintendent and the School Safety Teams, for H.I.B Sandman #9 2025-2026 and H.I.B. Sandman #10 2025-2026. (Backup H-1)

L. Legislative and Internal Policies:

1. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approves the annual review and adoption of all district policies and regulations.
2. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the second reading for the following revisions to existing or new Policies and Regulations: (Backup L-2)

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<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
1230	Policy	Superintendent's Duties
2200	Policy	Curriculum
2200	Regulation	Curriculum Content (Abolished)
2411	Policy	Career Education and Academic Counseling
2411	Regulation	Guidance Counseling (Abolished)
0162	Policy	Notice of Board Meetings
0162.01	Policy	Legal Notices
1643	Policy	Family Leave
2260	Policy	Equity in School and Classroom Practices
2460.30	Regulation	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services
5111.13	Policy & Regulation	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students - Choice School District
5111.4	Policy	Admissions for Vocational Schools
5561	Policy	Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques For Students with Disabilities
6112	Policy	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
6115.01	Regulation	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs
6115.02	Policy	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures
6311	Policy	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
8561	Policy	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

3. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the submittal of the Application for Dual Use of Educational Space 2026 - 2027 school year (Backup L-3)

E. Education:

1. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lower Township Board of Education approved a District Waiver Request based on the grouping age ranges and ELP of consecutive grade span of our English Language Learners. The district currently has 7 MLs in Kindergarten, 10 MLs in 1st Grade, 9 MLs in 2nd Grade, 11 MLs in 3rd Grade, 5 MLs in 4th Grade, 4 MLs in 5th Grade and 1 MLs in 6th Grade. ELP levels range from entering to bridging. Implementing a full-time bilingual education program would cause our district group students of multiple age ranges into a class and would inhibit developmentally appropriate instruction.

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2. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education confirms that the WIDA Access Test Student Score Reports were mailed via USPS on July 14, 2026 to the parents of all Multilingual Learners. (Backup E-2)
3. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the NJ DOE Commissioner Approved Alternate Teacher Observations for Highly Effective Educators.

F. Finance and Insurance:

1. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education accepts and authorizes the submittal of the FY-2027 ESEA Consolidated Grant Application as follows:

Title I-A	\$385,122
Title II-A	\$45,047
Title III	\$7,471
Title IV part A	<u>\$32,099</u>
	\$469,739

2. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve that the district is in compliance with the Children's Internet Safety Protection Act (CIPA), as per the district's Internet Safety Policy (Policy# 2361), which enables eligibility in the E-Rate program.
3. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the Breakfast and Lunch rates for the 2026-27 school year as listed:

	<u>2025-2026 SY</u>	<u>2026-2027 SY</u>
Breakfast (Full)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Breakfast (Reduced)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Breakfast- Staff (student breakfast)	\$N/A	\$N/A
Breakfast- Staff (special)	\$N/A	\$N/A
Lunch (Full)	\$3.60	\$3.70
Lunch (Reduced)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lunch- Staff (student lunch)	\$4.60	\$4.70
Lunch Staff(special)	\$5.60	\$5.70
Milk	\$0.75	\$0.75

4. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education authorize the School Business Administrator to make appropriate transfers and issue checks between the meetings and report them at the next board meeting.

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5. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education accepts the 2026 - 2027 Southern Coastal HIF Wellness Grant in the amount of \$11,340.00.
6. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education approves the use of Lower Township Elementary School Transportation Services for Lower Township Police Department Youth Camp from July 22, 2026 through July 26, 2026.
7. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education approves the Interlocal Services Agreement for shared Security Supervisor services with Lower Cape May Regional School District for the 2026 - 2027 SY. (Backup F-7)
8. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education accepts and authorizes the submittal of the FY-2027 IDEA Consolidated Grant Application as follows:

Basic	\$463,017
PreSchool	<u>\$27,349</u>
Total	\$490,366
9. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Lower Township Board of Education approve the purchase of the Corrective Reading Arts Curriculum in grades 3-6 Special Education and associated Professional Development for implementation during the 2026–2027 school year. The total cost shall not exceed \$4,801.46, consisting of \$1,301.46 for curriculum supplies and \$3,500.00 for professional development. Professional Development paid via Title III funds. (Backup F-9)

MOTION ON CONSENT AGENDA ON ALL MOTIONS LISTED BELOW:

Routine Matters: R-1 to R-5

Personnel: P-1 to P-10

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying: H-1

Legislative and Internal Policies: L-1 to L-3

Education: E-1 to E-3

Finance and Insurance: F-1 to F-9

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Discussion:

Vote:

Cynthia Baldacchini

Lauren Cox

Monica DiVito

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3} NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

4} OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

5} OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC: (*public comment rules as read above apply*):

6} GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- A} Next Board Meeting:** August 26, 2026
- B} Summer School Fire Drill:** July 20, 2026

Motion to enter Work Session

Motion:_____ **Second:**_____

All In Favor:_____

7} Work Session 2 (Board Goal Retreat):

Work Session 2 Meeting:

- 2026-27 Goal Discussion

Roll Call:

Cynthia Baldacchini
Lauren Cox
Monica DiVito
Ember Loefflad
James Morris
Lauren Randle
Lindsey Selby
Patricia Smith
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Van Cathcart, Superintendent

8} ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

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Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

All in favor: _____

Time: _____

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**LOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Lower Township Board of Education to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in "Executive Session," i.e. without the public being permitted to attend, and

WHEREAS, the Lower Township Board of Education has determined that ____ issues permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance shall be discussed during an Executive Session to be held on July 22, 2026 at ____ P.M. and

WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box within which **the number** of issues to be privately discussed that fall within that exception shall be written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written.

"(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

"(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

"(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly." _____

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“(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body”

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☐

“(5) Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is Personnel matters _____

☐

“(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

☐

“(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.” The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed are and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is: _____

☐

“(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.” Subject to the balancing of the public’s interest and the employee’s privacy rights under South Jersey Publishing Co. v. New Jersey Expressway Authority, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality:

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“(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be _____ minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Township Board of Education will go into Executive Session for **only** the above stated reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public’s interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure. For each of the above items, the estimated date by which such disclosure can be made and/or the occurrence that needs to take place before disclosure can be made are listed below (attach separate sheet if necessary)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, at the present public meeting, shall read aloud enough of this resolution so that members of the public in attendance can understand, as precisely as possible, the nature of the matters that will privately be discussed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees allowed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.