



**East Brunswick Board of Education**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL AT 7:30 PM**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Late</b>
Anna Braun	X		
Timothy Cummings	X		
Jaime Falco	X		
Louis Figueroa	X		
Laurie Herrick	X		
Liwu Hong, Board Vice President	X		
Laurie Lachs		X	
Wilbur Pan	X		
Heather Guas, Board President	X		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

With a quorum of eight Board members being present, the meeting proceeded with Ms. Guas presiding.

<b>Others Present</b>
Dr. Victor P. Valeski Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Bernardo Giuliana, SFO, QPA Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Operations/Board Secretary
Dr. Joyce Boley Assistant Superintendent of Academics
Mr. Joseph Crotchfelt, CPA Director of Financial Services/Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary
Ms. Christine Sce Director of Secondary Education
Ms. Louise Sultana LoRocco Director of Special Education

Mr. Mark Wenczel, Esq. Board Attorney
--

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of, public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed and acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the East Brunswick Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Board of Education offices, located at 760 Route 18, East Brunswick, New Jersey. Written notice was also provided to the Sentinel, The Newark Star Ledger, The Home News Tribune, The Alternative Press of East Brunswick, and the Municipal Clerk of East Brunswick.*

*All Board of Education meetings, with the exception of executive session discussions, are video taped for later broadcast. It is the policy of the Board of Education that video taped meetings are not edited for any purpose. Individuals who speak at the Board's public meetings should be aware of these videotaping rules.*

### **PRESENTATIONS AND/OR SPECIAL REPORTS**

#### **Finance Committee of the Whole - FY2026 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Giuliana presented information relevant to the FY2026 Tentative District Budget including newly released Tax Levy Incentive Aid information from the New Jersey Department of Education as well as the estimated school tax impact on properties. The PowerPoint presentation is attached and included in the minutes.

Mr. Giuliana departed at 8:20 PM. Assistant Board Secretary Mr. Crotchfelt took his place for the remainder of the meeting.

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE FOR THE PUBLIC**

### **Public Comment Rules**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. To protect the privacy of all students and staff, concerns regarding individual students and staff members should generally be addressed by first meeting with the appropriate administrative staff.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every meeting of the Board.

Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw No. 0164.

Public participation shall be extended to residents of this district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or school district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or

services solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of this district, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board.

Public participation is not an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Board and shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
1. A participant is limited to three (3) minutes' duration; elapsed time will be determined through the use of a timing device operated by the Board Secretary;
2. No participant may speak more than once and there shall be no yielding of time among speakers;
3. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
4. There shall be no cross dialogue between the participant and the Board and/or Administration;
5. Upon conclusion of a participant's remarks, the presiding officer will acknowledge the individual's remarks and may respond and/or direct a member of the Administration to respond to an inquiry following the participant's remarks or at the conclusion of the public participation session;

The presiding officer may:

- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Tim O'Neill spoke on the sports programs and the TCUs.

Allegra Seidler spoke about the ILA program.

Jeff Winston spoke on the budget.

Neil Shah spoke on the budget.

Dom Sclafani spoke on athletics.

Yan Bregman spoke on the budget and asked about the proposed tax increase.

Dan Acciani spoke on the budget issues.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Closed Session Resolution**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the following resolution is approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education must discuss matters which are not appropriate for discussion in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, these subjects are within the exceptions to the Open Public Meetings Act and are permitted to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education intends to discuss matters as follows:

- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(1), *"any matter which, by provision of federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provisions of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, public meetings."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(2), *"any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(3), *"any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individuals personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(4), *"any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body."* The collective bargaining contract(s) discussed are between the Board and:

- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(5), *"any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matter were disclosed."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is: Legal Advice; EBEA Contract.
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(6), *"any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7), *"any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4)" of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8), *"any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or discipline of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(9), *"any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility."* The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality, is:

WHEREAS, the length of the Closed Session is estimated to be ONE HOUR after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and action WILL NOT BE taken.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Board of Education will recess into Closed Session for only the aforesaid subject(s); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforesaid subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public's interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Board Member	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstention	Did Not Vote
Anna Braun						
Timothy Cummings						
Jaime Falco		X				
Louis Figueroa						
Laurie Herrick						
Liwu Hong						
Laurie Lachs						ABSENT
Wilbur Pan	X					
Heather Guas						
Totals			8	0	0	

The above action was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

The meeting recessed into closed session at 8:37 PM and reconvened into open session at 9:31 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **1. Adjournment**

**Recommendation:** That the meeting be adjourned.

Board Member	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstention	Did Not Vote
Anna Braun	X					
Timothy Cummings						
Jaime Falco		X				
Louis Figueroa						
Laurie Herrick						
Liwu Hong						
Laurie Lachs						ABSENT
Wilbur Pan						
Heather Guas						
Totals			8	0	0	


The above action was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernardo Giuliana, SFO, QPA  
Assistant Superintendent for Business  
And Support Operations/Board Secretary

Joseph Crotchfelt, CPA  
Director of Financial Services  
Assistant School Business Administrator  
And Assistant Board Secretary



# BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

April 8, 2025





# FY2026 Tax Levy Incentive Aid Data

Spending Below Adequacy:	3,073,851	(B)				
MAX[o, (Item (B-2) minus (B-1))]	o	(C)				
Remaining Eligible Tax Levy Increase:						
Available Banked Cap:	292,760	(D)				
Maximum Additional Expenditure Request:	2,781,091	(E)				
If Item (A) equals Yes: MAX[o, (Item (B) minus (C) minus (D))]						

# FY2026 Tax Levy Incentive Aid Data

Spending Below Adequacy:	3,073,851	(B)					
MAX[o, (Item (B-2) minus (B-1))]	0	(C)					
Remaining Eligible Tax Levy Increase:							
Available Banked Cap:	292,760	(D)					
Maximum Additional Expenditure Request:	2,781,091	(E)					
If Item (A) equals Yes: MAX[o, (Item (B) minus (C) minus (D))]							
Total Expenditure Requested (may not exceed item (E)):	2,781,091	(F)					
Tax Levy Portion:	2,648,658	(G)					
Tax Levy Incentive Aid Portion:	132,433	(H)					
Lesser of \$1,000,000 or Item (G) times 5%							

# FY2026 Tax Levy Incentive Aid Data

Spending Below Adequacy:	3,073,851	(B)				
MAX[o, (Item (B-2) minus (B-1))]	o	(C)				
Remaining Eligible Tax Levy Increase:						
Available Banked Cap:	292,760	(D)				
Maximum Additional Expenditure Request:	2,781,091	(E)				
If Item (A) equals Yes: MAX[o, (Item (B) minus (C) minus (D))]						
					Proposed	
Total Expenditure Requested (may not exceed item (E)):	2,781,091	(F)			1,132,956	
Tax Levy Portion:	2,648,658	(G)			1,079,005	0.74%
Tax Levy Incentive Aid Portion:	132,433	(H)			53.951	
Lesser of \$1,000,000 or Item (G) times 5%						

# FY2026 Estimated School Tax Impact

---

Based on a property tax bill of \$10,000:

- The school tax portion is approximately 65% or \$6,500 per year.
- The tentative budget cost for General Fund and Debt Service Fund is 2.83% or \$184 per year.
- The cost of the net budget restorations is 0.74% or \$48 per year.
- The combined cost of the two is 3.57% or \$232 per year.