BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

06/24/2026

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 June 24, 2026.

1. Call To Order

President Antonucci called the meeting to order at 7:06 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, Mr. Palazzo, Ms. Panepinto and Mr. Parlegreco
Members Absent:	Ms. Alesandrelli 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

Ms. Carla Grant of 88 Grant Ave came forward. Ms. Grant stated that multiple parents had told her they were concerned that her son could only practice once and that the staff told the students to "shut up" when they weren't behaving. Ms. Grant was concerned about the unprofessional behavior of the staff. Ms. Grant was also concerned about another incident with her other child and how the whole situation in questions was handled. Ms. Grant was also concerned with the turnover of administration regarding the resignations of Mr. Bower and Mr. Felegi.

Mr. Bierach read the following response:

The Board of Education understands and appreciates the concerns that many parents have expressed regarding recent events within the district. As parents ourselves and as members of this community, we recognize the importance of transparency and communication.

However, there are legal and ethical limitations on the information that can be shared publicly. Matters involving students, student discipline and any reports that may involve law enforcement are protected by state and federal privacy laws. Additionally, when there is an active or ongoing police investigation, the Board of Education cannot release information that could compromise that investigation or violate the rights of those involved.

Similarly, personnel matters are confidential by law. The Board is prohibited from discussing the employment status, resignation, or personal decisions of administrators or employees in a public forum. Administrators, like professionals in any field, may resign for a variety of personal or professional reasons, including accepting other opportunities. It is neither appropriate nor permissible for the Board to speculate on or publicly disclose those reasons unless the individual chooses to do so.

We understand that the lack of information can be frustrating, especially when rumors and speculation circulate within the community. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to fulfill our obligations while also respecting the privacy rights of students, employees, and families and preserving the integrity of any ongoing investigations.

The Board remains committed to providing information whenever we are legally able to do so and to ensure that the safety and well-being of our students remains our highest priority.

5. Professional Days

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

6. Policy Revision 1230 - Superintendent's Duties

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 1230 – Superintendent's Duties.

7. Policy Revision 2200 – Curriculum

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 2200 – Curriculum.

8. Abolishment Regulation 2200 – Curriculum Content

The Superintendent recommends that the Board abolish Regulation 2200 – Curriculum Content.

9. Policy Revision 2411 - Career Education and Academic Counseling

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 2411 - Career Education and Academic Counseling.

10. Abolishment Regulation 2411 – Guidance Counseling

The Superintendent recommends that the Board abolish Regulation 2411 – Guidance Counseling.

11. Policy Revision 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised Policy 0162 - Notice of Board Meetings.

12. Policy Adoption 0162.01 - Legal Notices

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the new mandated Policy 0162.01 - Legal Notices.

13. Policy Revision 1643 - Family Leave

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 1643 - Family Leave.

14. Policy Revision 2260 - Equity in School and Classroom Practices

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 2260 - Equity in School and Classroom Practices.

15. Abolishment Regulation 2460.30 - Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services

The Superintendent recommends that the Board abolish Regulation 2460.30 - Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services.

16. Policy Revision 5561 - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 5561 - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities.

17. Policy Revision 6112 - Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 6112 - Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures.

18. Regulation Revision 6115.01 – Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Availability of Costs

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Regulation 6115.01 – Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Availability of Costs.

19. Policy Revision 6115.02 - Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 6115.02 - Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures.

20. Policy Revision 6311 - Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 6311 - Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants.

21. Policy Revision 8561 - Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 8561 - Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs.

22. Review of the School Security Drill Statement of Assurance

The Superintendent attests to the Board that all fire and safety drills have been held in accordance with 18A:41-1.

23. Submission of the School Security Drill Statement of Assurance

The Board, pursuant to 18A:41-1, approves the submission of the School Security Drill Statement of Assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education.

24. 2025 – 2026 Lead Testing Statement of Assurance

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommends that the Board approve the Lead Testing Statement of Assurance for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

25. Submission Statement of Assurance Comprehensive Equity Plan

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the submission of the Statement of Assurance for the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2026 – 2027 school year to the Executive County Superintendent on or before Friday, June 26, 2026.

26. Approval – Memorial

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board retroactively approve the memorial for Todd Mitchell, School Resource Officer.

27. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Reports

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approves the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report as per the attached.

Motion for approval of item 5-27

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

28. Informational

Security Drills

TPK End-of-Year Ceremony

Kindergarten Moving On

8th Grade Graduation

Dates for Your Information:

July 3	Independence Day – Schools Closed
July 22	Board of Education Meeting

Use of Facilities:

July	Totowa Education Foundation – Kops for Kids Summer Program
July	Totowa Education Foundation – Enrichment Classes

Use of Field:

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

Attachments:

The Smart Dog
TPK End-of-Year Program
Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony
Awards Assembly
8th Grade Graduation

Reports:

Discipline Reports

29. Committee Reports

Ms. Antonucci stated committee meetings were not held.

30. 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 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Reddin said, in Executive Session the Board will be discussing personnel and legal matters. The discussion will last approximately thirty (30) minutes and no action will be taken.

Motion for approval of item 30

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

The Board returned from executive session at 7:51 P.M.

31. Resignation – Special Education Aide

The Superintendent recommends that the Board retroactively accept the resignation of Nevin Dokuzlar, Special Education Aide, effective June 17, 2026.

32. Resignation – Vice Principal

The Superintendent recommends that the Board accept the resignation of William Felegi, Vice Principal of Washington Park School, effective Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

33. Approval – Extended School Year Special Education Aide

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve Erianny Guevara, Special Education Aide, to work the Extended School Year program at an hourly rate of $17.25 per hour. Ms. Guevara will work from Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, July 22, 2026, from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., on Mondays through Thursdays.

34. Appointment – Special Education Aide

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Jazmyn Graham to the position of Special Education Aide, at the rate of $17.25 per hour. Ms. Graham will work the Extended School Year program beginning on Monday, June 22, 2026, through Wednesday, July 22, 2026, Mondays through Thursdays.

35. Appointment – Elementary School Teacher

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Casey Senese to the position of Elementary School Teacher beginning on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Ms. Senese will be placed on BA Step 13, $89,935, of the contracted teacher salary guide.

36. Appointment – Elementary School Teacher

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Yasmine Corio to the position of Elementary School Teacher beginning on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Ms. Corio will be placed on BA Step 9/10 at $ 79,650 in the contracted teacher salary guide.

37. Approval – Placement for the 2026 – 2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the placement of the following non-tenured teachers as follows:

Casey Senese - Preschool Inclusion
Yasmine Corio – Language Learning Disability Grades 4 – 5

38. Approval - Movement Across the Guide

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the movement of Saranda Lipovica from BA+30 Step 7 of the contracted salary guide to MA+30 Step 7 effective September 1, 2026. Ms. Lipovica's salary for the 2026 - 2027 school year will be $82,725.

39. Approval - Movement Across the Guide

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the movement of Louis Batelli from BA Step 3 of the contracted salary guide to MA Step 3 effective September 1, 2026. Mr. Batelli's salary for the 2026 - 2027 school year will be $66,125.

40. Approval – Transfer

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the transfer of Brielle Baxter, Language Learning Disabilities Teacher, Grades 4 – 5 at Washington Park School to LEAP/Specials Teacher, kindergarten through grade 3 at Memorial School.

41. Stipend – Boston Trip

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve an expense stipend of $200 to the following staff members supervising the Boston Trip:

Nancy Trotto Devin DiIorio Melissa Stys
Timothy Tracy Tricia Monteyne

42. Approval – Job Postings

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve posting the following positions:

Vice Principal – Washington Park School
Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
Principal – Memorial School
Principal – Washington Park School

43. Approval – School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the contract of the School Business Administrator/School Secretary, Vincent Varcadipane, for the 2026 – 2027 school year as approved by the Executive County Superintendent.

44. Approval – Payment of Sick Days

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board approve the payment of nine and one-half (9.5) sick days to the estate of Todd Mitchell, School Resource Officer, as follows:

9.5 sick days x $262.50 daily rate = $2,493.75

45. Approval – Superintendent's Evaluation

It is recommended that the Board approve the evaluation of the Superintendent, Patricia Capitelli, for the 2025 – 2026 school year as per the attached document.

46. Appointment - Custodial Engineer

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends that the Board appoint Shane Corrado to the posititon of Custodial Engineer beginning on Monday, June 29, 2026, at a salary of $40,000.00 annually.

Motion for approval of item 31-46

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

47. Approval of Minutes- May 27, 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 27, 2026, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 47

MOTION: Ms. Panepinto
SECONDED: Mr. La Rose
VOTE: Unanimous

48. Approval of Minutes- May 27, 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 27, 2026, as presented..

Motion for approval of item 48

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

49. Approval of Bills List – June

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

50. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – May

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

51. Monthly Financial Certification of the Board Secretary and the Board of Education – May

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.

52. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – May

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

53. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – May

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

54. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – May

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

55. Acceptance of Financial Summary Report – May

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

56. Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfers – May

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

57. Acceptance of Revenue Report – May

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

58. 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 #912052226	1723	$ 3,883.21
Pomptonian Food Service	Invoice #912052926	1724	$ 19,899.94

59. Approval of Out-Of-District Contract 2024-2025

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommends the Board retroactively approves an out of district McKinney Vento contract for two students with Paterson Public Schools in the amount of $8,773.72 from April 14, 2025, through June 23, 2025.

60. Approval of Out-Of-District Contract 2025-2026

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommends the Board retroactively approves an out of district McKinney Vento contract for two students with Paterson Public Schools in the amount of $39,716.00 from September 4, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

61. Approval of New Jersey School Insurance Group Renewal Resolution

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator Board/ Secretary, recommends the Board approve the New Jersey School Insurance Group Renewal Resolution for the school years 2025-2026. (See Attachment #2)

62. Approval of Out-Of-District Contracts 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the out of district contract, for students O-18-19-01 to Academy 360 for the 2026-2027 school year and ESY 2026 in the amount of $98,410.08 and $11,830.72 respectively. Extraordinary services will also be provided at a cost of $47,580.00 for the school year and $5,720.00 for ESY.

63. Approval of Out-Of-District Contracts 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the out of district contract, for students O-22-23-01 to Windsor Learning Center for the 2026-2027 school year and ESY 2026 in the amount of $67,680.00 and $11,280.00 respectively.

64. Approval of Out-Of-District Contracts 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the out of district contract, for students O-24-25-01 to The Felician School for Exceptional Children for the 2026-2027 school year and ESY 2026 in the amount of $69,481.44 and $7,593.60 respectively.

65. Approval of Out-Of-District Contracts 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the out of district contract, for students O-25-26-01 to New Beginnings for the 2026-2027 school year and ESY 2026 in the amount of $92,701.70 and $15,280.50 respectively. Extraordinary services will also be provided at a cost of $55,510.00 for the school year and $9,150.00 for ESY.

66. Approval of Bergen County Special Services Contract

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve Bergen County Special Services to provide audiological services for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of $1,365.00.

67. Approval of Cafeteria Meals Price List

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the 2026-2027 Cafeteria Meals price list. (See Attachment #3)

68. Approval to Submit the Anticipated Facility Request for 2026-2027

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the submission of the Anticipated Facility Request for the 2026 -2027 School Year to the Passaic County Department of Education. (See Attachment #4)

69. Surplus Transfer to Capital Reserve

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board authorize a transfer of surplus funds to the Capital Reserve in the amount up to $5,000,000.00 should such funds be available.

70. Approval of Romeo Painting Plus LLC Quote

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve Romeo Painting Plus LLC Quote to remove the existing Washington Park School Foyer and replace it with a new concrete slab and vinyl tiles during the summer 2026 in the amount of $51,500.00.

71. Approval to Dispose of Textbooks

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the disposal of outdated poor condition books. (See attachment #5)

72. Approval of CJ Vanderbeck and Sons Inc. Quote

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve CJ Vanderbeck and Sons Inc. Quote to fix a boiler pipe under the concrete floor in Memorial School during the summer 2026 in the amount of $25,000.00.

73. Authorized Check Signatures – Student Activity Adjustment

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve the authorized check signatures.

Washington Park Student Activity – Ms. Patricia Capitelli, Ms. Lauren Terranova, and Ms. Barbara Filan

74. Donation Totowa PTO

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve a $10,000.00 donation from the Totowa PTO. The donation will be used for school enhancements.

Motion for approval of item 49-74

MOTION: Mr. Bierach
SECONDED: Mr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Bierach and Mr. Parlegreco abstained from PO 26-01584 from item #49 Approval of Bills List - June and Ms. Panepinto abstained from item #74 Donation Totowa PTO.

75. Public to be Heard

Ms. Kery Vaccaro of 52 Vita Road came forward. Ms.Vaccaro wanted to confirm during the Executive Agenda the Curriculum and Instruction, Vice Principal WPS, Principal MS and Principal WPS positions were being posted. Mr. Varcadipane confirmed that was correct.

Ms. Carla Grant of 88 Grant Ave came forward. Ms. Grant stated the statement Mr. Bierach read earlier was very good and that statement is the type of response the parents are looking for in regards to information released. Ms. Grant stated that parents in the district don't receive that type of information.

76. Old Business

There was no old business.

77. New Business

There was no new business.

78. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

79. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

80. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Bierach and seconded by Mr. Parlegreco this meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary