

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, April 27, 2026

7:00 p.m.

A. AGENDA:

1. Call to order by President.

Time: _____

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Washington Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be emailed on January 6, 2026, to the Clerk of Washington Township, posted on the district website and in both Brass Castle and Port Colden Schools.

2. Roll Call:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yencha	Karen Graf
Present							

3. Flag Salute

4. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the minutes and executive session minutes of March 23, 2026, as presented. **(Attachment #1 & #1a)**

MV:

B. PRESENTATION

~ 2026-2027 Washington Township School District Budget ~

C. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: (Agenda items)

(The public may speak for three (3) minutes unless they have requested to be on the agenda.)

D. PUBLIC HEARING

As per Public Law 6A:23-8-1, each school district shall present a proposed budget for the upcoming school year.

5. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adopt the proposed budget of the Washington Township Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year, as approved by Executive County Superintendent of Schools, as follows: **(Attachment #2)**

RCV:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$305,397. The additional funds will be used to pay additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$90,000 for the Infrastructure Project to include new Access Points and SonicWall.

BE IT RESOLVED that the budget be adopted for the 2026-2027 school year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and approved by the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

General Fund	\$ 9,415,994
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 963,172
Total Base Budget	\$10,379,166
General Fund Tax Levy	\$ 8,338,992

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

6. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to requisition the 2026-2027 Tax Levy according to the following schedule:

RCV:

2025-2026 Tax Levy	General Fund
July 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
August 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
September 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
October 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
November 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
December 1, 2026	\$ 694,916.00
January 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
February 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
March 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
April 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
May 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
June 1, 2027	\$ 694,916.00
Total	\$8,338,992.00

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

E. SECRETARY’S REPORT:

7. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Student Activity and Cafeteria Reports, as presented. **(Attachment #3)**

MV:

8. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the attached transfers, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #4)**

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yencha	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

9. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Bills List for March 2026. **(Attachment #5)**

MV:

10. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Board Secretary’s and Cash Reports for the month ending February 28, 2026, as presented. **(Attachment #6)**

RCV:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Township Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16, 10(c) 3, does hereby certify that as of the date of these reports, no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (a);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent recommends that the Washington Township Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the Secretary and further recommends, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (c) 4, that the Board of Education Certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (b), and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yencha	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

F. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Attachment #7)

11. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to place the following classified students in the Washington Township Extended School Year Program, at Port Colden School, July 6, 2026 through July 31, 2026, 8:30am - 12:30pm, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

2026 ESY STUDENTS

17145678	16844107	17100568	17211578	16247941	15959616	16031654	15950820
15904486	15745168	17120163	16651433	15718447	16742753	15136813	14741325
14883796	14205452	15269503	14204977	17046362	15686945	15010219	16596332
16551336							

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

12. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following personnel for the 2026 Extended School Year Program, at Port Colden School, July 6, 2026, through July 31, 2026, 8:30am - 12:30pm, pending completion of employment requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

STAFF MEMBER	POSITION	RATE
Jacqueline Henderson/Sandra Dantzler	Nurse	\$60.00
Heather Kerner	BCBA	\$65.00
Katherine Ferrara	OT	\$60.00
Michele DeSanto	PT	Per Avalon Therapy
Nicole Smith	Speech	\$60.00
Toni Smith	ABA Teacher	\$45.00
Melanie Ward	ABA Teacher	\$45.00
Joan Pare	Teacher	\$45.00
Tiffany Miller	Teacher	\$45.00
Shannon Tubman	Teacher	\$45.00
Andrew Rusnak	Teacher	\$45.00
Susan Graham	Teacher	\$45.00
Katie Faitoute	ABA Paraprofessional - L1	\$19.25*
Nancy Krukowski	Paraprofessional	\$22.00*
Molly Margolin	Paraprofessional	\$16.75
Sherri Mecca	ABA Paraprofessional - L1	\$21.50*
Barbara Pierson	ABA Paraprofessional - L2	\$23.50*
Rylee Rhinehart	Paraprofessional	\$16.75
Emma Smith	Paraprofessional	\$16.75
Ann Marie Schulte	ABA Paraprofessional - L1	\$20.25*
Rekha Joneja (HCESC)	Paraprofessional	Per HCESC
Colleen Morea	ABA Services - L2 2 days per week	\$26.00*
Susan Peterson	Substitute Teacher	\$45.00
Sabrina Emmolo	Substitute Teacher	\$45.00
Shannon Laykin	Substitute Teacher	\$45.00

*** 25-26 Paraprofessional rate until the WTEA contract is ratified**

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

13. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve summer hours for the following staff to service students in the district from July 1, 2026 - August 21, 2026, up to 5 days, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

STAFF MEMBER	POSITION
Jennifer Borusovic	School Psychologist
Katherine Ferrara	Occupational Therapist
Nicole Smith	Speech Specialist
Deborah Tierney	School Counselor
Rebecca Whalen	LDTC
Heather Kerner	BCBA
Erin Karl	Social Worker

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

14. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adopt the following Resolution to support the “Fairness for School Districts in Development Restricted Areas Act, A4860”, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY/SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP IN SUPPORT OF A4860, “FAIRNESS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTED AREAS ACT.”

WHEREAS, Bipartisan legislation (A4860) has been introduced that provides additional state aid to some school districts in the Pinelands and Highlands whose ability to provide ratables is restricted by State law; and

WHEREAS, The State has further added to their property tax burden by failing to provide the school district with enough financial support to compensate for this restricted ability to raise local revenues; and

WHEREAS, It is vitally important to the children in these communities that these financial issues do not continue to threaten or reduce the quality of their education; and

WHEREAS, This issue was caused by State action and should be resolved by State action:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the municipality/school district of Washington Township endorses A4860 and calls upon the New Jersey Legislature to pass, and Governor Sherrill to sign, said bill into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Senators Bucco and Tiver, and Assemblymembers Sauickie, Dunn, and Sweeney, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, and Governor Mikie Sherrill.

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

15. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Antoinette Standish, Paraprofessional, effective April 15, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

16. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

Grade	Destination
6th	Warren Hills High School

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

17. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of employment requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

Employee	Position	Salary/Rate/Per Diem
Heidi Lowy-Pease	Substitute	Daily Rate

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

18. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Professional Development Programs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

Staff Member	Type of Travel/Workshop	Registration Fee	Dates	Mileage RT	Parking	Tolls	Lodging	Meals
Rachael Rhinehart	Sussex Co. Co-op Annual Transportation Meeting	\$0	May 14, 2026	49.4	-	-	-	-

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

19. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the agreement between the Washington Township Board of Education and Innovative Therapy Group to provide Paraprofessionals for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed, at the following rate, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #8)**

RCV:

- \$33.00 per hour (inclusive paid personal/sick days, payroll taxes, worker's compensation, unemployment and administrative fees)

	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Vacancy	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

20. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve EI US, LLC (dba Learnwell) to provide educational services for student ID #14563723, up to 10 hours per week, at the rate of \$61.70/hr., as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

21. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve Henry Odunlami, dba Silvergate Preparatory School LLC to provide Homebound Instruction services for student ID #14563723, up to 10 hours per week, at the rate of \$50.00/hr., as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

22. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between InSite Health, Inc. and Washington Township School District to provide wellness screening for students at no direct cost pursuant to a public contract between InSite and the County of Warren (Contract No. WC2592C) for the provisions of Substance Use and Prevention Services, funded by the New Jersey Opioid Settlement Fund, effective May 15, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #9)**

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

G. PRINCIPALS’ REPORT (Attachment #10)

H. CORRESPONDENCE (Attachment #11)

- Letter from New Jersey General Assembly Legislative Office
- Letter from the State of New Jersey Department of Education
- Email from Antoinette Standish
- Letter from the United Methodist Church
- NJSBA Workshop 2026 – October 19-22, 2026
(Please email Jean if you will be attending and what days you will need a room)

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education:

23. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the grant submission to the Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery (LEAR), for Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners cohort 1 (FOCUS) Continuation -26-TL06-G03 in the amount of \$1,832, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

24. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the following clubs at *Brass Castle and Port Colden Schools* for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

Club	Sponsor	Grade	# of Students	Season	Sessions
Board Games & Crafts	Laykin	5th	15	Spring	8
Fitness Club	Rusnak	3rd	14	Spring	8

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

Facilities:

25. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to accept the following Request for Proposal for Transportation Software Licensing and Hosting Services (current program is desktop application which will not be supported for FY27), as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #12)**

RCV:

Contractor	One-Time Cost	Annual	Total FY27
Tyler Technologies	\$ 11,081	\$ 15,284	\$ 26,365
Pathwise	\$ 1,500	\$ 10,457	\$ 11,957
Transfinder	\$ 10,595	\$ 6,650	\$ 17,245

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

26. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to award the contract to Transfinder to provide Transportation Software Licensing and Hosting Services for 1st year cost of \$17,245 and annual cost of \$6,650 [Shared cost with Warren Hills (WH \$13,683.75, WT \$3,561.25), 75%, 25% split excluding Tripfinder], as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

27. Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt the following Resolution to Withdraw Maintenance Reserve, as follows, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

WHEREAS, NJSA 6A:23A-14.2(d) permits a Board of Education to withdraw such funds from the maintenance reserve account and appropriate into the required maintenance account lines at budget time or any time during the year for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4.

WHEREAS the aforementioned statutes authorizes procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a board of education to withdraw funds from a district’s Maintenance Reserve Account any time during the year by resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Board of Education is desirous to withdraw funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account and appropriate said funds into the required maintenance account line in the general fund for the following:

- \$18,000 for additional snow removal
- \$15,000 for Miscellaneous Maintenance (Gym Controls, Damper Actuators (5), 3 Small Water Heaters, PC Kitchen Water Valve and Grease Trap Replacement, etc.)
- \$ 33,000 Total**

WHEREAS, according to 6A:23A-14.2(e), the Washington Township Board of Education shall restore any unexpended required maintenance appropriations, up to the amount of maintenance reserve account funds withdrawn, to the maintenance reserve account at year-end.

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

Finance & Policy: *Virtual Meeting held on April 21, 2026 @ 8pm*

28. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to set the school lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	FY 2026	FY 2027
Student Breakfast	\$ 2.25	\$2.35
Student Lunch	\$3.75	\$3.85
Student Entrée Only	\$3.00	\$3.15
Adult Breakfast	\$3.00	\$3.15
Adult Lunch	\$4.50	\$4.65
Adult Entree Only	\$ 3.85	\$4.00
Milk	\$0.85	\$0.90

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

29. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve contract renewal with Maschio’s Food Service, Inc. to provide operation and management of the district’s food service program for the 2026-2027 school year, for a management fee of \$11,905.83 (\$0 increase), \$10,000 guarantee loss food service operations, including the management fee, with a total cost of contract \$187,739.08, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

Personnel: *Paraprofessional negotiation meeting held on April 22, 2026, at 4pm at Brass Castle School*

J. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION - old and/or new business

(The public may speak for three (3) minutes on non-agenda items unless they have requested to be on the agenda.)

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - if required as indicated in items b,i below:

30. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, the Board of Education of the Washington Township School District in the County of Warren will adjourn into a closed meeting to discuss the item(s) which falls within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 b.

- a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule.
- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel - employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential by Individual privacy. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

MV: _____ Time: _____

31. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to return to open session.

MV: _____ Time: _____

32. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve certified staff appointments for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #13)**

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

33. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve paraprofessional appointments and hourly rates for the 2025-2026 school year, (rate to be adjusted upon the ratified WTEA negotiated contract), as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #13)**

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

34. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the administrative and support staff salaries, for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #13)**

RCV:

	Amie Beyrent	Jasmine Francisco	Edward Kemp	Jennifer Knittel	Nicholas Riess	Robert Yench	Karen Graf
Yes							
No							
Abstain							

L. ADJOURNMENT

35. Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adjourn.

MV: _____

Time: _____