

WARREN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Board of Education Meeting * March 23, 2026 * 6:30 PM
Warren Middle School and Virtual

The Warren Township Board of Education meeting will be held in person and virtual, with Board members and Administration. The public is welcome to attend in person or virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87456071306?pwd=ooPAUkpEdOJnbWZqAkEpVuiTAKRSap.1>

I. Call to Order and Statement of Presiding Officer Patricia Zohn, President

Re: Chapter 231 P.L. 1975: "The adequate notice of this regular meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act was provided by the posting, mailing/delivery, and filing of this notice on February 25, 2026. This notice was on that date posted on the bulletin board in the Township Office, sent to the Courier News, Echoes-Sentinel and TAP into Warren, and filed with the Township Clerk of the Township of Warren, all in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act."

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

___Kevin Brotspies	___Laura Keller	___Ryan Valentino
___Nicole Dalton	___Richard Molfetta	___Todd Weinstein
___Bridget Granholm	___Stephen Toor	___Patricia Zohn

***NOTE: It is anticipated that the regular business portion of the meeting will begin at approximately 6:45 P.M.**

IV. Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session

Action will be taken upon return to public session;

the length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 15 minutes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

V. Minutes

- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the public and private session minutes of the March 9, 2026 Board Meeting.

VI. Correspondence and Information

· HIB Information

Total # of Investigations:

Total # of Determined Bullying Incidents:

0

0

Suspension Report

In School:

Out of School:

1

1

- VII. President's Remarks – Mrs. Patricia Zohn
- VIII. Superintendent's Remarks – Dr. Matthew Mingle
- IX. Presentation
 - Tentative 2026-2027 Budget - Mr. Chris Heagele
- X. Discussion
- XI. Reports of Board Members Appointed to External Assignments
 - New Jersey School Board Association Delegate Assembly
 - Stephen Toor, and Patricia Zohn - Alternate
 - Somerset County Educational Services Commission
 - Nicole Dalton and Bridget Granholm - Alternate
 - Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance Committee
 - Richard Molfetta and Ryan Valentino - Alternate
 - Warren Township Opioid Advisory Committee
 - Kevin Brotspies
 - Warren Township Mayor's Wellness Committee
 - Laura Keller
- XII. Committee Reports
 - Curriculum and Technology Committee - March 18, 2026
 - Stephen Toor - Chair, Kevin Brotspies, Todd Weinstein, Bridget Granholm - Alternate
 - Finance, Operations, and Security Committee - March 16, 2026
 - Patricia Zohn - Chair, Rich Molfetta, Ryan Valentino, Kevin Brotspies - Alternate
 - Personnel, Negotiations, and Communication Committee - March 6, 2026
 - Laura Keller - Chair, Nicole Dalton, Bridget Granholm, Todd Weinstein - Alternate
 - Planning for Growth Working Group - No Meeting
 - Laura Keller - Chair, Patricia Zohn, Kevin Brotspies
- XIII. Public Commentary (agenda items only)

Note on public input at BOE meetings: Board Policy #0167, adopted on June 18, 2018, provides for public participation in Board of Education meetings. Such participation is 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, address, and group affiliation, if applicable;
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration. If necessary, the public comment portion of the meeting may be extended fifteen minutes with Board approval;
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;
4. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected 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;

The portion of the meeting during which participation of the public is invited shall be limited to fifteen minutes (limit may be adjusted at the discretion of the presiding officer as

circumstances dictate).

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students and board employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board president, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the school district. However, responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional fact gathering before a response is provided.

XIV. Items for Board Consideration/Action

The Superintendent recommends that it be:

A. Education

A.1. HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the HIB Report submitted by the Superintendent for the period ending on March 9, 2026.

B. Finance/Operations/Transportation

B.1. Payment of Bills

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the month of March 2026 in the amount of \$6,203,883.77.

B.2. Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the secretary for the month of February 2026.

WHEREAS, this report shows the following balances on February 28, 2026

FUND	CASH BALANCE	APPROPRIATION BALANCE	FUND BALANCE
(10) General Current Expense Fund	\$6,276,414.68		\$1,764,029.33
(10) General Current Expense		\$0.00	
(11) Current Expense		\$684,449.83	
(12) Capital Outlay		\$1,576,893.51	
(13) Special Schools		\$34.15	
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$415.80	\$90,493.82	\$0.00
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$3,236.22	(\$2,864,002.51)	\$586,804.37
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	\$6,280,066.70	(\$512,131.20)	\$2,350,833.70
Wealth Mgmt - Capital Reserve	\$8,440,000.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Operating	\$3,200,000.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Capital Projects	\$8,314,101.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Debt Service	\$82,668.17		
TOTAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT	\$20,036,769.17		
(62) Food Service Account	\$237,744.69	(\$419,037.15)	\$108,603.29

WHEREAS, in compliance with law and code the secretary has certified that, as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above reference reports and certifications and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, in compliance with law and code, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriation section), to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of law and code and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

B.3. Budget Transfers for Month of February 2026

RESOLVED, the Board of Education ratifies the attached transfers between budget line items that have been approved by the Superintendent of Schools and that are now being reported to the Board pursuant to Policy 6422.

B.4. Travel Approval

Whereas, in accordance with State of New Jersey School District Accountability Act (A-5) and the Warren Township Schools' Policy 6471-School District Travel, travel by school district employees and Board of Education members must be approved in advance.

Now Therefore Be It RESOLVED, the Warren Township Schools Board of Education approves the following expenses for faculty, staff, administrators, and board members for seminars, conferences and workshops. The expense includes travel costs, if applicable:

Name	School	Workshop/ Conference	Location	Month/Yr	Cost
Chris Heagele	BOE	New Jersey Association of School Business Officials Annual Conference	Atlantic City	June 2026	\$1,254
Michael Pate	B&G	New Jersey Association of School Business Officials Annual Conference	Atlantic City	June 2026	\$649
Sandra Rama	ALT	New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education Spring Conference	New Brunswick	May 2026	\$640
Minnelli de Matos	WS	New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education Spring Conference	New Brunswick	May 2026	\$450

All of the above travel has been approved by the Superintendent. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

B.5. Acceptance of Grant Award - Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the grant award from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission in the amount of \$1,228. The funds will be utilized for the transportation of our 4th grade students to historical sites in Warren Township.

B.6. Adoption of the 2026/2027 Tentative Budget

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the tentative 2026-2027 Warren Township School District Budget and approves the tentative budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Somerset County for review.

The tentative budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C Title 6 and 6A.

Proposed 2025-2026 Budget			
Appropriations:			Revenue:
Fund 10			
Transfer to Charter Schools (10)	\$42,284		State Aid: General Fund \$3,682,887
Operating Budget (11)	\$57,194,773		Tax Levy: General Fund \$53,179,465
Capital Outlay (12)	\$105,700		Other Revenues \$847,595
Summer School (13)	\$351,276		Fund Balance \$587,000
Capital Project Xfer (30)	\$1,581,533		Xfer from Cap Res (CS Lot) \$859,819
			Xfer from Maintenance Res \$118,800
FUND 10 TOTAL	\$59,275,566		FUND 10 TOTAL \$59,275,566
Fund 20			
Special Revenue Appropriations	\$446,209		Grants - Local \$21,000
			Grants - Federal \$425,209
FUND 20 TOTAL	\$446,209		\$446,209
Fund 40			
			State Aid: Debt Service Aid \$3,013,004
Debt Service Xfer (40)	\$8,861,779		Xfer from Cap Res (Debt) \$5,848,775
FUND 40 TOTAL	\$8,861,779		\$8,861,779

GRAND TOTAL	\$68,583,554	GRAND TOTAL	\$68,583,554

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warren Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget an enrollment adjustment as calculated in the budget software and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 subsection (b)2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-11.2 subsection (b), above 2% in the amount \$797,352. The district intends to utilize this adjustment to enable all students to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warren Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a Health Care Costs adjustment as calculated in the budget software and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 subsection (d) in the amount of \$2,363,361. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health care premiums, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tentative budget includes a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$859,819 for the projects as follows:

Project Name	Project Capital Reserve Withdrawal (54.366% of project cost)
Central Parking Lot/Sidewalk Replacements	\$859,819
Total Capital Reserve Withdrawal	\$859,819

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tentative budget includes a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$118,800 for use to partially fund the district's required maintenance budget, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, per NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b), the budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement. The 2026-2027 tentative budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$150,000. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, a Board of Education may, and this Board does, establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required for regular business travel, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby establishes April 27, 2026 as the date of the Public Hearing on the budget and authorizes the Superintendent and Board Secretary, after approval by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, to advertise the budget and the budget hearing as required by law.

- B.7. Public Address System/Strobe Light Installation Project Bid Acceptance
WHEREAS, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Warren Township Board of Education ("Board") to seek a contract for Public Address System/Strobe Light Installation Project at district's maintenance building (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the Board received the following bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, *et seq.*;

Vendors	Total
Signal Electric Corporation	\$1,545,000.00
Coskey's Electronic Systems	\$1,987,220.00

WHEREAS, Signal Electric Corporation' bid has been reviewed by the design professionals and board attorney and is the lowest and is responsive to the bid requirements for the Project,

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the Project to Signal Electric Corporation' for one million five hundred forty five thousand dollars (\$1,545,000.00). This contract and all of the project's professional and ancillary fees are to be paid from the district's capital fund monies.

B.8. Angelo L. Tomaso Floor Repair Project Bid Acceptance

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Warren Township Board of Education ("Board") to seek a contract for Angelo L. Tomaso Floor Repair Project at district's maintenance building (hereinafter "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the Board received the following bids from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, *et seq.*;

Vendors	Total
Skopye, LLC	\$169,000
Drill Construction Co., Inc.	\$199,900
Lanyi & Tevaid, Inc.	\$212,000
TGG Floors	\$217,417
Academy Construction Inc.	\$233,000
Northeast Construction Services, LLC	\$237,849
George Koustas Ptg Construction	\$265,000
Billy Contracting & Restoration Inc.	\$278,880
Grove Contracting	\$392,000

WHEREAS, Skopye, LLC' bid has been reviewed by the design professionals and board attorney and is the lowest and is responsive to the bid requirements for the Project,

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the Project to Skopye, LLC' for one hundred sixty nine thousand dollars (\$169,000.00). This contract and all of the project's professional and ancillary fees are to be paid from the district's capital fund monies.

C. Personnel/Student Services

C.1. Substitute Teachers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following to be appointed as a substitute teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.

Name
Debbie Martin
Rachna Manglani

C.2. Leave Request

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following leave requests:

Employee ID	Paid/Unpaid
#3069	NJFLA - August 31, 2026, through November 20, 2026 (Unpaid)
#3214	FMLA - June 5, 2026, through June 30, 2026 (Paid) NJFLA August 31, 2026, through November 20, 2026 (Unpaid)
#2795	FMLA - April 14, 2026, through May 5, 2026 (Paid) (This motion supersedes the previous motion approved on October 27, 2025)
#3699	Intermittent FMLA - March 17, 2026, through June 30, 2027 (Paid)
#3754	FMLA - August 31, 2026, through September 4, 2026 (Paid) NJFLA - September 7, 2026, through November 27, 2026 (Unpaid)

C.3. 2026-2027 Summer Custodians

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves custodians at their 2026-2027 hourly rate, as needed during the Summer 2026 for custodial department needs.

C.4. Handle With Care Building Teams

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following staff as Handle With Care Building Team (formerly known as the CPI team) members. Each staff member will receive an annual amount of \$500 stipend per the WTEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. The stipend will be rewarded upon verified completion of the crisis prevention intervention training, for a total cost not to exceed \$13,000.00.

Names		
Julie Jagiello	Ashley Mohan	Amy Petrik
Toni Moss	Denise Chapman	Alyssa Pech
David O'Connor	Nancy Lauber	Erica Bell
James Zilinski	Eliana Glassman	Claire Vivencio
Nichole Kaller	Nancy Dasti	Daniel Ring

Sydney Fielding	Beth Alcaraz	Lauren Mansour
Jean Vecchio	Josephine Maccagnan	Shawna Slater
Sydney Lynn	Julie Costa	Jessica Mironski
John Tsihlas	Alexandra McWilliams	

- C.5. Retirement/Resignation
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the retirement/resignations of the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Retirement/Resignation	Dates of Service
John Seremula	Music Teacher	WMS	Retirement	September 1, 2001, through June 30, 2026

- C.6. Long Term Substitute
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following Long Term Substitute:

Name	Dates	Employee #
Debbie Martin	April 13, 2026, through June 30, 2026	#3352

- C.7. Summer 2026 Custodial/Maintenance Staff Pay Rates
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Summer Custodian 2026 staff hourly rates as follows:

Position	Hourly Amount
Summer Custodian	\$21.33

- C.8. Appointment of Transportation Employees as Summer Custodians
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves all employees in the Transportation Department as Summer Custodians at a rate of \$21.33 per hour.

- C.9. Summer Technology Assistants 2026
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the list of Summer Technology Assistants at a rate of \$23.37 per hour.

- C.10. Transfer/Change in Assignment
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the transfer/change in assignment of the following district staff:

Name	Effective Date	From	To	Total Salary
TBA	July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027	TBA	Curriculum Director	No Change in Salary

- C.11. Approval to Create Positions
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the creation of the following positions for 2026-2027 school year.

Location	Position	Full-Time Equivalent
District	Curriculum Director	1.0

- C.12. Approval to Abolish Positions
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves to abolish the following positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

Location	Position	Full-Time Equivalent
District	Curriculum Supervisor	1.0

- C.13. Extra Duty Stipend
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the extra duty payment for Ruth Rillo at an hourly rate of \$26.81 for extra work performed during a leave replacement from January 21, 2026, to on or about April 13, 2026, for a total not to exceed \$791. (This motion supersedes the previous motion approved on February 2, 2026)

- C.14. Compact Schedule for Summer 2026
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a four-day compacted work schedule for Summer 2026, from the week of June 29, 2026, up to and including the week of August 24, 2026.

- XV. Unfinished Business
XVI. New Business
XVII. Public Commentary (any topic)

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the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board president, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the school district. However, responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional fact gathering before a response is provided.

XVIII. Adjourn

District Mission Statement

"The mission of the Warren Township School District is to provide, through a safe, nurturing yet challenging environment, all students with an outstanding education that engages students and fosters academic excellence, healthy social and emotional development, and a lifelong passion for learning."

2025-2030 Strategic Plan Goals

1. Student Learning
 - 1.1 Elevate Academic Rigor and Engagement
 - 1.2 Personalize Learning and Provide Comprehensive Support for All Learners
2. Student and Staff Well-Being
 - 2.1 Foster a Safe, Supportive, and Inclusive School Climate
 - 2.2 Strengthen Mental Health and Wellness Supports
3. Planning for Growth
 - 3.1 Plan for Enrollment Growth and Space Needs

2025-2026 Board Goal

1. Each Board member will participate in at least one community outreach activity during the 2025-2026 school year to strengthen two-way communication with the broader community.