

**LOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2026**

Work Session called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Work Session Meeting:

Roll Call:

PRESENT

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:

Ms. Smith and Ms. Selby had questions related to the Special Education Curriculum. Curriculum committee members discussed and clarified the purpose of the curriculum and why it is needed. Ms. Selby asked questions in regards to seniority related to the nurse's clerks re-hiring. Mr. Cathcart answered her questions.

Non-Agenda Items:

LTPD Summer Camp Busing - Mr. Cathcart mentioned to the board that the LTPD is interested in partnering with the district.

Labor Management Committee Proposal - Mr. Cathcart introduced Mrs. Buckley (LTEEA President) to speak about forming a Labor Management Committee.

Other Matters:

Ms. Cox mentioned that the cut off date for submitting resolutions to the delegate assembly is September 11, 2026.

Motion to enter Executive Session

Motion: Selby Second: Baldacchini

All Voted In Favor

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Other Matters: NONE

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Motion to return to Regular Meeting:

Motion: Baldacchini Second: Cox

All Voted In Favor

Regular Meeting started at 6:41 p.m.

Roll Call:

PRESENT

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: Smith Second: Selby

Discussion: NONE

Voted Yes:

Abstain:

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

EMPLOYEE

Amanda Pierce-Gangloff

TRANSFERRED FROM

4th Gr. @ Maud

TRANSFERRED TO

6th Gr. @ Sandman

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Brooke Strauss
Michelle Keeler

5th Gr. @ Sandman
Intervention @ Maud

4th Gr. @ 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 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.

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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)

<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

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our district group students of multiple age ranges into a class and would inhibit developmentally appropriate instruction.

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

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the next board meeting.

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	\$27,349
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

L-2 - Items Tabled: #2260, #5561, #6112, #6115.01, #6115.02, #6311

Motion: Smith Second: Selby

All Voted in Favor

Education: E-1 to E-3

Finance and Insurance: F-1 to F-9

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Motion: Cox Second: Selby

Discussion: NONE

Voted Yes:

Cynthia Baldacchini

Lauren Cox

Monica DiVito

Ember Loefflad

James Morris

Lauren Randle

Lindsey Selby - Exception P-1 to P-10

Patricia Smith

Gary Douglass

3} NON-CONSENT AGENDA: None

4} OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

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

A Member of the community spoke about how budget cuts will have a negative impact on teachers and staff.

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: Smith Second: Cox

All Voted In Favor

7} Work Session 2 (Board Goal Retreat):

Work Session 2 Meeting:

- 2026-27 Goal Discussion - The Board discussed and agreed to board goals for 2026 - 2027 School Year

Roll Call:

PRESENT

Cynthia Baldacchini

Lauren Cox

Monica DiVito

Ember Loefflad

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James Morris
Lauren Randle
Lindsey Selby
Patricia Smith
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Van Cathcart, Superintendent
Katie Siciliano, Board Secretary

Motion to Return to Regular Meeting

Motion: Cox Second: Selby

All Voted in Favor

8} ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion: Selby Second: Baldacchini

Discussion: NONE

All Voted in favor

The Meeting Concluded at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Siciliano".

Board Secretary/School Business Administrator