BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

05/28/2025

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 28, 2025.

1. Call To Order

President Antonucci called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. Oath of Office

Mr. Varcadipane administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Parlegreco and Mr. Bierach

3. Roll Call

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

4. 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.

5. Public to be Heard

There was no public to be heard.

Ms. Antonucci read the following resolution.

YOUTH WEEK

6. 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 6

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

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

2024-2025 YOUTH WEEK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Emma Henry – President – Heather Antonucci -President
Lindsey Tipiane – Vice President – Julie Alesandrelli - Vice President
Maxwell Ormsby – Gary Bierach
Francesca Pelosi – Gregory LaRose
Carla Noriega – Nicholas Vancheri
Alaina Giordano – Joseph Parlegreco
Aliyah Hussain – Danny Palazzo
Kailyn Carlo – RoseMarie Carr
Carrie Alvarado – Kristen Coiro

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Amelia Furman – Chief School Administrator- Patricia Capitelli
Maggie Concepcion - School Business Administrator, Board Secretary- Vincent Varcadipane
Dorismar Lopez – Principal WPS- David Bower
Mia Martinez Dominguez - Vice-Principal WPS- Timothy Tracy
Fedor Valenzuela – Principal MS- Joseph Compel
Jaelyn Richardson – Director/Special Services- Lauren Terranova
Juliet Mazza – Supervisor/Curriculum/Instruction- Aldo Deodino
Lindsay Moreno – Board of Education Attorney- Raymond Reddin

7. Graduation

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #7 on our agenda, Graduation?

GIORDANO: I make that motion.

CARLO: I second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

NORIEGA: Is June 18th the last day of school for students?

FURMAN: Yes. The last day of school is June 18th.

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

MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ: 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.

LOPEZ: The earliest last day of school for graduation this school year is June 18th, so I am recommending that the board approve Wednesday, June 18, 2025, as the day of graduation.

CARLO: I can understand that. Thank you.

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

FURMAN: Yes. They will receive their diplomas.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

8. Last Day of School

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

PELOSI: I make that motion Madame President.

HENRY: Do I have a second?

ORMSBY: I second it.

HENRY: Is there any discussion?

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

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

CARLO: But what about one session days?

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

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

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

MORENO: 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.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

9. TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #9 on our agenda, TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony?

PELOSI: I make that motion Madam President.

HENRY: Do I have a second?

GIORDANO: I second it.

VALENZUELA: 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 4, 2025, 9:30 A.M. in the Memorial School Auditorium.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

10. Awards Assembly Grades 4-8

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #10 on our agenda, Awards Assembly Grades 4-8

HUSSAIN: I'll make that motion.

CARLO: And I'll second it.

HENRY: Any discussion?

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

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

PELOSI: When and where is it held?

LOPEZ: It will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. in the Washington Park School Gymnasium

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

HENRY: Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

11. Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #11 on our agenda, Kindergarten Moving on Ceremony?

GIORDANO: I make that motion.

CARLO: I second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

VALENZUELA: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Kindergarten Moving on Ceremony to be held on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

TIPIANE: Where will this ceremony be held?

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

HENRY: Thank you everyone. Roll call please.

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

12. Student Appreciation Day

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #12 on our agenda, Student Appreciation Day?

HUSSAIN: I'll make that motion.

TIPIANE: And I'll second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

NORIEGA: What is the date for SAD Day?

LOPEZ: Friday, May 30th th.

ALVARADO: My impression of Student Appreciation Day is a lot of physical activity, games, contests, etc. Will this be the same?

LOPEZ: Yes. Students will move from each activity to the next. There are several activities in each of the five sections including, for example, boxball, kickball, Karaoke, cam jam, and cornhole.

GIORDANO: It will be interesting to see the participation of the students.

HENRY: Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

13. Professional Days

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #13 on our agenda, Professional Days?

PELOSI: I make that motion.

ALVARADO: I second it.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

14. Professional Development - Summer Academy

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #14 on our agenda, Professional Development-Summer Academy?

FURMAN: In consultation with the Administrative Team, I recommend that the Board approve the following professional development vendors, presenters, and activities during the Summer 2025:

- IMSE' Orton-Gillingham Plus is Phonics Training from July 21–July 25, 2025, In-Person at WPS
- IMSE' Orton-Gillingham Morphology Plus is Morphology & Comprehension Training from July 21–July 25, 2025, Live Virtual
- Dr. Denis Sheeran is conducting Mathematics training from July 28–July 30, 2025, In-Person at WPS

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

FURMAN: 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.

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

FURMAN: 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.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

15. Assembly - Holocaust Presenter

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #15 on our agenda, Assembly- Holocaust Presenter?

PELOSI: I make that motion Madame President.

HENRY: Do I have a second?

ORMSBY: I second it.

HENRY: Is there any discussion?

PELOSI: When is this planned and who will attend??

MAZZA: Mark Schonwetter will present a program for students in grades 5-8. The assembly will begin at 1:30 p.m. on June 11, 2025. This is at no cost to the district.

HUSSAIN: What do you know about this Holocaust survivor?

MAZZA: As a young Jewish boy in Poland, Mark Schonwetter survived the Holocaust, along with his mother and younger sister. They hid in the forest or attics and barns of kind Polish families for three years before being liberated in 1945.

CARLO: So I assume he now is a guest speaker to promote respect for all people.

MAZZA: Yes, and actually he has established the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation that offers grants to schools across the country to support field trips, programming, books, and having other Holocaust survivors speak to students. I have received grants from his foundation for several years now for books on the Holocaust for grades five through eight.

MORENO: It's a great opportunity for the students to learn about a part of history that should never be forgotten.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

16. Job Description - Special Education Aide

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #16 on our agenda, Special Education Aide?

PELOSI: I make that motion.

ORMSBY: I second it.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

17. 2025-2026 School Hours

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #17 on our agenda, 2025-2026 School Hours?

ORMSBY: I make a motion.

GIORDANO: I second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

TIPIANE: It is recommended that the Board approve the same school hours for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

VALENZUELA: 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.

LOPEZ: 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.
VALENZUELA: 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.

MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ: 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.

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

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

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

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

	YES NO Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes
Ms. Carlo	Yes
Ms. Giordano	Yes
Ms. Henry	Yes
Ms. Hussain	Yes
Ms. Noriega	Yes
Mr. Ormsby	Yes
Ms. Pelosi	Yes
Ms. Tipiane	Yes

18. Community-Based Instruction Field Trips

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #18 on our agenda, Community Based Instruction Field Trips?

HUSSAIN: I make a motion.

ORMSBY: I second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

GIORDANO: What educational value does this support?

RICHARDSON: 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.

HUSSAIN: 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.

GIORDANO: I wholeheartedly agree.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

19. Out-of-District Placement

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #19 on our agenda, Out-of-District Placement? Can I have a motion and a second?

PELOSI: I'll make that motion.

HUSSAIN: I'll second it.

HENRY: Any discussion?

HUSSAIN: Where is this placement exactly?

RICHARDSON: The student is being placed at The Felician School for Exceptional Children for the 2025-2026 school year.

PELOSI: Do we have to provide transportation for this student and who is the provider?

RICHARDSON: No, transportation is actually provided through the Northern Regional Education Services Commission.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

20. Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #20 on our agenda, Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)?

ORMSBY: I make a motion.

GIORDANO: I second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

ALVARADO: Is this a state mandated program?

RICHARDSON: 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.

ORMSBY: What is the purpose of this group?

MORENO: 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.

RICHARDSON: 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.

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

RICHARDSON: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) meetings for the 2025 – 2026 school year to be held at Washington Park School on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 8:45 A. M. and Monday, March 23, 2026, at 8:45 A.M.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

21. Submission of Extraordinary Aid

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #21 on our agenda, Special Education Extraordinary Aid?

PELOSI: I'll make that motion.

NORIEGA: And I'll second it.

HENRY: Discussion?

NORIEGA: What exactly does this aid support?

RICHARDSON: The extraordinary aid program provides additional aid to districts with classified students who have certain expenses over a set threshold. The application for reimbursement is for costs incurred during the 2024-2025 school year. Applications were accepted through Friday, May 23, 2025.

NORIEGA: Thank you.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

22. Totowa Public Library Visitation

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #22 on our agenda, Totowa Public Library Visitation. May I have a motion and a second?

ALVARADO: I'll make a motion.

NORIEGA: I'll second it

HENRY: Discussion?

NORIEGA: I seem to recall that in the past this program was offered primarily for kindergarten through fourth grade students.

MAZZA: Yes. However, this year the program is offered to the students in Pre-K as well.

RICHARDSON: This program continues to be very successful. The Borough of Totowa Public Library, under the direction of Ms. Krautheim, continues to partner with our district.

NORIEGA: Will Ms. Krautheim be at the visitation?

MAZZA: No. Ms. Annmarie Shapiola from the Totowa Public Library will meet with students in Pre-K through grade three on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. at Memorial School and grade four on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. at Washington Park School.to promote the library's summer reading program.

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

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

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

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

23. Revision PTO General Meeting

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #23 on our agenda, Revision PTO General Meeting?

ORMSBY: I'll make that motion.

CARLO: And I'll second it.

HENRY: Any discussion?

CARLO: This is to move the meeting from Tuesday, June 10, 2025, to Monday, June 9, 2025, correct?

MORENO: Yes. It is still being held at the Washington Park gym.

CARLO: Thank you.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

24. Approval - Comprehensive Equity Plan Needs Assessment

HENRY: May I have a motion for item #24 on our agenda, Approval- Comprehensive Equity Plan Needs Assessment?

ALVARADO: I'll make a motion.

NORIEGA: I'll second it

HENRY: Discussion?

HUSSAIN: What exactly is this plan?

RICHARDSON: 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.

PELOSI: What is the time period for this?

RICHARDSON: Schools must submit the CEP for school years 2025-26 through 2027-28.

GIORDANO: What does this plan entail?

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

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

25. Bus Evacuation Drills
26. Bus Evacuation Drills

HENRY: May I have a motion for items #25 and # 26 on our agenda, Bus Evacuation Drills?

TIPIANE: I'll make that motion.

ORMSBY: And I'll second it.

HENRY: Any discussion?

TIPIANE: I see that this motion is for bus evacuation drills retroactive for the buses for both Memorial School and Washington Park School on Monday, May 27, 2025, for Routes 1-8.

MORENO: 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

HENRY: Any discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	Yes		

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

FURMAN: 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.

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

MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ: 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.

MAZZA: 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.

LOPEZ: Washington Park School's spring concert was held on May 15TH. Students, under the direction of Mr. Carl, worked very hard preparing for the concert. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Latka, 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.

FURMAN: 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.

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

FURMAN: 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?

ORMSBY: I'll make that motion.

TIPIANE: And I'll second it.

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

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

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Alvarado	Yes		
Ms. Carlo	Yes		
Ms. Giordano	Yes		
Ms. Henry	Yes		
Ms. Hussain	Yes		
Ms. Noriega	Yes		
Mr. Ormsby	Yes		
Ms. Pelosi	Yes		
Ms. Tipiane	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.

27. 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 28	Sixth Grade Trip - Fairview
May 30	Student Appreciation Day – WPS Grades 4 - 8
June 2	Fifth Grade Trip – Meadowlands Environmental Center
June 4	TPK End of Year Ceremony
June 5-6	Seventh Grade Trip – Boston
June 6	Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony
June 9	Fourth Grade Orientation – WPS 4:00 P.M.
June 11	Board of Education Meeting – WPS 7:00 P.M.

Use of Facility:

June 2	PTO Executive Meeting (WPS)
June 9	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

Attachments:

1st Grade Spring Concert Program
2nd Grade Spring Concert Program
3rd Grade Spring Concert Program
Washington Park School Spring Concert Program

Reports:

Discipline Reports
District and School Grade Report Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

28. Committee Reports

Ms. Antonucci stated committee meetings were not held.

29. 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 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Reddin said, in Executive Session the Board will be discussing personnel and legal matters. The discussion will last approximately ten (10) minutes and no action will be taken.

Motion for approval of item 29

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

The Board returned from executive session at 8:07 P.M.

30. Substitute Teachers

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

Priority I
Mroz, Susan
Vazquez, Marisol

Priority II
Bubbico-Barnes, Maria
Chowdhury, Jafor Ahmed
Cruz, Jacqueline
Guerrero-Gonzalez, Dulce
Kelly, Richard
Khraiwesh, Zein
La Rosa, Gabriella
McGlade, Kerry
Nicosia, Isabella
Saadawi, Leila

Priority III
Chavez, Nila Tiana
Cuntrera, Jenna

31. 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 23, 2025, through Wednesday, July 23, 2025, from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., on Mondays through Thursdays the following staff members:

Certified Staff – 2024/2025 Salary Prorated Hourly Based on 1/200th Per Diem.

Brielli Baxter
Heather Corrado
Alycia Desmond
Gina McQuin
Erica Wolpert
Maggie Morris (Speech Therapist)
Natalie Pierro (School Nurse)

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

Brittany Patten

Special Education Aides – Salary at the rate of the 2023 – 2024 School Year.

Santos Aguilar ($17.25/hr.)
Nuria Cordoba ($20.75/hr.)
Cathy Daniele ($17.35)
Filiz Dinc ($17.75/hr.)
Nevin Dokuzlar ($17.60/hr.)
Norka Parrales($17.85/hr.)
Paula Ralli ($17.25/hr.)
Joanne Schwartz ($17.60/hr.)
Laishla Valentin ($17.25/hr.)

Physical Therapist – Northern Regional Educational Services Commission - Not to exceed 4 ½ hours per week at the rate of $105.00 per hour.

Occupational Therapist – Northern Regional Educational Services Commission - Not to exceed 20 hours per week at the rate of $105.00 per hour.

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

Erica Minde

32. Appointment – Special Education Aides 2025 – 2026 School Year

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board appoint the following Special Education Aides for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

Santos Aguilar	Vasvija Ahmemulic	Jamalat Assaf
Nuria Cordoba	Cathy Daniele	Filiz Dinc
Nevin Dokuzlar	Yolanda Felix	Yasmeen Hamideh
Debbie Luciano	Toni Malatesta	Donna McAteer
Anica Nesterovski	Norka Parrales	Debbie Pastorino
Martiza Paulino	Mirna Polibio	Paula Ralli
Joanne Schwartz	Erjola Suparaku	Laishla Valentin

33. Appointment - Long-Term Substitute

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Elizabeth Sloan Mandry Booth as a long-term substitute for the 2025 – 2026 school year beginning on Thursday, September 4, 2025. Ms. Booth will be paid an hourly rate of $20.75 and will not exceed twenty-nine and one-half (29.5) hours.

34. Approval - Movement Across the Guide

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the movement of Reem Azzam from MA Step 8 of the contracted salary guide to MA+15 Step 8 effective September 1, 2025. Ms. Azzam's salary for the 2025 - 2026 school year will be $80,815.

35. Resignation – Special Education Aide

The Superintendent recommends that the Board retroactively accept the resignation of Ms. Giovanna Monachello, Special Education Aide, on Friday, May 16, 2025.

36. Resignation – Joseph Latka

The Superintendent recommends that the Board accept the resignation of Joseph Latka, Music Teacher, effective Monday, June 30, 2025.

Motion for approval of item 30-36

MOTION: Mr. Bierach
SECONDED: Mr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous (Dr. Vancheri abstained from items #30 & 31 Substitute Teachers and Approval Exented School Year Program Staffing respectively)

37. Approval of Minutes- May 7, 2025 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2025, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 37

MOTION: Mr. La Rosee
SECONDED: Mr. Parlegreco
VOTE: Unanimous (Dr. Vancheri abstained)

38. Approval of Minutes- May 7, 2025 – 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 7, 2025, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 38

MOTION: Mr. La Rosee
SECONDED: Mr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous (Dr. Vancheri abstained)

39. Approval of Bills List – May 28, 2025

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the May 28, 2025, 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 2025, 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 2024-2025 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 2025, 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 2025, 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 2025, 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 2025, 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 2025, 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 2025, 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 #912050225	1663	$ 10,636.84
Totowa BOE MS	Field Day BBQ Café Act	1664	$ 1,178.80
Totowa BOE WPS	Field Day BBQ Café Act	1665	$ 1,614.95
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912051625	1666	$ 32,847.95

49. Approval of the Safety Grant Application – New Jersey Schools Insurance Group ERIC West Sub Fund

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommended the Board approve the New Jersey School Insurance Group ERIC West Sub fund Safety Grant Application in the amount of $3,500.00 for the purchase of new window coverings for security purposes. (See attachment #2)

50. 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.

51. Approval of Cafeteria Meals Price List

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the 2025-2026 Cafeteria Meals price list. (See Attachment #3)

52. 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
DJ Egarian & Associates Inc.
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
Staples
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
IXL Learning
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
Study Island and Edmentum
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
Structural Workshop LLC
Fence America
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.
Centralpack Engineering
Hand Over Hand LLC
Konica Minolta
The Phoenix Center
C&M Shade
Swing Education Inc.
Brainpop
Generation Genius Inc
Intuit Inc
Pitney Bowes Global Fin. Serv. LLC

Motion for approval of item 39-52

MOTION: Ms. Alesandrelli
SECONDED: Dr. Vancheri
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Bierach and Mr. Parlegreco abstained from PO 25-01524 on item #39 Approval of Bills List May 28, 2025 and Dr. Vancheri abstained from all NRESC related items and bills)

53. Old Business

There was no old business.

54. New Business

There was no new business.

55. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

56. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

57. Adjournment

Upon motion by Dr. Vancheri and seconded by Mr. Parlegreco this meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary