

WARREN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Board of Education Meeting * October 27, 2025 * 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/86593270315?pwd=5PMJZ4RJewqonNjWpqInftBPqlbQCe.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 January 9, 2025. 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

___ Nicole Dalton	___ Richard Molfetta	___ Ryan Valentino
___ Bridget Granholm	___ Scott Otto	___ Todd Weinstein
___ Laura Keller	___ Stephen Toor	___ Patricia Zohn

***NOTE: It is anticipated that the regular business portion of the meeting will begin at approximately 7:00 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:

- protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law

Action will be taken upon return to public session;

the length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 30 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 session minutes of the September 29, 2025 Board Meeting.

VI. Correspondence and Information

· HIB Information

Total # of Investigations:

Total # of Determined Bullying Incidents:

5

3

· Suspension Report

In School:

Out of School:

0

0

· Fire Drills

ALT
September 12

Central
September 2

Mt. Horeb
September 9

Woodland
September 5

Middle
September 5

· Security Drills

ALT
September 16
Lockdown

Central
September 4
Lockdown

Mt. Horeb
September 16
Lockdown

Woodland
September 8
Lockdown

Middle
September 8
Lockdown

· Bus Evacuation

ALT
September 30

Central
October 1

Mt. Horeb
September 22

Woodland
September 25

Middle
September 26

VII. President's Remarks – Mrs. Patricia Zohn

VIII. Superintendent's Remarks – Dr. Matthew Mingle

IX. Presentation

- Assessment Report - Mr. William Kimmick, Assistant Superintendent
- **Regionalization Feasibility Study & Planning for Growth Update - Ad Hoc Regionalization/Shared Services Committee**

X. Discussion

- **Rowan School Regionalization Institute - A Feasibility Study on Regionalization and Shared Services in the Watchung Hills Regional, Warren, Long Hill, Watchung, and Green Brook School Districts**

XI. Reports of Board Members Appointed to External Assignments 2025

- New Jersey School Board Association Delegate Assembly
 - Patricia Zohn, and Richard Molfetta, alternate
- Somerset County Educational Services Commission
 - Nicole Dalton and Stephen Toor, alternate
- Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance Committee
 - Bridget Granholm and Ryan Valentino, alternate
- Warren Township Opioid Advisory Committee
 - Bridget Granholm

XII. Committee Reports

- Curriculum and Technology Committee - September 29, 2025
 - Stephen Toor - Chair, Bridget Granholm, Rich Molfetta, Laura Keller - Alternate
- Finance, Operations, and Security Committee - September 8, 2025
 - Patricia Zohn - Chair, Scott Otto - Vice Chair, Ryan Valentino, Rich Molfetta - Alternate
- Personnel, Negotiations, and Communication Committee - No Meeting
 - Laura Keller - Chair, Nicole Dalton, Todd Weinstein, Patricia Zohn - Alternate
- Planning for Growth Working Group - September 30, 2025; October 1, 2025
 - Patricia Zohn, Laura Keller
- Ad Hoc Regionalization/Shared Services Committee - October 15 & 24, 2025
 - Patricia Zohn - Chair, Laura Keller, Rich Molfetta, Todd Weinstein
- Ad Hoc Calendar Committee - October 16, 2025
 - Ryan Valentino - Chair, Nicole Dalton, Bridget Granholm, Stephen Toor

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 September 29, 2025.

A.2. Curriculum Committee Goals

- Support the implementation of strategic plan priorities that focus on Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology. In doing so, prioritize district

efforts to:

- Elevate academic rigor, personalize learning through assessment and intervention supports, and ensure inclusive and comprehensive support for all learners.
- Strengthen mental health awareness, safety and support; enhance student wellness, security, and social emotional development; and foster a positive, inclusive, and secure school climate.

A.3. Ad Hoc Calendar Committee Goals

- Recommend a 2026-2027 calendar to the Board of Education.

A.4. Ad Hoc Regionalization/Shared Services Committee Goals

- Advise the Board in matters pertaining to the Rowan School Regionalization Institute October 2025 Feasibility Study on Regionalization and Shared Services in the Watchung Hills Regional, Warren, Long Hill, Watchung, and Green Brook School Districts.

~~A.5. Bedside Instruction~~

~~RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the bedside instruction through Silvergate Prep for Student #7756726904, beginning on October 17, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$40, at a cost not to exceed \$2,400.~~

B. Finance/Operations/Transportation

B.1. Payment of Bills

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the month of October 2025 in the amount of \$5,074,739.24.

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 September 2025.

WHEREAS, this report shows the following balances on September 30, 2025

FUND	CASH BALANCE	APPROPRIATION BALANCE	FUND BALANCE
(10) General Current Expense Fund	\$3,601,848.75		\$1,764,029.33
(10) General Current Expense		\$0.00	
(11) Current Expense		\$1,479,145.24	
(12) Capital Outlay		\$1,594,598.66	
(13) Special Schools		\$60,551.15	
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(\$77,112.50)	\$99,806.18	\$0.00
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$3,138.30	(\$816,461.91)	\$586,804.37
(40) Debt Service Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	\$3,527,874.55	\$2,417,639.32	\$2,350,833.70
Wealth Mgmt - Capital Reserve	\$8,440,000.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Operating	\$3,200,000.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Capital Projects	\$9,312,101.00		
Wealth Mgmt - Debt Service	\$82,668.17		
TOTAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT	\$21,034,769.17		
(62) Food Service Account	\$180,406.96	(\$418,563.05)	\$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 September 2025

RESOLVED, the Board of Education ratifies the 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
Melissa Smolenski	WMS	Preschool Series: Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Students with Disabilities	Monroe Twp	Oct 2025, Jan and April 2026	\$543

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. Student Transportation - Morris Union Jointure Commission

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the transportation contract with Morris Union Jointure Commission during the 2025-2026 School Year as follows:

School	Student ID #	Transportation Cost (Per diem)
DLC	1688687297	\$160.74

B.6. Donation - Weiniger Realty

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts a donation of \$2,000 from Weiniger Realty for the creation of the district strategic plan video.

C. Personnel/Student Services

C.1. Employment for the 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED, upon recommendation from the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel items including the emergent

employment of the following employees (indicated by *) conditional upon the final approval by the New Jersey Department of Education The Board further authorizes the submission of an application for emergency hiring pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1, et. Seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:6.14.12, et. Seq., if applicable Staff members shall be paid in accordance with provisions in their collective bargaining agreement and/or in accordance with a schedule provided to all employees prior to the beginning of the contract or school year:

Name	Position	Location	Degree	Step	Salary	Stipend	Total Salary	Tenure	Effective Date	Discussion
Francisca Orellana-Monge	Bus Monitor	District	N/A	N/A	\$15,579	\$0	\$15,579	No	On or around November 10, 2025, through June 30, 2026	Replacing Employee #3537
Sydney Fielding	Special Education Teacher	ALT	MA	1	\$70,336	\$0	\$70,336	Yes	On or around December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026	Replacing Employee #3992

C.2. Substitute Teachers

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

Name
Andrew Cantone
Cassidy Meeks
Juliana Porcelli

C.3 Long Term Substitute

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following Long Term Substitute:

Name	Dates	Employee #
Sadie Nochimson	August 28, 2025, through October 30, 2025	#0667

(This motion supersedes the previous motion approved on August 25, 2025)

C.4. Substitute Custodian

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

Name
Brendan Vlasak

C.5. Leave Request

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

Employee ID	Paid/Unpaid
#0667	FMLA - August 26, 2025, through November 7, 2025 (Paid) (This motion supersedes the previous motion approved on September 29, 2025)
#2167	Intermittent FMLA - October 14, 2025, through December 12, 2025 (Paid)
#1291	Intermittent FMLA - October 14, 2025, through March 30, 2026 (Paid)
#0431	Intermittent FMLA - October 6, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Paid)
#2795	Intermittent NJFLA - October 13, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Paid)
#3958	Medical Leave - March 2, 2026, through March 23, 2026 (Paid) FMLA - March 24, 2026, through March 27, 2026 (Paid) FMLA - March 30, 2026, through April 24, 2026 (Unpaid) NJFLA - April 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (Unpaid) NJFLA - First day of school through September 11, 2026 (Unpaid)
#3218	Medical Leave - March 27, 2026 through April 24, 2026 (Paid) Medical Leave - April 27, 2026 through May 8, 2026 (Unpaid) Child Rearing Leave - May 11, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (Unpaid) Extended Leave - First Day of School through June 30, 2027 (Unpaid)

- C.6. Approval to Abolish Positions
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the abolishment of the following positions for 2025-2026 school year:

Location	Position	Full-Time Equivalent
ALT	1:1 Paraprofessional (32.5 Hours)	1.0

- C.7. Retirement/Resignation
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the retirement/resignations of the following staff:

Name	Position	Location	Retirement/ Resignation	Dates of Service
Vivian Plesmid	ELA Teacher	WMS	Retirement	March 25, 2003, through June 30, 2026
*Paula Williams	ELL Teacher	CS	Retirement	March 15, 2004, through June 30, 2026
Brenda Sasso	ELA Teacher	WMS	Retirement	January 12, 1999, through June 30, 2026

(This motion supersedes the previous motion approved on September 29, 2025)

- C.8. Warren Academy Courses - Instructor Stipend 2025-2026
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following staff for reimbursement as an Instructor. Each instructor will be reimbursed at the WTEA contractual rate \$50.00 per hour.

Staff Member	Course	Date	Prep Hours	Instructor Hours	Cost Total Not to Exceed
Beth Alcaraz	Autism de-escalation strategies	December 16, 2025	3	1	\$200
Beth Alcaraz	Autism discrete trial instruction at ALT	November 18, 2025	1	1	\$100
Christina Barlik	Voices Beyond Words: Unlocking Communication Through AAC	November 5, 2025	3	1	\$200
Cynthia Cassidy	Gamifying Learning	November 13, 2025	3	1	\$200
Cynthia Cassidy	Using Gemini in the Classroom	December 15, 2025 & March 2, 2026	2	2	\$200
Cynthia Cassidy	Gimkit for WMS	December 4, 2025	1	1	\$100
Cynthia Cassidy	Incorporating Choice in the Middle School Classroom	December 10, 2025	1	1	\$100
Cynthia Cassidy	Blooket for WMS	December 11, 2025	1	1	\$100

- C.9. 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	Base Salary	Stipend	Total Salary
Alison Fernandes	October 6, 2025 through June 30, 2026	1:1 Paraprofessional (32.5 Hours) ALT	1:1 Paraprofessional (30 Hours) MTH	\$29,615	\$0	\$29,615

- C.10. Multilingual Learners Parent Information Night- Staff
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following employees for their participation in the Virtual MLL Parent Information Night at the WTEA contractual rate of \$50 per hour per employee, for a total cost not to exceed \$200.00 fully funded using Federal Funds.

Names	
Minelli De Matos	Sandra Rama
Lauren Valera	Paula Williams

XV. Unfinished Business

XVI. New Business

- ~~Rowan School Regionalization Institute - A Feasibility Study on Regionalization and Shared Services in the Watchung Hills Regional, Warren, Long Hill, Watchung, and Green Brook School Districts~~

XVII. Public Commentary (any topic)

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XIX. 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.