

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room
2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 7:00 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 7:00 p.m on June 17, 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

* Attending remotely

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

Jennifer Johnson welcomed back Mr. Michael Juskus and Mr. Neil Pallotta

5. **PERSONNEL**

- a. Approval to hire Michael Juskus under Chapter 408 Flexibility approved by the NJDOE as an Industrial Arts Teacher effective June 12, 2024 with a prorated salary of \$71,355, which represents BA+15, step 4 on the 2023-2024 HEA guide.
- b. Approval to hire Neil Pallotta under Chapter 408 Flexibility approved by the NJDOE as a High School Math Teacher effective June 12, 2024 with a prorated salary of \$74,705, which represents MA+15, step 2 on the 2023-2024 HEA guide.

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

Discussion: Mr. DiStefano asked if the salaries were the same as when these teachers retired. Mr. Hallenbeck replied that they are not exactly the same and we are saving money bringing them back because since they are retired, there will be no health benefit or pension contribution from the district.

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room
2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

6. **RESOLUTION**

- a. Approval of the following resolution for submission of the tentative REVISED 2024/2025 school budget to the Sussex County Superintendent:

“WHEREAS, the Superintendent has presented to the Finance Committee and other members of the Hopatcong Board of Education, a recommended REVISED 2024/2025 School District Budget in the total amount of \$ \$39,159,695,00 as follows; and

WHEREAS, the Board approves a Local Tax Levy of \$ 28,703,689;

WHEREAS, the local tax levy will increase by a total of 9.9% composed of a 2% increase of \$522,360, a 2% enrollment growth cap exception in the amount of \$523,664 and a P.L. 2024, c. 13 tax levy cap adjustment in the amount of \$1,539,659 (Designated for Capital Improvements/Payments) for a total local tax levy increase of \$2,585,683.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Hopatcong School District preliminary REVISED 2024/2025 budget for submission to the Sussex County Superintendent’s Office is approved as follows on the Meeting Agenda of June 18, 2024.”

<u>General Fund</u>		
Fund 10	Charter School Tuition	\$500,000
Fund 10-606	Interest Maintenance Reserve	\$200
Fund 11	General Operating Fund	\$33,708,826
	Sect 2 P.L. 2024 Cap Adjustment	\$1,569,659
Fund 12	Debt Services Assessment	\$1,114
	Capital Reserve Interest	\$500

Special Revenue Fund

Fund 20	Federal/State Grants	\$3,409,396
	Debt Service	\$0
<u>Total Budget</u>		\$39,159,695

Mr. Hallenbeck presents the revised budget and plans for Referendum and bond repayment plans.

Discussion among board members.

Mr. Falconi makes a motion to go back to Public Comment because Mrs. Johnson indicates that she has a question.

Mrs. Gulan seconds the motion. Board Members : All ayes

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Board Meeting Room
2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Mrs. Johnson wants to confirm that if the Referendum passes, the taxpayers will only be paying for approximately 60% of the projects because the state will be contributing approximately 40% of the funding. However, if the Referendum Fails, the state will contribute nothing and the entire cost of the projects will be funded by the taxpayers.

(ACTION)Motion to approve 6a: by Mr. Falconi. Seconded by Mr. Chaffee.

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

5. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Polowchena congratulated all the graduating seniors.

Mr. Chaffee congratulate all the Hopatcong Girl Scouts that just celebrated their Bridging ceremonies.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION)Motion by Polowchena. seconded by DiStefano

All in favor: Aye. Time: 8:09 pm