

LITTLE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 6:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Capizzi called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Meetings Act, the Little Falls Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by notifying the Board's official newspaper, the local parent-teacher associations, and posting same on the Community Bulletin Board and the District's Website.

IV. ROLL CALL

	Yes	No	Abstain/Absent
Ms. Janine Barone	✓		
Ms. Desiree DiBuono	✓		
Ms. Patricia Lijoi			✓ ABSENT
Ms. Nicole Smith	✓		
Mr. Michael Tullo	✓		
Ms. Shannon Zurbruegg	✓		
Dr. Rachel Capizzi	✓		

Also Present: Tracey Marinelli, Superintendent (VIA Zoom) and Mrs. Melissa Sanzari-Stevens, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mrs. Tracey Marinelli, Superintendent (VIA Zoom) and Mrs. Melissa Sanzari-Stevens, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, present the 2026-2027 School Budget to the Board of Education members.

VI. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC – (Limited to Agenda Items Only)

M: Mrs. Barone

S: Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Burell, Little Falls, NJ, expressed concerns about the absence of a dedicated Reading Specialist in the 2026-2027 Budget.

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VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

	Yes	No	Abstain/Absent
Ms. Janine Barone	✓		
Ms. Desiree DiBuono	✓		
Ms. Patricia Lijoi			✓ Absent
Ms. Nicole Smith	✓		
Mr. Michael Tullo	✓		
Ms. Shannon Zurbruegg	✓		
Dr. Rachel Capizzi	✓		

M: Mrs. Barone

S: Mr. Tullo

1. The Little Falls Board of Education approves the transfer of \$40,000.00 from the district's Maintenance Reserve Fund into the 2026-2027 budget for the purpose of covering ongoing cost to maintain buildings.
2. The Little Falls Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$111,048.00. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.
3. The Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$583,913.46. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.
4. WHEREAS, the Little Falls Board of Education policy No. 6471 and N.J.A.C.6A:23A-1.2(b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Little Falls Board of Education appropriated \$ 17,000.00 for travel and expense during the 2025-2026 school year and has spent \$5,684.96 as of March 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Little Falls Board of Education, hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2026 - 2027 school year at the sum of \$75,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

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5. The Little Falls Board of Education budget be approved for the 2026-2027 -School Year and that the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline and to be submitted to the taxpayers as follows:

	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$21,426,218.00	\$18,723,336.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$ 408,286.00	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$ 2,711,655.00	\$ 2,212,360.00
TOTALS:	\$24,546,159.00	\$ 20,935,696.00

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Little Falls Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

M: Mrs. DiBuono

S: Mrs. Smith

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

ABSENT:1

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Sanzari Stevens

Melissa Sanzari- Stevens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary