

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING - BOARD GOALS/WORK SESSION

August 19, 2024

Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m in the Board Meeting Room
2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 6:02 pm

1. **FLAG SALUTE**

2. **OPENING STATEMENT**

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, this public body, the Hopatcong Board of Education hereby announces that The New Jersey Herald and the Daily Record have been notified by email that this Board of Education Special Meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m on August 19, 2024 at the Hopatcong Board of Education, Board meeting room in the Administration Building.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present	Joseph Falconi	Present	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Present	Philip DiStefano
Present	Natalia Cappello	Present	Jayson Cittrich	Present	Jayna Gulan
Present	James Chaffee, Jr.	Present	Scott Francis	Present	Jennifer Polowchena

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

5. **BOARD GOALS**

- a. Review of 2023-2024 Board Goals
- b. Discussion and Approval of 2024-2025 Board Goals.

(ACTION) Motion to approve 5a-5b: by Falconi. Seconded by DiStefano

Yes	Joseph Falconi	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Yes	Philip DiStefano
Yes	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena

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6. **RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION AT THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LEGALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

a. **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY** (with not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) **AS FOLLOWS:**

1. It is hereby determined that a bond proposal question shall be submitted for voter approval at the annual school election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The form of the bond proposal question to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows with such adjustments as may be provided by bond counsel:

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BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION

The Board of Education of the Borough of Hopatcong in the County of Sussex, New Jersey is authorized: (a) to provide for renovations, alterations and improvements at Hopatcong High School, Hopatcong Middle School, Durban Avenue Elementary School and Tulsa Trail Elementary School, including acquisition and installation of equipment, site work and related work and costs; (b) to appropriate \$9,897,300 for such purposes and (c) to issue bonds of the school district for such purposes in the principal amount of \$9,897,300.

The final eligible costs of the projects approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$9,897,300 (with \$5,942,600 allocated to Hopatcong High School, \$699,300 allocated to Hopatcong Middle School, \$459,400 allocated to Durban Avenue Elementary School and \$2,796,000 allocated to Tulsa Trail Elementary School). The projects include \$0 for elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

Do you approve this bond proposal?

2. This Board of Education hereby approves and adopts the bond proposal set forth above, and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the school district, hereby determines to carry out the improvements described therein (the "Projects").

3. This Board of Education hereby acknowledges and confirms that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and 18A:24-17 a supplemental debt statement has been prepared by the chief financial officer of the Borough of Hopatcong, giving effect to the proposed authorization of bonds of the school district in the maximum amount of bonds authorized in the bond proposal. The supplemental debt statement has been filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board of Education prior to the adoption of the bond proposal and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the annual election.

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4. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of the bond proposal question to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2, to request the County Clerk to submit the bond proposal question to the voters at the annual school district election and to seek the assistance of the county officials and the municipal clerk in conducting the annual school district election.

5. The Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the Preliminary Eligible Costs (PEC) letters for the Projects from the Department of Education. The Board hereby elects to receive debt service aid pursuant to Section 9 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-1 *et seq.* (the "Act"). The Board further agrees to accept the preliminary eligible costs as final eligible costs as set forth in the PEC letters by the Department of Education and determines not to appeal. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized, if necessary, to notify the Department of Education of the Board's elections with respect to eligible spaces and costs and its election to receive debt service aid.

6. Parette Somjen Architects, the School District's appointed architect for the Projects (the "Project Architect"), has heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Projects in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has heretofore been delegated the responsibility to work with the Project Architect for this purpose on behalf of the Board of Education, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16, and such authorizations and delegations are hereof reconfirmed.

7. The educational plans, where required, and the schematic plans for the construction of the Projects have heretofore been approved by this Board of Education, and such approval is hereby reconfirmed.

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8. The Board President, the Superintendent of Schools, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Project Architect, Bond Counsel and other appropriate representatives of the Board of Education (the "Board Representatives") have heretofore been authorized, and such authorization is hereby reconfirmed, to submit the educational plans, where required, and the schematic plans for the Projects, together with such other information as may be required, to the State Department of Education for approval and to make application to the Commissioner of Education for approval of the educational plans, where required, the schematic plans and the Projects and, if necessary, any required amendment to the long-range facilities plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Act and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1(f), 6A:26-2.3(c), 6A:26-3.1 and 6A:26-3.2, as appropriate.

9. The Board Representatives have heretofore been and are hereby further authorized and directed to submit the plans and any other required information to the Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment as necessary, and such authorization and direction are hereby reconfirmed.

10. This Board of Education hereby makes the following covenants and declarations with respect to obligations determined to be issued by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary through a public offering or private placement or through a conduit borrower on a tax-exempt basis. The Board of Education hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequent imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), in order to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on its bonds or notes if issued as tax exempt, including, if necessary, the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on its bonds or notes. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Education to deem any obligations authorized herein as Bank Qualified for the purposes of Section 265 of the Code, when appropriate. The

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Board of Education hereby declares the intent of the Board of Education to issue bonds or temporary notes in the amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the bond proposal approved by the voters as set forth in Section 1 and to use the proceeds to pay or to reimburse expenditures for the costs of the school capital projects authorized therein. This resolution is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of Treasury Regulations §1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

11. The Board Representatives are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this resolution. Any actions authorized herein and taken prior hereto are hereby ratified. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is further authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Education to make such determinations required of the Board of Education for the conduct of the election as may become necessary.

12. The reference to officers of this school district herein includes the Vice President in the absence or unavailability of the President and any deputy, interim, acting or successor officer holding each position.

13. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

approve 6a:

(ACTION) Motion by DiStefano. Seconded by Cappello

Yes	Joseph Falconi	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Yes	Philip DiStefano
Yes	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena

7. RESOLUTIONS

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- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Hopatcong Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Board Goals.

approve 7a:

(ACTION) Motion by Falconi. Seconded by Chaffee

Yes	Joseph Falconi	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Yes	Philip DiStefano
Yes	Natalia Cappello	Yes	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena

8. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by Cittrich. seconded by DiStefano

All in favor YES Time:7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Board Secretary