

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 7:05 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 Regular Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m following the Executive Session (in room 21) which starts at 6:00 p.m. on August 24, 2026 at the Hopatcong Board of Education, Board meeting room in the Administration Building.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Present	Veronica Schram
Present	James Chaffee, Jr.	Present	James Warin	Present	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Absent	Jayna Gulan	Present	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion will be made that the Hopatcong Board of Education will enter Executive Session in room 21 to discuss personnel and attorney/client privilege, which are exempt from public participation pursuant to New Jersey Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Open Public Meetings Act. Any discussions held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public when appropriate. Minutes of the Executive Session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at 7:00 p.m. following the executive session.

Motion to enter executive session:

(ACTION) Motion by Chaffee. seconded by Polowchena

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Absent	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

5. **RECONVENE**

Motion to Reconvene

(ACTION) Motion by Schram seconded by Polowchena

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

Ms. Gulan attended the meeting via phone tonight.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the following meetings, as reported by the Board Secretary reviewed by the Board President and members of the Board:

- July 27, 2026 - Regular Meeting
- July 27, 2026 - Executive Meeting

Motion to approve 6a-6b:

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. Seconded by Schram

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND HIB REPORT**

a. Superintendent's Report – **Mr. Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Superintendent of Schools**

- Acceptance of the QSAC Result from the NJDOE for the period of 2025-2026. – *Great news! For the first time in 13 years we completed the QSAC process and met each of the standards with an 80% score or better so we passed! Mr. Hallenbeck thanked custodians, business office, secretaries, teachers and support staff.*

- More great news – James McKowen was named as the Sussex County Teacher of the Year! He is 1 of 21 teachers recognized across NJ. James teaches Computer Science and Financial Literacy at the High School; he started an after-school esports club during the Covid-19 lockdown to keep students socially engaged which has developed into a varsity esports team that has won multiple state titles.*
- The High School roof is 95% complete and within the next day or two, Tulsa Trail will also hit the 95% complete mark.*
- Our next projects will include removing underground storage tanks at Durban Avenue school and the Middle School, and converting to natural gas. We will go out for bid in late fall for the Middle School and Durban Ave. projects.*

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

- All referendum projects are currently at or under budget.
- No HIB reports over the summer including during the ESY program.

- b. Whereas there have been no HIBs reported for the months of July and August 2026, acceptance of the report at the August 24, 2026 board meeting to indicate no findings.

Motion to approve 7a –7b:

(ACTION) Motion by Gulan. Seconded by Cappello

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

8. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

*Board President, Nicole Falconi-Shubert read and congratulated the following High School students for being chosen as **Student's of the Marking Period***

- a. Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as Hopatcong High School's **Students-of-the-Marking Period** for their outstanding performance in the Fourth Marking Period, 2025-2026:

Grade 8 – Jacob Allen

Honorable Mention: Emma Weaver

Grade 9 – Gabrielle Grant

Honorable Mention: Alyson Brown

Grade 10 – Sophia Vigilotti

Honorable Mention: Sarah Stein, Ella Uvenio, Dominic Ammiano

Grade 11 – Emily O'Hern

Honorable Mention: Luis Santos, Jason Olshefski

Grade 12 - Georgi Andonov

Honorable Mention: Katie Colgan

9. **PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

Nicole Falconi-Shubert – reported that the HHSPTSO purchased \$3,600 worth of safety net for the Hilltop soccer fields. 9/25/26 is the Fall Pep rally and 9/26/2026 is the Homecoming Dance. 10/17/2026 is the Hudson Farm Charity Hike.

Dr. Natalia Cappello – 9/1/2026 Ice Cream Social at Tulsa Trail at 6:00pm. Project Grad is doing a clothing drive in October and will be selling mums.

Veronica Schram – Girls on the Run looking for volunteers; Fall 2026 season begins the week of September 14, 2026 and ends with a 5k on November 15, 2026 at Sussex Co. Fairgrounds.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Stacy Yanko – *Wanted to thank the board in anticipation of the approval of the resolution for HOPA to join the HEA.*

11. **FINANCE June 30, 2026**

Approval of the following Finance items, 11a.–11i, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that bills for the General Fund and Special Revenues (Grants) account, July 27, 2026, through August 24, 2026 be approved in the following amounts:

General Fund and Special Revenue (Grants) account -	\$1,895,162.21
Cafeteria account -	\$1,620.00
Fund 30 -	\$1,977,455.00

- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2026.
- c. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Board Secretary's Report for the month of July 2026.
- d. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve the Transfer Report for the month of July 2026.
- e. Motion to approve the certification by the Board Secretary that the Account Balance Report, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, as of August 24, 2026, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).
- f. Motion to certify, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), as of August 24, 2026, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- g. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the acceptance of check number 3311, in the amount of \$4,000 for the successful completion of the requirements to qualify for the 2024/2025 Safety Incentive Program Award.
- h. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve a graduated substitute pay range for long term substitutes working in identified high need areas while currently awaiting final certification approval by the NJDOE. Identified individuals will be reimbursed at a rate of \$120 per day for the first 20 days, \$140 for days 21-40, \$165 for days 41+.
- i. It is recommended by the Superintendent that Jeff Hallenbeck, Business Administrator/Board Secretary be designated as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the 2026/2027 school year.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

12. PERSONNEL

Approval of the following personnel items, **12a – 12cc**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of the resignation of **Piper Giacomaro** from her position as Paraprofessional effective August 5, 2026.
- b. Approval of the resignation of **Svetlana Milanovic** from her position as Paraprofessional effective August 14, 2026.
- c. Approval of the resignation of **Elise Rooker** from her position as Paraprofessional effective August 14, 2026.
- d. Approval of the rescinded position of **Melanie Belford** from her position as Paraprofessional.
- e. Approval of the resignation of **Thomas Dowling** from his part-time position as Saturday Custodian effective August 16, 2026.
- f. Approval of the employment of **Dina Calabro** as Part Time Middle School Art Teacher at a salary of \$38,522.83 which represents MA, step 1 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide, effective August 26, 2026.
- g. Approval of **Alison Limatola** as a Paraprofessional at Tulsa Trail School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- h. Approval of **Thalia Sebelen** as a Paraprofessional at Tulsa Trail School at a rate of \$17 an hour, start date pending background clearance. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- i. Approval of **Jennifer Karpinski** as a Paraprofessional at Durban Ave School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- j. Approval of **Maria Virginia Gomez Rosa** as a Paraprofessional at Durban Ave School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- k. Approval of **Christina Seguin-Gonzalez** as a Paraprofessional at Durban Ave School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- l. Approval of **Maria Mundy** as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

- m. Approval of **Billie McConley** as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School effective September 1, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- n. Approval of **Aaliyah Ansari** as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate.
- o. Approval of **Robin Hunt** as a Paraprofessional at the High School effective August 27, 2026 at a rate of \$17 an hour. Should toileting apply an additional \$1.00 an hour will be added to the hourly rate
- p. Approval of the employment of **Tyler Juskus** as Part Time Custodian at a prorated salary of \$29,384, minus \$400 for not having a black seal, which represents Step 1 of the 2026-2027 HEA Support Staff Contract, effective August 27, 2026 and pending background clearance.
- q. Approval of the employment of **Amanda Ladomirak** as a Middle School Special Education Leave Replacement beginning August 26, 2026 through November 20, 2026. Paid 19 days at the substitute per diem rate of \$120/per day then to be paid at a pro-rated salary of \$72,140 which represents BA/Step 1 of the 2026-2027 HEA salary guide.
- r. Approval of the leave of absence of **Employee #81346** using earned sick leave beginning August 26, 2026 through November 20, 2026 with an estimated return date of November 23, 2026.
- s. Approval of **Christy Brennan** as Health/Physical Education Temporary Assistance Position, for the purpose of lesson planning and grading at a rate of \$35 per hour for 1-2 hours per week/per class period pending the finalization of the schedule.
- t. Approval for **District School Nurses** to work up to an additional 10 hours during the summer, as assigned and with prior approval from the Superintendent, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour.
- u. Approval of **Laura Irizarry** to complete her practicum hours at the Middle School in conjunction with Grand Canyon University.
- v. Approval of the following staff members who are recommended to receive **tenure** during the 2026-2027 school year:

1.Karylin Ireland	Effective 09/03/2026
2.Christopher Bove	Effective 09/15/2026

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

- w. Approval of the following staff mentoring partnership in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the **Hopatcong District Mentoring Program**:

New Staff Member	Mentor
Christy Brennan	Hilary Martin

- x. Approval of the following staff for the **Extra Duty/Extra Pay** Positions for the 2026 – 2027 school year:

Name	Nature of Action	Duty/Position	Salary
Leanne Julianno	Appoint	7th Grade Advisor	\$758
David Campagna	Appoint	HS Cafeteria Duty	\$2,400
Jason Mulvihill	Appoint	HS Cafeteria Duty	\$2,400
Ryan Tatarka	Appoint	HS Cafeteria Duty	\$2,400
Craig Vallaro	Appoint	HS Cafeteria Duty	\$2,400
Hilary Wolf	Appoint	MS Homework Club	\$28/hour
Dominic Schiavone	Appoint/Revised	Events Manger *split	\$3,307.50
James McKowen	Appoint/Revised	Events Manger *split	\$3,307.50

- y. Approval of the following **Coach/Advisor** Positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	Nature of Action	Position	Class	Level	Salary
Marlon Winbush	Appoint	Volunteer Basketball Coach	-	-	-
Shea Endean	Appoint	Volunteer Football/Basketball	-	-	-
Austin Brown	Resign	Asst. Football Coach	-	-	-
Austin Brown	Appoint/ Revised	Head Football Coach	A	1	\$5,607

- z. Approval of the following **salary guide movements***

Name	Current Degree Status	Degree Change	Effective Date
Alexa McLean	MA+45	MA+60	8/26/2026
Brian Collins	MA	MA+15	8/26/2026

***Approval of the listed staff members to move up on the HEA guide due to increased education credentials.**

- aa. Approval of the following staff members to write curriculum over the summer at a rate of \$35/hour for the number of listed hours below which represents the negotiated rate from the HEA Contract:

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Course/Subject	Name	Number of Hours
Math 6, Math 6 ADV	Sonia Scovil	20
Math 7, Math 7 ADV	Sonia Scovil	20

- bb. Approval of the following staff to take and receive **tuition reimbursements***, as per contract, upon successful completion of the course and submission of paperwork

Course Approval /Reimbursement Approval

Name	Course Title	Course Number	Credits	Cost
Brian Collins	SKILL ACQUISITION AND PERFORMANCE IN PE	EDUC 527	4	\$1,340
	ADVOCACY, PROMOTION AND PROGRAMMING IN HPED	EDUC 528	4	\$1,340

****The maximum rate of reimbursement per credit for the 25-26 school year is \$512.04. The rate for 26-27 has not been calculated yet.***

- cc. Approval of the following substitutes:

1. Anthony Torre, substitute teacher
2. Amanda Ross, substitute teacher
3. Jessie Brown, substitute teacher
4. Crystal Vail, substitute teacher
5. Melanie Gabriel, substitute teacher
6. Gabriella Zammito, substitute teacher
7. Julia Santiago, substitute paraprofessional
8. Gabriel Gonzalez, substitute paraprofessional
9. Martin Petrizzo, substitute custodian
10. Isabela Mendez, substitute school nurse

13. **TRAVEL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Resolved, that the Hopatcong Board of Education approve travel costs as related in this resolution which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursement listed in this resolution are in compliance with the state travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1. seq

Approval of the following staff to attend Professional Development/Conference*

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Name	Title	Cost	Date
Jennifer Bisignani	1: Executive Functions: Reading, Dyslexia Common Co-Occurrences and What to Do About it All	\$45	7/16/2026
	2: Shifting from Word Walls to Sound Walls	\$60	6/30/2026

**Cost will be reimbursed upon completion of attendance and all documentation has been provided.*

14. POLICY & REGULATIONS

Approval of item 14a as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Student Achievement and Operations Committees of the Board:

- a. Approval of modifications and additions to the policies and regulations of the Hopatcong Board of Education in accordance with statutory and regulatory changes for approval, as revised, for **SECOND READING:**

Policy/Regulation #	Title
---------------------	-------

P & R 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices (M) (Revised)
P 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles – To and From School-Related Activities (M) (Revised)
P 8662	Transportation by Private or District-Owned Vehicles – To and From School (M) (New)

15. STUDENT AND SERVICES

Approval of the following items, 15a as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and Student Achievement Committee of the Board:

- a. Approval of the following field trips:

Trip	School
Van Campens Glen	High School

16. RESOLUTIONS

Approval of the following resolutions as per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the District Mentoring Plan.
- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the District Professional Development Plan.
- c. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board approve the use of all current teacher certificated staff and substitutes for home instruction for the 2026/2027 school year, as needed at the Board approved rate of \$40 per hour.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

- d. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the memorandum of agreement between the Hopatcong BOE and the Hopatcong Borough Police Department as required by law.
- e. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the submission of an age range exception for the High School Multiply Disabled Class to the NJDOE for the 2026-2027 school year.
- f. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve application for waivers for the following:

Durban - PS rooms 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 need waivers for not having bathrooms.
Tulsa - Dual Use Rooms, 1.5 days per week, 2 speech therapists working in the same full-sized classroom. Room 7

Durban - Dual Use Rooms, 17 OT and PT and 19 Speech Therapist
Middle School - Dual Use Rooms, A108, OT/PT
High School - Dual Use Rooms, C6,OT/OT

- g. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education accept and apply for ESEA funding from the NJDOE in the following amounts:

Title	IA	\$181,174	
Title	IIA	\$31,635	
Title	III	\$13,372	
Title	III	Immigrant	\$15,102
Title	IV	\$12,849	

It is further recommended that the Board of Education approve participation in a consortium with Andover Regional, High Point Regional and the Hampton Board of Education for Title III Funding.
- h. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the application for IDEA-B Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Funding in the amount of Basic (ages 3-21) \$610,394 and Preschool (ages 3,4,and 5) \$21,960.
- i. It is further recommended that the Board of Education approve the Resolution of the Hopatcong Board of Education Granting Voluntary Recognition to the Hopatcong Education Association to Represent all Non-Confidential Office Personnel in a Separate Bargaining Unit

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Board of Education (Board) is a "public employer" within the meaning of the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act, *N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.* (NJEERA); and

WHEREAS, the Hopatcong Education Association (Association) seeks voluntary recognition from the Board under the NJEERA's regulations, specifically N.J.A.C. 19:11-3.1, to represent all non-confidential office personnel in a separate bargaining unit in addition to its existing bargaining units and excluding all other employees, supervisory and non-supervisory in the Board's employ; and

WHEREAS, the Board has satisfied itself in good faith, after a suitable check of the showing of interest, that the Association is the freely chosen representative of a majority of the employees in an appropriate bargaining unit; and

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

WHEREAS, the Board has conspicuously posted a notice, where notices to employees are normally posted, for a period of at least 10 consecutive days advising all persons that it intends to grant such exclusive recognition without an election to the Association for the bargaining unit specified above; and

WHEREAS, there are no other majority representatives claiming an interest in representing the aforementioned non-confidential office personnel; and

WHEREAS, another employee organization has not within the 10-day period notified the Board, in writing, of a claim to represent any of the employees in the aforementioned collective negotiations unit or has not within such period filed a valid petition for certification of public employee representative with the Director of Representation of the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is understood, by and between the Board and the Association, that such voluntary recognition shall be in writing and set forth specifically the collective negotiations unit referenced above;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board, on this 24, day of August, 2026 hereby voluntarily recognizes the Association as the majority representative of its existing bargaining units as well as a separate bargaining unit of all non-confidential office personnel it employs.

17. **SUSSEX COUNTY REGIONAL COOPERATIVE**

- a. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval of bills*** for the Sussex County Regional Cooperative Operating account for July 28, 2026 through August 24, 2026 in the amount \$182,634.15 for Regular bills and \$4,750,851.98 for Contractor bills.
- b. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval*** to list the following ***vehicles for sale on GovDeals.com:***

<u>Vehicle #</u>	<u>Plate #</u>	<u>Year, Make, Model</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>VIN #</u>
119	E872S2	2023 FORD TRANSIT 150	9 PASSENGER	1FTYE1C81PKA85182
121	E887S2	2023 FORD TRANSIT 150	9 PASSENGER	1FTYE1C86PKA97022

- c. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***sale of the following vehicle*** to Washington Township Board of Education, Long Valley, NJ as follows:

Vehicle	VIN #	Amount
# 223, 2023 VANCON	1HA6GUB73MN013465	\$50,000

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

d.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 allows the Hopatcong Board of Education ("Board") to disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the Board finds that it has had prior negative experience with the bidder within the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 defines prior negative experience as, among other things, the bidder defaulting on a contract that required the Board to utilize the services of another contractor to perform the services or to complete the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative ("SCRTC"), contracted with Roots Transportation to provide transportation services during the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, Roots Transportation defaulted on the contract with the Board, leading to the Board terminating the contract and contracting with other contractors to complete the services; and

WHEREAS, the Board provided Roots Transportation with written notice that: (1) the Board is considering disqualifying Roots Transportation; (2) the reasons for disqualification; and (3) that Roots Transportation has the right to a hearing before the Board; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the reasons for the disqualification outlined in the written notice provided to Roots Transportation, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the Hopatcong School District and SCRTC to disqualify Roots Transportation from being awarded contracts with the Board or SCRTC for a period of five years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, after due consideration and for the reasons set forth above, the Board finds that Roots Transportation is hereby disqualified from being awarded contracts with the Board or SCRTC for a period of five years pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.

e.

1. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations for Special Education Extended School Year Routes** for the 2026-2027 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
2. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award** of student transportation **quotations for Special Education Extended School Year**

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Routes to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2026-2027 Extended School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

3. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***acceptance*** of student transportation ***quotations for Special Education Routes*** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
4. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***award*** of student transportation ***quotations for Special Education Routes*** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
5. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval of route contract addendums*** for the 2026 Extended School Year Routes as listed on Exhibit A.
6. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval of route contract addendums*** for the 2026-2027 School year as listed on Exhibit A.
7. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***approval of Parent Transportation Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year*** as listed on Exhibit A.
8. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***award of bids submitted from the May 5, 2026 Bid #2026-2027-04*** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor company for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
9. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the ***award of bids submitted from the June 9, 2026 Bid #2026-2027-07*** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor company for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
10. Superintendent and the Director of ***Transportation recommend the acceptance of bids submitted from the August 11, 2026 Bid #2026-2027-10*** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

11. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award of bids submitted from the August 11, 2026 Bid #2026-2027-10** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor company for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
12. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **rejection of bids submitted from the August 11, 2026 Bid #2026-2027-10** due to cost exceeding allowable amount, non-compliance or termination of the routes as listed on Exhibit A.
13. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **acceptance** of student transportation **quotations for School Related Activities Routes** for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.
14. The Superintendent and the Director of Transportation recommend the **award** of student transportation **quotations for Athletics/Class/Field Trips** to the lowest, responsible and responsive bus contractor companies for the 2026-2027 School Year as listed on Exhibit A.

Motion to approve items 11 – 17e:

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. seconded by Chaffee

Yes	Natalia Cappello	Absent	Kevin Daviau	Yes	Veronica Schram
Yes	James Chaffee, Jr.	Yes	James Warin	Yes	Jennifer Polowchena
Absent	Jayson Cittrich	Yes	Jayna Gulan	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert

18. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS**

James Chaffee – Thanks to HEPTO and staff for giving tours today at the Middle School. Congratulations to Mr. McKowen for being named the Sussex County Teacher of the Year and for his help getting an esports program implemented at the school he works for, Payne Tech.

Dr. Natalia Cappello – Good luck to all the students. We have great things going on in our district.

Jennifer Polowchena – Everyone enjoy their last days of summer.

Veronica Schram – Congratulations to Mr. McKowen and to the district for passing QSAC. And thank you to all who helped to beautify the schools. We welcome all the students and staff back to school and hope for a great year ahead.

James Warin – Congratulations to Mr. McKowen and welcome back to all.

Nicole Falconi-Shubert – The motto or theme for this school year should be “See the good, be the good!”

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. seconded by Schram

All in favor: Yes Choose an item. Time: 7:26pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeffrey Hallenbeck".

Jeffrey Hallenbeck, Board Secretary