BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

05/27/2026

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 May 27, 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.

Ms. Antonucci read the following resolution.

YOUTH WEEK

4. Youth Week Resolution - Heather Antonucci

WHEREAS, in the observance of Youth Week, students have been designated in the place and stead of the respective members of the Totowa Board of Education.

WHEREAS, the said students shall conduct the business of the said Board under the guidance of the duly elected Board member.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: by the Board, that any and/or all actions on behalf of said Board are hereby and herewith ratified and confirmed as the official actions of the Board as if the same were acting directly in person.

Motion for approval of item 4

MOTION:	Mr. Parlegreco
SECONDED:	Mr. La Rose
VOTE:	Unanimous

Ms. Capitelli introduced all of the students and their positions.

2025-2026 YOUTH WEEK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Carmelina Grambone – President – Heather Antonucci -President
Luka Mladenovic – Vice President – Julie Alesandrelli - Vice President
Nashly Coste – Gary Bierach
Isabella LaRose– Gregory LaRose
Amaia Diaz – Nicholas Vancheri
Eleana Lehr – Joseph Parlegreco
MaKenna Mazur – Danny Palazzo
Kayla Salinas – RoseMarie Carr
Olivia Torres – Joanna Panepinto

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Valeria Granados – Chief School Administrator- Patricia Capitelli
Stephania Ochoa - School Business Administrator, Board Secretary- Vincent Varcadipane
Lyanna Puerta – Principal WPS- David Bower
Sofia Szydlowski - Vice-Principal WPS- William Felegi
Catalina Padilla – Principal MS- Joseph Compel
Zahra Lions – Director/Special Education- Lauren Terranova
Aliyah Morgan – Supervisor/Curriculum/Instruction- Timothy Tracy
Alexandra Gonzalez – Board of Education Attorney- Raymond Reddin

5. Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #5 on our agenda, Kindergarten Moving on Ceremony?

LEHR: I make that motion.

DIAZ: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

PADILLA: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Kindergarten Moving on Ceremony to be held on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.

MLADENOVIC: Where will this ceremony be held?

PADILLA: The ceremony will be held in the Washington Park School Gym.

GRAMBONE: Thank you everyone. Roll call please.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

6. Awards Assembly Grades 4-8

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #6 on our agenda, Awards Assembly Grades 4-8?

MAZUR: I'll make that motion.

SALINAS: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion?

LEHR: Do students in all grades participate in the Awards Assembly?

PUERTA: Yes, the Awards Assembly is for students in grades 4-8.

COSTE: When and where is it held?

PUERTA: It will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. in the Washington Park School gymnasium

LaROSE: I think it's wonderful that the district recognizes students for their achievements.

GRAMBONE: Any further discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

7. TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #7 on our agenda, TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony?

COSTE: I make that motion Madam President.

GRAMBONE: Do I have a second?

LEHR: I second it.

PADILLA: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 9:30 A. M. in the Memorial School Auditorium.

GRAMBONE: Is there any discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

8. Last Day of School

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #8 on our agenda, Last Day of School?

COSTE: I make that motion Madame President.

GRAMBONE: Do I have a second?

LaROSE: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Is there any discussion?

MAZUR: Are we meeting the state requirements for the adequate number of days for this school year?

GONZALEZ: Yes, we are. The state requires that students attend school 180 days.

SALINAS: But what about one session days?

SZYDLOWSKI: Our dismissals are set at 1:20 P.M. This meets the requirements of the minimum number of hours of instructional time.

GONZALEZ: Legally, passing time between classes does not count along with lunch while homeroom does count.

SZYDLOWSKI: A 1:20 P.M. dismissal ensures this district that the four hours are met beyond a reasonable doubt.

GONZALEZ: It is important that the four hour time requirement demand be met without question. Legally, the state could refuse to count a day spent with less than four hours of instructional time and the district would have to schedule another day of school or jeopardize state funding.

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

9. Graduation

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item # 9 on our agenda, Graduation?

LEHR: I make that motion.

SALINAS: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

DIAZ: Is June 17th the last day of school for students?

GRANADOS: Yes. The last day of school is June 17th.

GONZALEZ: In the past, wasn't our graduation always held on the evening of the last day?

SZYDLOWSKI: No. There have been years in the past when the students had to return to school a day or two after graduation to complete the 180th day of school. In the past, students looked forward to coming back again. The pressure is off, and they can enjoy themselves. I know the teachers enjoyed the interaction. They look forward to seeing their students one last time and wishing them luck.

PUERTA: The earliest last day of school for graduation this school year is June 17th, so I am recommending that the board approve Wednesday, June 17, 2026, as the day of graduation.

SALINAS: I can understand that. Thank you.

COSTE: The students receive their diplomas the night of the graduation…is that correct?

GRANADOS: Yes. They will receive their diplomas.

GRAMBONE: (WAIT A MOMENT FOR OTHER COMMENTS). Roll call please.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

10. Professional Days

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #10 on our agenda, Professional Days?

MAZUR: I make that motion.

TORRES: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

11. Submission Statement of Assurance Comprehensive Equity Plan

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #11 on our agenda, Approval- Comprehensive Equity Plan Needs Assessment?

MAZUR: I'll make a motion.

DIAZ: I'll second it

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

LaROSE: What exactly is this plan?

LIONS: State law and regulations continue to require school districts to implement curricula that promote inclusiveness. It safeguards students from the harm of bullying and harassment.

COSTE: What is the time period for this?

LIONS: Schools must submit the CEP for school years 2026-2027 before Monday, June 8, 2026.

LaROSE: What does this plan entail?

LIONS: A complete CEP consists of a resolution appointing the Affirmative Action Officer and a list of Affirmative Action Team members.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

12. Bus Evacuation Drills
13. Bus Evacuation Drills

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for items #12 and # 13 on our agenda, Bus Evacuation Drills?

MLADENOVIC: I'll make that motion.

MAZUR: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion?

LaROSE: I see that this motion is for bus evacuation drills retroactive for the buses for both Memorial School and Washington Park School on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, for Routes 1-8.

GONZALEZ: At least twice during every school year, a school must conduct an evacuation drill of a school bus at the school that includes every passenger who rides a school bus and is in school on the day of the evacuation drill. During school bus evacuation drills, students learn what to do in the event of an emergency, and they must evacuate the school bus. These drills were each conducted by the respective building principals, Joseph Compel and David Bower

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

14. Revision Board of Education Meeting

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #14 on our agenda, Revision Board of Education Meeting?

COSTE: I'll make that motion.

MAZUR: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion?

LaROSE: This is to move the meeting from Wednesday, June 10, 2026, to Wednesday, June 24, 2026, correct?

MLADENOVIC: Will the time be the same, 7:00 P.M.?

GONZALEZ: Yes. It is still being held at the Washington Park School Media Center.

MLADENOVIC: Thank you.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

15. Professional Development Summer Academy

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #15 on our agenda, Professional Development-Summer Academy?

GRANADOS: In consultation with the Administrative Team, I recommend that the Board approve the following professional development vendors, presenters, and activities during the Summer 2026:

Vendor/Presenter	Topic	Dates	Status
Dr. Kenneth Kunz:			
For the Love of Literacy	English/Language Arts	July 21-23, 2026	In-Person at WPS
IMSE Orton-Gillingham	Phonics	July 27-31, 2026	In-Person at WPS
Dr. Denis Sheeran	Mathematics	July 27–29, 2026	In-Person at WPS

SALINAS: What staff would be participating in this Summer Academy?

GRANADOS: The Summer Academy is for new teachers - for the first three years of employment they need to attend training in the summer. We also open it up to anyone else who would like to participate in the training.

TORRES: Didn't the district have another summer professional development program?

GRANADOS: Yes, this replaces IDE training for the eight days. Obviously, math teachers grades 5 -8 only complete the math one and ELA the same thing. Elementary will complete both math and Orton.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

16. 2026-2027 School Hours

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #16 on our agenda, 2026-2027 School Hours?

COSTE: I make a motion.

DIAZ: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

LaROSE: It is recommended that the Board approve the same school hours for the 2026-2027 school year.

PADILLA: Regular session hours at Memorial School are 9:00 A.M. – 3:15 P.M. and a one session day is 9:00 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

PUERTA: Regular session hours at Washington Park School are 9:00 A.M. – 3:20 P.M. and a one session day is 9:00 A.M. – 1:20 P.M.

LEHR: Would staggered times help our efficiency rating with the State of New Jersey?

PADILLA: How would that make any difference? The bus still has to do each route. Wouldn't staggered times just mean that each bus does a double route.

PUERTA: Actually, bus numbers 1, 6, and 7 are not filled to capacity. This is due to the fact that we try to ensure the safety of students by picking up and dropping off on the same side of the street.

PADILLA: Buses 6 and 7 do the runs on Totowa Road and Riverview Drive. One bus travels down one side and another bus travels down the other side of the road.

SZYDLOWSKI: We have never permitted these buses to stop in the middle of these busy thoroughfares to allow children to cross the street to board the bus.

PADILLA: I would not feel comfortable doing that either. I would not trust that cars are going to stop and let students board the bus.

GRANADOS: I could never support such a measure for any reason whether it is budgetary or mandates from the state. Children's safety comes first.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

17. Community-Based Instruction Field Trips

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #17 on our agenda, Community Based Instruction Field Trips 2026-2027?

MAZUR: I make a motion.

COSTE: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

LaROSE: What educational value does this support?

LIONS: Students from the RISE 4 class, along with the teachers and staff, will be provided an opportunity to be exposed and introduced to various businesses in town.

LaROSE: I think we, as a board, should approve of any program that encourages a joined educational union between local businesses in our community and our school system.

MLADENOVIC: I wholeheartedly agree.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

18. Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #18 on our agenda, Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)?

TORRES: I make a motion.

DIAZ: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

SALINAS: Is this a state mandated program?

LIONS: Yes, to be eligible for state aid a Parents Advisory Group must be in place. It is required for all school districts in New Jersey.

LaROSE: What is the purpose of this group?

GONZALEZ: The purpose of these groups is to provide opportunities for parents and community members to offer input to their districts on critical issues relating to students with disabilities.

LIONS: A Special Education Parents Advisory board can communicate the needs of parents whose children receive special education and related services. It can advise school leaders through parental input.

GONZALEZ: This advisory group can provide opportunities for districts to share information with parents about improvements to programs related to special education and other issues.

LIONS: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) meetings for the 2026 – 2027 school year to be held at Washington Park School on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 8:45 A.M. and Tuesday, March 23, 2027, at 8:45 A.M.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

19. Totowa Public Library Visitation

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #19 on our agenda, Borough of Totowa Public Library Summer Reading Program. May I have a motion and a second?

MLADENOVIC: I'll make a motion.

LEHR: I'll second it

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

TORRES: I see that only the fourth grade students are participating at Washington Park School in this program.

SZYDLOWSKI: Yes. The program is not offered to grades five through eight at Washington Park School.

MORGAN: The program continues to be very successful. The Borough of Totowa Public Library, under the direction of Ms. Krautheim, continues to partner with our district. Ms. Krautheim has come to our district to speak with our middle school students in the past. June 11th, Ms. Annmarie Shapiola and Ms. Jamie Santos from the library will visit Washington Park School. They will meet with students in grade four to promote the library's summer reading program.

PUERTA: As you know, we have made reading a priority at Washington Park School. Reading is very important as it is the foundation of learning. We are happy to work in collaboration with our town library.

DIAZ: I am glad we are using other resources to supplement our programs.

MAZUR: The program is very positive. I have heard only great things while down at the ball field (pause) and from my neighbors and friends.

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

20. Assembly - "The Possibility of Kindness" with Greg Bennick

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #20 on our agenda, Assembly-'The Possibility of Kindness" with Greg Bennick?

COSTE: I make a motion.

DIAZ: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

LaROSE: Since a speaker is presenting a program to the students, who is sponsoring this assembly?

MORGAN: The cost of the program is $1500.00, which will be incurred by the Municipal Alliance.

LEHR: What grades are participating in this assembly and when is it?

MORGAN: Kindergarten through grades three at Memorial School and grades four and five at Washington Park School are participating on Monday June 6, 2026.

MAZUR: How does he get his message of kindness across to the students?

MORGAN: Greg Bennick offers a new and positive approach to promoting kindness and to anti-bullying for young people. He performs an assembly with interactive comedy juggling, with every trick explained and connected to meaningful lessons about kindness. Students learn what we can do to enhance kindness, and what our role is in bringing that kindness to our classmates, our families, and our community.

MLADENOVIC: I feel that kindness is absolutely essential to instill in students.

SALINAS: I agree

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?…..hearing none….roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

21. Assembly - "Run DMC" - Darryl McDaniels

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #21 on our agenda, Assembly - "Run DMC" - Darryl McDaniels?

LEHR:: I make a motion.

DIAZ: I second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

LaROSE: Again I will ask since a speaker is presenting a program to the students, who is sponsoring this assembly?

MORGAN: The cost of the assembly is $500.00, which will be incurred by the Municipal Alliance.

MLADENOVIC: What grades are participating in this assembly and when is it?

PUERTA: Students in grades four through eight will enjoy the program on Friday, June 12, 2026.

TORRES: His name sounds familiar to me.

MORGAN: He is a hip-hop artist. His personal milestones shifted from commercial rap success to mental health advocacy. Through his children's book *Darryl's Dream*, he emphasizes that everyone is inherently perfect just the way they are.

LaROSE: I totally agree with that message.

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

22. Visitation - Passaic County Prosecutor's Office

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #22 on our agenda, Visitation- Passaic County Prosecutor's office?

COSTE: I'll make that motion.

MAZUR: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Any discussion?

LEHR: What grades are participating in this assembly?

PUERTA: Grades six through eight.

TORRES: When will this program take place?

SZYDLOWSKI: June 16,2026 from 9:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

COSTE: What will be the message from the Prosecutor's office?

SZYDLOWSKI: The prosecutor's office will discuss the ramifications of social media and sending and distributing explicit messages.

TORRES: Social media and messaging platforms offer great ways to connect, but they carry significant risks. It's good for the students to hear this from law enforcement.

SALINAS: I agree

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

23. Use of Facilities - Totowa Education Foundation

GRAMBONE: May I have a motion for item #23 on our agenda, Use of Facilities-Totowa Education Foundation?

DIAZ: I'll make that motion.

COSTE: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Discussion?

SALINAS: When and where will the Totowa Education Foundation be using the facilities?

MORGAN: **Kops for Kids Summer Program**
June 22, 2026 – August 14, 2026
Washington Park School Gym and Field

Summer Enrichment Classes
June 22, 2026 – August 14, 2026
Classrooms TBD

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

GRAMBONE: Ms. Superintendent, can we have your report?

GRANADOS: The school year is soon coming to an end, and what a year it was! With all the challenges, the Totowa teachers have remained dedicated to providing students with a most positive learning environment. There was also much support from the entire Totowa Community.

PUERTA: The students at Washington Park School have been able to take advantage of the nice weather having recess and lunch outside.

SZYDLOWSKI: May I add that teachers are free to sign up and have classes outside on the lunch tables. The students appreciate the change of venue.

MORGAN: All state testing, grades 3 through 8, has been completed. May was a busy month, with NJSLA testing grades three to eight including makeups. The students, as well as the teachers, are glad this can be put behind them, and they could now look forward to moving ahead with plans regarding the completion of the school year. Eighth grade is particularly happy since they could look forward to moving on to high school.

PUERTA: Washington Park School's spring concert was held on May 14TH. Students, under the direction of Mr. Carl, worked very hard preparing for the concert. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Bates, also performed. The chorus represented students from grades four through eight. Their hard work really paid off because the concert was successful, and all who attended seemed to have appreciated all the hours of practice that was put into the program.

GRANADOS: The students once again visited Washington, D.C. without incident. I would like to thank and commend all the teachers for their time and dedication. It is a huge responsibility to attend an overnight trip like this one, and, with our excellent teachers and administrators, it always proceeds smoothly.

PUERTA: Students and faculty were great. Thank you. The students were well behaved and are to be commended.

GRANADOS: On behalf of the students in this year's Youth Week Program, I would like to thank the Totowa Board of Education, administration, teachers, Mayor, and Council for an experience that we will remember for a lifetime. I make a motion that we turn this meeting back over to the elected members of the Totowa Board of Education. Can I have a motion and a second?

LaROSE: I'll make that motion.

MLADENOVIC: And I'll second it.

GRAMBONE: Any other discussions…..hearing none….roll call

OCHOA: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Coste	Yes		
Ms. Diaz	Yes		
Ms. Grambone	Yes		
Ms. La Rose	Yes		
Ms. Lehr	Yes		
Ms. Mazur	Yes		
Mr. Mladenovic	Yes		
Ms. Salinas	Yes		
Ms. Torres	Yes		

Ms. Capitelli congratulated the students on all of their hard work to completing this year's Youth Week. Ms. Capitelli stated that the students great job.

The Totowa Board of Education gave the students a round of applause.

24. Informational

NJSLA Testing

Memorial School Spring Concert

Washington Park School Spring Concert

Youth Week

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Grades - Official

Dates for Your Information:

May 27	Sixth Grade Trip – Fairview
May 28	Youth Week Visitation
June 1	Fourth Grade Orientation – WPS 4:00 P.M.
June 2	Fifth Grade Trip – Meadowlands Environmental Center
June 4-5	Seventh Grade Trip – Boston
June 5	Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony
June 10	TPK End of Year Ceremony
June 17	1:20 P.M. Dismissal
June 17	8th Grade Graduation WPS 6:00 P.M.
June 18-19	Staff In-Service
June 24	Board of Education Meeting – WPS 7:00 P.M.

Use of Facility:

June 1	PTO Executive Meeting (WPS)
June 10	PTO General Meeting – WPS 7:00 P.M.

Use of Field:

June	P.A.L. Baseball and Softball Mon. – Fri. 5:00 P.M. – Dusk
	Sat. – Sun. 9:00 A.M. - Dusk

25. Committee Reports

Ms. Antonucci stated committee meetings were not held.

26. 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 7:37 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 26

MOTION: Ms. Alesandrelli
SECONDED: Mr. Parlegreco
VOTE: Unanimous
Mr. Palazzo and Dr. Vancheri left during executive
The Board returned from executive session at 8:04 P.M.

27. Substitute Teachers

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

Priority I
Bolton, Douglas

Priority II
Cardona, Khyla
Malgosh, Tamara

Priority III
Gutierrez, Samantha

28. Approval Extended School Year Program Staffing

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board appoint to the Extended School Year from Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, July 22, 2026, from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., on Mondays through Thursdays the following staff members:

Certified Staff – 2025/2026 Salary Prorated Hourly Based on 1/200th Per Diem.

Alycia Desmond Carley Fleres Christine Harris
Gina McQuin Brittany Patten Erica Wolpert
Maggie Morris (Speech Therapist)
Natalie Pierro (School Nurse) - from June 22, 2026, to July 2, 2026, ONLY

Instructional Aide w/Standard Certificate – Salary at the rate of $19.75 per hour.

Sylvia Skerett

Special Education Aides – Salary at the rate of the 2025 – 2026 School Year.

Nuria Cordoba ($21.25/hr.) Cathy Daniele ($17.60) Norka Parrales ($18.10/hr.) Paula Ralli ($17.50/hr.) Joanne Schwartz ($18.10/hr.)

Physical Therapist – Kid Clan - Not to exceed 5 hours per week at the rate of $110.00 per hour.

Occupational Therapist – Kid Clan - Not to exceed 10 hours per week at the rate of $110.00 per hour.

Behaviorist – Not to exceed 20 hours per week at the rate of $80.00 per hour.

Erica Minde

29. Appointment – Special Education Aides 2026 – 2027 School Year

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board appoint the following Special Education Aides for the 2026 – 2027 school year:

Nuria Cordoba
Filiz Dinc
Yolanda Felix
Yasmeen Hamideh
Toni Malatesta
Anica Nestorovski
Debra Pastorino
Paula Ralli
Dorina Ziso
Cathy Daniele
Nevin Dokuzlar
Erianny Guevara
Deborah Luciano
Donna McAteer
Norka Parrales
Martiza Paulino
Joanne Schwartz

30. Child Study Team Summer Hours

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board approve Danielle Berdan, Psychologist, Gladys Campanile, Social Worker, and Stephanie Cramer, LDT-C, for summer services as needed, from Monday, June 22, 2026 - Friday, July 31, 2026, not to exceed fifty (50) hours at the prorated individual hourly per diem based on the 2025-2026 salary guide and Debra Barone, Guidance, not to exceed ten (10) hours.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, further recommends the Board approve Related Services Providers, Susan Fruhbeis, Occupational Therapist, Julie Levy, Speech Therapist, and Erica Minde, Behaviorist, at the rate of $80 per hour and Maggie Morris, Speech Therapist, at the prorated individual hourly per diem based on the 2025-2026 salary guide on an as-needed basis during the summer to do evaluations and/or attend meetings.

31. Kid Clan Summer Hours

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board approve Kid Clan Services from Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, July 22, 2026, as follows:

Physical Therapy – not to exceed five hours per week at the rate of $110.00 per hour

Occupational Therapy – not to exceed ten hours per week at the rate of $110.00 per hour

32. Resignation – Special Education Aide

The Superintendent recommends that the Board retroactively accept the resignation of Ms. Quanisha Carswell, Special Education Aide, on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

33. Approval Temporary Leave of Absence

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the temporary leave of absence for David Bower beginning on Monday, May 18, 2026, through a date to be determined.

34. Approval of Administrator in Charge

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve Timothy Tracy to be the Administrator in Charge of Washington Park School beginning on Monday, May 18, 2026, through a date to be determined.

35. Resignation - Principal Washington Park School

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the resignation of David Bower, Principal of Washington Park School, effective Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

36. Approval - Separation Agreement and General Release

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the Separation Agreement and General Release for Employee #2526-0001 as per the attached.

Motion for approval of item 27-36

MOTION: Mr. La Rose
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous

37. Approval of Minutes- May 6, 2026 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2026, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 37

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

38. Approval of Minutes- May 6, 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 May 6, 2026, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 38

MOTION: Mr. Parlegreco
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous

39. Approval of Bills List – May 27, 2026

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the May 27, 2026, Bills List as presented.

40. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – April

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

41. Monthly Financial Certification of the Board Secretary and the Board of Education – April

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.

42. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – April

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

43. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – April

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

44. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – April

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

45. Acceptance of Financial Summary Report – April

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

46. Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfers – April

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 April 2026, as presented. (See Attachment #1 Monthly Transfer Report)

47. Acceptance of Revenue Report – April

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

48. 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 #912042426	1717	$ 9,060.06
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912050126	1718	$ 18,919.07
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912050826	1719	$ 15,608.68
Totowa BOE MS	Field Day BBQ Café Act	1720	$ 1,001.40
Totowa BOE WPS	Field Day BBQ Café Act	1721	$ 1,639.20
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912051526	1722	$ 24,690.88

49. Approval of ESEA Title I Part A Amendment (Carry Over)

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the amendment to the ESEA Title I Part A 2025-2026 Grant to budget for additional carry over monies from the 2024-2025 application. Monies will remain the same as previously allocated for the original purchase.

50. Approval of ESEA - Title I Salary & Benefits Amendment (Carry Over)

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the following ESEA Title I funds in the amount of $171,099.00 for the salary/benefits for Ms. Jennifer Reeves, Memorial School Teacher for an Instructional Pull Out Program/Reading Specialist. This amount represents 100% of the salary and benefits for Ms. Reeves. Salary will be charged to account 20-231-100-100-000-000-050 and benefits will be charged to 20-231-200-200-000-000-050.

51. Approval of ESEA - Title I Salary & Benefits Amendment (Carry Over)

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the following ESEA Title I funds in the amount of $21,313.00 for the salary/benefits for Ms. Jenna Laudi, Washington Park School Teacher for an Instructional Pull Out Program. This amount represents 12% of the salary and benefits for Ms. Laudi. Salary will be charged to account 20-231-100-100-000-000-060 and benefits will be charged to 20-231-200-200 -000-000-060.

52. Approval of ESEA Title II Amendment (Carry Over)

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the amendment to the ESEA Title II 2025-2026 Grant to increase the balances in the amount of $7,114.00 for teacher salaries and benefits for Title II programs. These funds are carry over monies from the 2024-2025 ESEA Title II grant and have been allocated for the same reasons and line numbers as originally budgeted.

53. Approval of Out-of-District Contracts 2025-2026

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board approve placement of Student #OOD 23-24-01 at New Beginnings for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $14,064.13 and $8,845.00 for tuition and extra ordinary services, respectively.

54. Approval of 2025-2026 Transportation Contract NRESC

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve the 2025-2026 school year transportation contract with North Region Educational Services Commission, Wayne as follows:

Route #	School	Contractor	Cost Per Route	Date
Q4235	New Beginnings	Omar Trans	$ 10,150.00+609.00	5/11/26-6/23/26

55. Approval of 2026-2027 Agreement with NRESC Substitute Registry

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the contract with NRESC for the Substitute Registry in the amount of $11,176.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

56. Approval of Swing Education Inc. Contract

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the Swing Education Inc., of San Francisco California, contract to help manage and fill substitute teacher and related professional vacancies as needed. Positions will be paid on a per diem basis with a service charge paid to Swing Education Inc at a rate of 34% of the daily pay rate per position filled.

57. Approval of Contracts – Pursuant to PL 2015 Chapter 47

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 the Totowa Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the following contracts previously awarded by the board of education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A: 18. Et.seq, NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Procurement Regulations 2CFR, Part 200.317 et. Seq.

First Student
Lyons Environmental Services LLC
Dr. Marzena Odorczuk
Passaic Valley High School
Lawn Doctor
PG Chambers
Transparent Energy
Raymond B. Reddin
Adam, Gutierrez & Lattiboudere LLC
Rullo & Juillet Associates
Washington South
Delta Dental Insurance
Phoenix Advisors, LLC
Study Island and Edmentum
Advance Education Advisement Corporation
Hanson & Ryan Inc.
Metropolitan Life
Lincoln National
Di Dio Electric Inc.
United Fire Sprinkler
Lightpath/Altice
Bayada Pediatrics
Northern Region Educational Services Commission
Bergen County Special Services
Fence America
School Specialty
Strauss Esmay Associates
Realtime
System 3000
CC Productions
Metro Fire and Safety Co.
The Educational Services Commission Of New Jersey
Seesaw Learning Inc.
The Homestead Roofing Co Inc
LinkIt!
Associated Technology, Inc. Mechanical & Electrical Consulting Engineers
Dan Dressel Architect
Altea Qirjako
Alpine Learning Group
Tulpehocken Mountain Spring Water
Orton Gillingham
Amplify Science
Felician School
iBoss Inc
Warmaire Conditioning LLC
Pomptonian
National Geographic Learning Exploring Science
New Jersey School Insurance Group ERIC West Sub Fund
Unitemp MDI
Lerch, Vinci, and Bliss
Millenium Strategies, LLC
Innovation Designs For Education
Gaeta Recycling Co Inc
Totowa Police Department
Valic
Equitable
Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt
New Beginnings
Industrial Appraisal
Optimum
JAM Graphics
Arrow Elevator Inc
Viking Inc
CJ Vanderbeck
Verizon
E-Rate Consulting
J&J Gym Floors
ACES Cooperative Pricing System
Spinella Landscaping
Staples
Pitney Bowes Global Fin. Serv. LLC
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Windsor Learning Center
Briggs Associates
Commercial Protective
Sourcewell CoOp
Spectrum 360 Academy Lower School
Keystone Sports Construction
Alvino Asphalt, LLC
The Shepard School
Follet
K&J Accessories, Inc.
IXL Learning
Hand Over Hand LLC
Konica Minolta
The Phoenix Center
C&M Shade
Swing Education Inc.
Brainpop
Generation Genius Inc
Intuit Inc

Motion for approval of item 39-57

MOTION: Mr. Biearch
SECONDED: Ms. Alesandrelli
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Bierach and Mr. Parlegreco abstained from PO 26-01504 from item #39 Approval of Bills List - May 27, 2026.

58. Public to be Heard

There was no public to be heard.

59. Old Business

There was no old business.

60. New Business

There was no new business.

61. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

62. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

63. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Parlegreco and seconded by Ms. Alesandrelli this meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary