

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Long Valley, NJ 07853

January 7, 2025

Board of Education Meeting Agenda
Long Valley Middle School Performing Arts Center
7:00 p.m. – public portion of the meeting to begin

[Board Goals](#)

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE

Adequate notice of this meeting was given to the public 48 hours in advance of the date setting forth the date, time, location and type of meeting. Notice was sent to the *Daily Record*, the *Observer Tribune*, and the Washington Township clerk, and was posted on the district website at www.wtschools.org. All please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA

1. **REPORT ON THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION AND OATHS OF OFFICE**

Election results reported as per the Statement of Determination received from Morris County Clerk.

<u>Three Year Term</u>
Melanie Bratton
Mike Cattano
Rob Waskis

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

a. **Motion to nominate the Board President**

Motion(s) to accept nominations for the office of President:

Motion by: _____ Nominee _____

Motion by: _____ Nominee _____

Motion to close nominations:

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Voice vote

Roll call vote for President:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, elects _____ as President of the Board of Education effective January 7, 2025 for a term prescribed by law.

Board President will preside over balance of the meeting.

b. Motion to nominate the Board Vice President

Motion(s) to accept nomination(s) for the office of Vice President:

Motion by: _____
Nominee

Motion by: _____
Nominee

Motion to close nominations:

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Voice vote

Roll call vote for Vice President:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 the Washington Township Board of Education, in the county of Morris, New Jersey, elects _____ as Vice President of the Board of Education effective January 7, 2025 for a term prescribed by law.

3. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

a. Appoint a Delegate/Alternate to New Jersey School Boards Association

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, desires to send a delegate and alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association;

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education recognizes the appointment of Rob Waskis as a delegate and Jessica DeCicco as an alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association, (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-46), effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

b. Appoint a Delegate to Morris County School Boards Association

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, desires to send a delegate to the Morris County School Boards Association;

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education recognizes the appointment of Jessica DeCicco as delegate to the Morris County School Boards Association, (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-46), effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

c. **Appoint a Representative and Continue Membership in Educational Services Commission of Morris County**

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, desires to send a delegate to the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, and

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education recognizes the appointment of Lyndsay Suchy as a delegate to the Educational Services Commission of Morris County effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

d. **Appoint Board Secretary** – RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, appoints Katie DeRiso as Board Secretary, (N.J.S.A. 18A: 17-2, 17-5, Policy 9124), effective January 7, 2025 through the reorganization meeting of 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, appoints Antonella Lind as Assistant Board Secretary to function in the absence of the Board Secretary effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

4. **ANNUAL MOTIONS AND DESIGNATIONS**

a. **Adopt Code of Ethics** - Motion to adopt Code of Ethics.

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, approves the Code of Ethics for School Board Members effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

b. **Adopt Policy Manual**

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, adopts and shall be governed in all actions and business to come before this Board by the written Board Policies and Rules and Regulations, previously duly adopted and contained in the Board of Education Policy Book effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026.

c. **Designate Bank Depository and Authorize Signatures for Accounts** - RESOLVED,

that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey designates Valley National Bank as the bank depository, and

RESOLVED, that the Washington Township Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, approves that all checks, drafts or other orders for payment or withdrawal of money from said account be signed by the person holding the appropriate title as listed below (N.J.S.A 19-1) effective January 7, 2025 to reorganization meeting of 2026:

Flexible Spending Account

Board Secretary
Chief School Administrator

General Custodian Account

Board President or Vice President (in absence of President), Board Secretary and
Chief School Administrator

Payroll Account

Chief School Administrator

Principal's Account

Superintendent and Board Secretary

Long Valley Middle School Activity Account

Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Business Administrator

Old Farmers Road School Activity Account

Principal, Secretary, Business Administrator

Flocktown-Kossmann School Activity Account

Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Business Administrator

Benedict A. Cucinella School Activity Account

Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Business Administrator

Cafeteria Account

Board President or Vice President (in absence of President), and Board Secretary

Agency Account

Board President or Vice President (in absence of President), Board Secretary,
Chief School Administrator

SUI Account

Board President or Vice President (in absence of President), and Board Secretary

Government Interest Checking

Board President or Vice President (in absence of President), Board Secretary, and
Chief School Administrator

d. **Set Meeting Dates and Adopt the Sunshine Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Washington Township of Education in the County of Morris, New Jersey, is directed to meet at least once every two months during the period in which the schools in the district are in session (N.J.S.A. 10:4-18, 18A:10-6), and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires notice of regularly scheduled meetings within seven days following the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board;

RESOLVED, by the Washington Township Board of Education, that the following notice of regularly scheduled meetings be adopted:

The regularly scheduled public meetings of the Washington Township Board of Education will be held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m., except where noted, starting with a closed Executive Session and the public portion of the meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Long Valley Middle School Performing Arts Center:

Board Meeting Dates	Meeting Type
February 3, 2025*	Board Retreat
February 11, 2025	Regular meeting
March 11, 2025	Regular meeting
April 29, 2025	Regular meeting/Public Budget Hearing
May 13, 2025	Regular meeting
June 17, 2025	Regular meeting
July 22, 2025	Regular meeting
August 12, 2025	Regular meeting
September 9, 2025	Regular meeting
October 14, 2025	Regular meeting
November 4, 2025	Regular meeting
December 9, 2025	Regular meeting
January 6, 2026	Regular and Reorganization meeting

**Board Retreat will begin at 6:00 p.m.*

This notice and any other notices pertaining to public meetings of the Board of Education will be posted on the Washington Township Schools website at www.wtschools.org and with the official board newspaper.

Notes:

- Special Public Meetings where official action is taken will be scheduled as needed with proper notice.
- Closed Executive Sessions with the public excluded for discussion of personnel and/or legal matters, will be authorized as needed by resolution during public meetings or by special notice.

Regular Meeting Agenda

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal, negotiation and personnel matters

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- HIB Report

PRESENTATION

- Ethics - Charlene Peterson, New Jersey School Boards Association
- Mid-Year 2024-2025 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report
 - Public Hearing on Violence and Vandalism N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46
- Mid-Year 2024-2025 School Violence and Vandalism Report
 - Public Hearing on Violence and Vandalism N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46

CORRESPONDENCE

Emails from:

- G. Moss
- K. Carrajat

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Finance & Facilities Committee - January 2, 2025

Personnel Committee

Communications & Governance Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome to this evening's meeting of the Washington Township Schools Board of Education. This portion of the meeting agenda affords community members to comment on items appearing on this evening's agenda. If you have a question on an agenda item, school district personnel may answer at that moment or will get back to you later with the information. Please note that in order to make a comment on an agenda item, the board president must first recognize you. During this period of comment, the board president will invite meeting attendees to form a line directly behind the microphone. Please state your name and address before making your comment. Thank you for your interest in your school district!

Note: The rules of the board of education Bylaw 0167 shall govern public participation as follows:

1. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration.
2. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
3. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the board or by the administration;
4. The board president may interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy or when the statement, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory in nature.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 10, 2024 executive session meeting minutes
- December 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes

IT IS HEREBY MOVED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

Education

1. Motion to approve the placement of Hannah Vidovich, University of Scranton student, to complete observation at the Cucinella School during the spring 2025 semester with Dawn Kontos as her cooperating teacher and Elyse Kay as her college advisor.
2. Motion to approve Katherine Stramaglia, Teacher of Health and Physical Education, to complete her Educational Leadership Internship from Montclair State University, at the Long Valley Middle School during the spring 2025 semester, with Mark Ippolito and Michael Mirabella as her mentors, and Dawn Uttel as her college advisor.
3. Motion to approve homebound instruction as follows:
 - a. Old Farmers Road School Kindergarten student #15892639, one hour per week for eight weeks, commencing on or about January 8, 2025, with Frances Spino responsible for instruction.
 - b. Long Valley Middle School 6th Grade student #15371682, up to ten hours per week, commencing on or about December 10, 2024, with private contractor responsible for instruction.
4. Motion to approve submission of the NJDOE Equivalency Application to the NJ Department of Education as presented.

5. Motion to approve Mid-Year 2024-2025 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report as presented.
6. Motion to approve Mid-Year 2024-2025 School Violence and Vandalism Report as presented.
7. Motion to approve curriculum revisions as follows:
 - a. Long Valley Middle School Gifted & Talented Quint Courses
 - [Grade 6](#)
 - [Grade 7](#)
 - [Grade 8](#)
8. Motion to accept Superintendent's report to the board of education relevant to the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
9. Motion to affirm the December 10, 2024 report to the board of education relevant to the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Finance

10. Motion to accept check journal as presented.
11. Motion to approve budget transfers as presented.
12. Motion to accept the REPORT OF THE SECRETARY for the month of November 2024 and acknowledge the certification made by the board secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 that, as of the date of the report no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education and further, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)4, the Washington Township Board of Education certifies that, after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
13. Motion to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et.seq., the Washington Township Board of Education ("Board") advertised and solicited bids for HVAC Upgrades at Long Valley Middle School; and

Whereas, the Board received three bid responses, which were publicly opened and read on December 20, 2024; and

Whereas, the following bids were made:

Bidders	Base Bid
GDS Mechanical	\$5,286,000
H&S Construction and Mechanical	\$5,812,000
Envirocon, LLC	\$5,862,680

Whereas, the lowest bid received was from GDS Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$5,286,000 for a base bid; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, et. seq., the Board reserves the right to reject a bid when the lowest bid substantially exceeds the cost estimates for the goods and services.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Washington Township Board of Education, that the received bids for the referenced project are hereby rejected, and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the Washington Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the renegotiation with a vendor in accordance with the Board's initial cost estimates.

14. Motion to approve district travel for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

Name	Event	Date	Location	Not to Exceed
Natalia Schweitzer Kevin Demarest	Spanish Articulation with WMC	Jan. 13, 2025	Chester	\$0
Brienna Burke Shawn Sutton	Science Articulation with WMC	Jan 14, 2025	Chester	\$0
Christa Smith Rachel Thomas	US History Articulation with WMC	Jan 15, 2025	Chester	\$0
Christine Henriquez Chris Inskeep Amanda Schweighardt	Mathematics Articulation with WMC	Jan. 16, 2025	Chester	\$0
Soojung Lee Kyle Kays	English Articulation with WMC	Jan. 16, 2025	Chester	\$0
Don Paul Todd Nick Fairchild	STS Annual Conference and Trade Show	Mar. 25, 2025 - Mar. 28, 2025	Atlantic City	\$701.00 each
Joshua O'Reilly	STS Annual Mechanics Training and Trade Show	Mar. 26, 2025 - Mar. 28, 2025	Atlantic City	\$783.00

The chief school administrator, in accordance with New Jersey Law A-5, the School District Accountability Act, has reviewed the above travel expenditures and found them to be educationally necessary and fiscally prudent. Travel expenditures include all costs associated with travel including registration, with the exception of mileage which is paid according to OMB Circular and defined by state statute.

Personnel

15. Motion to accept, with regret, the following resignations:

- Dorothea Plunkett, Bus Driver, effective December 21, 2024. Position #DRIVER.
- Joshua Jackson, Data Coordinator, effective March 1, 2025. Position #TECH-SUP.

16. Motion to accept, with regret, the following retirement:

- Patricia McCarty, Media Specialist, Cucinella School, effective July 1, 2025, after 12 years of service in the district. Position #MEDIAS.

17. Motion to fill the following posted positions (final employment status subject to receipt of requested employment information pursuant to PL 2018, c.5 for all new staff):

- a. Catherine Correia, Instructional Aide, Cucinella School, .87 FTE, \$20,245, to be prorated, effective January 2, 2025. Position #AIDE-KIND.
- b. Jean Orlandi, Bus Driver, \$30,240, to be prorated, Step 1, effective January 8, 2025. Position #DRIVER.

18. Motion to authorize the Superintendent to enter into employment contracts with individuals filling 2024-2025 staff vacancies (except administration) between board meetings prior to formal board approval.

19. Motion to adjust the following transportation salaries for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	FTE	Annual Salary
Neil Pearson	1.0	\$39,050
Edward Lavinia	1.0	\$39,050
Megan Crown	1.0	\$36,475

20. Motion to adjust the following Paraprofessional/Aide hours, no health benefits. Salary to be adjusted based upon start date:

School	Name	From Hrs/Wk	To Hrs/Wk	Effective
FLK	Nataliya Gamulyak	25	29.9	December 10, 2024

21. Motion to approve horizontal move effective February 1, 2025 as follows:

Name	From	To
Stephanie Yakimec	MA+45	MA+60

22. Motion to approve/adjust the following leaves:

Empl. #	Schedule	School	Title	Paid	FMLA	Unpaid	Anticipated Return
000347	A	OFRS	Social Worker		Dec. 5, 2024-Dec. 31, 2024		Jan. 2, 2025
000281	B	KOSS	Academic Assistance	Jan. 2, 2025-Mar. 4, 2025	Mar. 5, 2025-June 4, 2025		June 5, 2025
023264	C	BAC	BI Paraprofessional	Aug. 29, 2024-Sept. 18, 2024		Sept. 19, 2024-Feb. 28, 2025	Mar. 3, 2025*

*date revised from October 8, 2024 approval.

23. Motion to approve substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, final employment status subject to receipt of requested employment information pursuant to PL 2018, c.5 for all new staff, as follows:

Teacher	Aide	Driver
Suzette Dilzer*	Suzette Dilzer*	Dorothea Plunkett
Jane Chamberlain	Jane Chamberlain	Stephen Crescentini*
Kathleen Thompson	Kathleen Thompson	
Morgan Garner	Morgan Garner	
Linda Reda		

**approved pending completion of criminal background check*

Policy

24. Motion to read for the second time and approve the following [policies](#):

Type	Number	Name	New/ Revised
Policy	2423	Bilingual Education	Revised
Regulation	2423	Bilingual Education	Revised
Policy	2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised
Regulation	2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries	Revised

25. Motion to read for the first time the following [policies](#):

Type	Number	Name	New/ Revised
ByLaw	0141	Board Member Number and Term	Revised
ByLaw	0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency	Abolish
Policy	2200	Curriculum Content	Revised
Policy	3160	Physical Examination (teaching staff)	Revised
Regulation	3160	Physical Examination (teaching staff)	Revised
Policy	4160	Physical Examination (support staff)	Revised
Regulation	4160	Physical Examination (support staff)	Revised

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

The board has designated this portion of the meeting for members of the community to comment on any matter/subject relative to school operations. The board determines the length of this meeting segment to be the best to enable the board to complete its business for the evening. If your comment is in the form of a question, school district personnel may answer at that moment or will get back to you later with the information. Please note that in order to make a comment the board president must recognize you. During this period of comment, the board president will invite meeting attendees to form a line directly behind the microphone. Please state your name and address before making your comment. Thank you again for your interest in your school district!

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DISTRICT DISTINCTIONS

ADJOURNMENT