BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

03/16/2026

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 March 16, 2026.

1. Call To Order

President Antonucci called the meeting to order at 7:23 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. Antonucci, Mr. Bierach, Ms. Carr, Mr. La Rose, Ms. Panepinto
Members Absent:	Ms. Alesandrelli, Mr. Palazzo, Mr. Parlegreco and Dr. Vancheri
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. Calendar Revision

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the following revision to the school calendar:

Friday, April 3, 2026, 1:20 P.M. Dismissal Day

Motion for approval of item 5

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

Ms. Antonucci stated that no committee meetings were held.
The Board of Education did not enter Executive Session.

6. Approval of Adoption and Submission of 2026-2027 Tentative School Budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board adopts and submits the 2026-2027 tentative School budget. (See attachment #1)

7. Approval of Travel Expense

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approves the travel expense for regular business travel not to exceed $1,500.00 for the 2026-2027.

8. Approval of Maximum Travel Expenditure 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2026-2027 school year of $10,000.00 in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-7.3. The total expenditure in the pre-budget year to date is $0.00.

9. Approval of Legal Costs

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and school district auditor recommends the Board approve and acknowledge the school district exceeds 130% of the statewide average for legal costs. The school district will implement internal controls for the reduction of costs or to provide evidence that such procedures would not result in a reduction of costs.

10. Approval of Health Care Cost Adjustment

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the use of the Health Care Cost Adjustment for the budget of $330,000.00 for the 2026-2027 budget. The remaining balance of $925,000.00 will be added to Banked Cap for use within the next three budget years.

Motion for approval of item 6-10

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

11. Old Business

There was no old business.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

13. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

14. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

15. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Bierach and seconded by Ms. Carr this meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary