

**LOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2025**

Call to Order:

**Work Session:** {Starts at 5:00 p.m.}

**Work Session Meeting:**

**Roll Call- Board Members:**

Cynthia Baldacchini  
Lauren Cox  
Monica DiVito  
James Morris  
Lauren Randle  
Joseph Thomas  
Jonathan Vile  
Patricia Smith  
Gary Douglass

**Also in Attendance:**

Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent  
Patricia Ryan, Board Secretary

**Agenda Item:**

Board Discussion on Tax Levy Incentive Aid (Budget 2025-26 SY)

**Other Matters:**

**Motion to enter Regular Meeting:**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All In Favor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Meeting:** (Starts immediately after the conclusion of the work session)

**Roll Call:**

Cynthia Baldacchini  
Lauren Cox  
Monica DiVito  
James Morris  
Lauren Randle  
Joseph Thomas  
Jonathan Vile  
Patricia Smith  
Gary Douglass

**Also in Attendance:**

Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent  
Patricia Ryan, Board Secretary

**Salute to the Flag.**

**Statement:**

Notice of this meeting of the Lower Township Board of Education, listing the Agenda as known, was duly sent to the Cape May County Herald - Times Newspaper, The Press of Atlantic City, posted at the Municipal Building, and a copy thereof delivered to the Township Clerk; in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**District Mission Statement:**

“Dedicated to academic excellence, Lower Township Elementary Schools will nurture and challenge all students in a safe and innovative learning community. By encouraging respect and responsibility, students become self-directed, passionate, lifelong learners who will reach their potential. We are dedicated to supporting all students in exceeding the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.”

**Vision Statement:**

*Every Student, Every Day, Learning, Teaching, Exploring, Succeeding.*

**2022-2024 Board Goal:**

Establish a system with district leadership to ensure that board policies are consistently being implemented and enforced.

**2024-2025 Board Goals:**

Support the district’s effort to enhance student achievement, staff development, and parent engagement through policy and advocacy while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the budget.

**This meeting will be conducted in accordance with:**

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

**1} NON-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.*

**F. Finance and Insurance:**

- 1.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education authorize the increase in expenditures as described below:

Whereas, in the proposed FY2026 State Budget, certain districts have the opportunity to apply to the Commission of Education to increase expenditures, including an allocation of Tax Levy Incentive Aid, in order to satisfy the thoroughness and efficiency standards established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46.

Whereas, the Lower Township Board of Education is below local fair share and spending below adequacy to be eligible to participate in this program.

Whereas, the Lower Township Board of Education is eligible to increase expenditures by \$ 5,829,767 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of \$ 291,488.

Whereas, the Lower Township Board of Education is requesting the approval to increase expenditures by \$139,510 through the submission of the Tax Incentive Aid application for the 2025-26 school year budget to purchase thirty-seven (37) Promethean Smartboards and one (1) Smartboard stand for the Maud Abrams classrooms and sixty-six (66) Dell Chromebooks for students districtwide.

Therefore, the Lower Township Board of Education is approving the submission of this application to the Commissioner of Education.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:**

**Vote:**

Cynthia Baldacchini  
Lauren Cox  
Monica DiVito  
James Morris  
Lauren Randle  
Joseph Thomas  
Jonathan Vile  
Patricia Smith  
Gary Douglass

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

**3} ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All in Favor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_