BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

2/18/2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Totowa was held at Washington Park School Media Center, 10 Crews Street, Totowa, New Jersey on February 18, 2026.

1. Call To Order

President Antonucci called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and led all present in the salute to the flag and remain standing for a moment of silence for our past and present troops.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:	Ms. Alesandrelli, Ms. Antonucci, Mr. Bierach, Mr. La Rose, Mr. Palazzo, Ms. Panepinto, Mr. Parlegreco and Dr. Vancheri
Members Absent:	Ms. Carr
Also Present:	Patricia Capitelli, Superintendent of Schools
	Vincent Varcadipane, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
	Mr. Raymond B. Reddin, Board Attorney

3. Open Public Meeting Notice

The following statement was read by Mr. Varcadipane:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Municipal Building and notice was mailed to the North Jersey Herald News and The Record.

4. Public to be Heard

There was no public to be heard.

5. Professional Days

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the submitted Professional Days as per the attached.

6. Policy Revision 0142.1 – Nepotism

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy 0142.1 – Nepotism.

7. Policy Revision 1220 – Employment of Chief School Administrator

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy 1220 – Employment of Chief School Administrator.

8. Policy Revision 1552 – Sexual Harassment - Staff

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the new mandated Policy 1552 – Sexual Harassment - Staff.

9. Policy Revision 2530 – Resource Materials

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Policy 2530 – Resource Materials.

10. Policy Revision 2535 – Library Material

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the new mandated Policy 2535 – Library Material.

11. Policy Revision 9130 – Public Complaints

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Policy 9130 – Public Complaints.

12. Regulation 1552 – Sexual Harassment - Staff

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the new mandated Regulation 1552 – Sexual Harassment - Staff.

13. Regulation Revision 2530 – Resource Materials

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Regulation 2530 – Resource Materials.

14. Regulation Revision 2535 – Library Material

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the new mandated Regulation 2535 – Library Material.

15. Regulation Revision 9130 – Public Complaints

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Regulation 9130 – Public Complaints.

16. Approval – Agreement EDS 00301-2026

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board approve the parties' agreement in EDS 00301-2026 for student #OOD242501 and directs the administration to implement its terms. See attached.

17. Inclement Weather Days

The Superintendent recommends the Board retroactively approve the following school closure due to inclement weather:

Monday, January 19, 2026
Monday, January 26, 2026

18. Inclement Weather Day

The Superintendent recommends the Board retroactively approve the following delayed opening due to inclement weather:

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

19. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Reports
as outlined in the attached document.

20. Submission High Impact Tutoring Grant

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the submission of the High Impact Tutoring Grant to the Department of Education on or about Thursday, February 26, 2026.

21. Volleyball Schedule Update

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the addition of a Boys' Volleyball game for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at Heritage School in Livingston, N.J.

22. Extended School Year Operations

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board approve operating the 2025-2026 Extended School Year program at Washington Park and Memorial School to be run from Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, July 22, 2026, from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Mondays through Thursdays.

23. Extended School Year Postings

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board post the following positions for the Extended School Year as follows (the number of staff required will be dependent upon enrollment):

- Special Education Teachers with Autism/ABA experience
- Special Education Aides/Instructional Aides with ABA experience
- Speech/Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapist (part-time)
- Physical Therapist (part-time)
- Behaviorist (part-time)
- Nurse/Aide

24. Use of Facilities – PTO Spring Candy Fundraiser Pick-Up

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the PTO's request to use the Washington Park School cafeteria on a date to be determined during the week of March 23, 2026, from 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M., for Gertrude Hawk Spring Candy Fundraiser pickup. The PTO is also requesting the use of two (2) tables and two (2) chairs for check-in and the use of the cafeteria tables.

25. Use of Facilities – P.T.O. 4th and 5th Grade Dance

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the request for the Totowa P.T.O. as follows:

Washington Park School Cafeteria
Friday, March 13, 2026 5:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

The P.T.O. is also requesting the use of five (5) tables and chairs.

Motion for approval of item 5-25

MOTION: Mr. La Rose
SECONDED: Ms. Alesandrelli
VOTE: Unanimous (Ms. Panepinto abstained from item #24 &25 Use of Facilities - PTO Spring Candy Fundraiser Pick-Up and Use of Facilities - P.T.O. 4th & 5th Grade Dance respectively)

26. Informational

Budget

New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)

Passaic County Poster Contest

100th Day of School

Volleyball

8th Grade Fashion Show

Dates for Your Information:

Feb. 19	8th Grade Fashion Show 6:00 P.M. – The Grand
Feb. 26	Unplugged Concert 6:00 P.M. WPS
Feb. 27	Progress Reports Online – Grades 5 – 8
Mar. 10	PTO General Meeting 7:00 P.M. MS
Mar. 11	PTO General Meeting MS 7:00 P.M. (Snow Date)
Mar. 16	PTO Spring Pictures
Mar. 16	1:20 P.M. Dismissal
Mar. 16	Staff Professional Development

Use of Facilities:

Mar. 1-20	PAL Basketball (MS/WPS) Mon. - Fri.
Mar. 2	PTO Executive Meeting (WPS)
Mar. 3	PTO Executive Meeting Snow Date (WPS)
Mar. 10	PTO General Meeting MS 7:00 P.M.
Mar. 11	PTO General Meeting MS 7:00 P.M. (Snow Date)

Attachments:

Correspondence:
Certificate of Appreciation – WPS Child Focus

Reports:
Discipline Reports

27. Committee Reports

Ms. Antonucci stated committee meetings were not held.

28. Executive Session

A request for executive session was made to discuss personnel matters and other business excluded from the Open Public Meeting by Law. The Board entered executive session at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Reddin said, in Executive Session the Board will be discussing personnel and legal matters. The discussion will last approximately fifteen (15) minutes and no action will be taken.

Motion for approval of item 28

MOTION: Mr. Bierach
SECONDED: Ms. Alesandrelli
VOTE: Unanimous

The Board returned from executive session at 7:35 P.M.
Ms. Alesandrelli left during executive session.

29. Substitute Teachers

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the following substitute teachers submitted by the Substitute Registry:

PRIORITY II
Del Rosso, Charles
Hosri, Anna (Nurse)

PRIORITY III
Chalmers, Ciara
Stansfield, Rory
Tweed, Analiece

30. Substitute Teachers – Updated

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the following updated substitute teachers submitted by the Substitute Registry, as per the attached.

31. Resignation – Special Education Aide

The Superintendent recommends the Board retroactively approve the resignation of Santos Aguilar, Special Education Aide, effective Friday, January 30, 2026.

32. Appointment – Custodial Engineer

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Mr. Franco Filato, to the position of Custodial Engineer for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, effective Monday, February 23, 2026, at a salary of $40,000 (prorated).

Motion for approval of item 29-32

MOTION: Mr. La Rose
SECONDED: Mr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous (Dr. Vancheri abstained from items #29 & 30 Substitute Teachers and Substitute Teachers - Updated respectively)

33. Approval of Minutes- January 21, 2026 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2026, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 33

MOTION: Mr. Bierach
SECONDED: Ms. Panepinto
VOTE: Unanimous

34. Approval of Minutes- January 21, 2026 – Executive Session

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the Executive Session during the meeting of January 21, 2026, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 34

MOTION: Dr. Vancheri
SECONDED: Mr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous

35. Approval of Bills List – February

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the February Bills List as presented.

36. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary recommends the Board accept the Financial Status Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

37. Monthly Financial Certification of the Board Secretary and the Board of Education – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board certify that the major accounts and fund balances in the 2025-2026 budget have not been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

38. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Bank Reconciliations for the month of January 2026, as presented.

39. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – January

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Board Secretary Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

40. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Treasurer Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

41. Acceptance of Financial Summary Report – January

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Financial Summary Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

42. Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfers – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the following line item budget transfer for the month of January 2026, as presented. (See Attachment #1 Monthly Transfer Report)

43. Acceptance of Revenue Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Revenue Report for the month of January 2026, as presented.

44. Approval of Payment of Cafeteria Invoices

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve payment of the following cafeteria invoices.

Vendor	Description	Check #	Amount
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912010926	1701	$ 13,567.76
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912011626	1702	$ 20,972.34
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912012326	1703	$ 7,190.32
Bulb Depot	Invoice #140522	1704	$ 3.98

45. Unemployment Compensation Account

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board retroactively approve check #238 from the school district's Unemployment Compensation Account in the amount of $12,171.44 to the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor Division of Employer Accounts for chargeable benefits.

46. Approval of Travel Expense – 2025-2026 Annual NJASBO Conference

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve the travel expenses for the 2025-2026 Annual NJASBO Conference in Atlantic City for Mr. Vincent Varcadipane, SBA/Board Secretary. Total expense for the trip will be roughly $1,000.00.

47. New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program: High Impact Tutoring Grant Project Cohort 3

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the submission of an application for the New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program: High-Impact Tutoring Grant Project Cohort 3 being offered by the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Student Support Services. The grant is a 1-year project, designed to provide high-impact tutoring interventions for students who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in grades three and four. The district has been allotted up to $80,000.00 for this grant.

Motion for approval of item 35-47

MOTION: Mr. Bierach
SECONDED: Mr. La Rose
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Bierach and Mr. Parlegreco abstained from PO # 26-01343 on item #35 Approval of Bills List - February, Dr. Vancheri abstained from all NRESC related items)

48. Old Business

There was no old business.

49. New Business

There was no new business.

50. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

51. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

52. Adjournment

Upon motion by Dr. Vancheri and seconded by Mr. La Rose this meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary