

LITTLE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- 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
- V. CORRESPONDENCE
- VI. MINUTES

MOVE that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the Minutes of the following Meeting.

- 1. Regular Meeting – February 17, 2026
- 2. Executive Meeting February 17, 2026

M:

S:

- VII. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC – **(Limited to Agenda Items Only)**
- VIII. PRESENTATION-

1. Hornet of The Month

School #3

- 3rd Grade Hornet of The Month – Arianna Palatucci
- 4th Grade Hornet of The Month- Mariyah Elsamny

School #2

- Kindergarten- Jaad Qarmout
- 1st Grade- Jackson Byalick
- 2nd Grade- Dominic Pecache

School #1

- 5th Grade Hornet of The Month- George Thalab
- 6th Grade Hornet of The Month- Corrado Visaggio
- 7th Grade Hornet of The Month- Eliana Abduramani
- 8th Grade Hornet of The Month- Carter Bromley
- January Hornet of The Month 8th Grade- Madelyn Larionoff

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2. Passaic County Poster Calendar Contest Winner

- Jasmina Lalic
- Leia Morgan-Archer

IX. PRESIDENT’S REPORT- Dr. Capizzi

X. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Mrs. Tracey Marinelli)

1. Superintendent’s Report.

(Exhibit A)

- 2. BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Little Falls Board of Education affirms the Superintendent’s decision in HIB investigations (SC2-003-1-23-26-LFD-008) for the reason set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the students’ parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board’s decision to affected students’ parents.

M:

S:

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

**XI. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT-
(Melissa Sanzari-Stevens)**

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XIII. SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

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XIV. CONSENT AGENDA

M:

S:

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

XV. PTA LIAISONS

XVI. LITTLE FALLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION LIAISON

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS

XVIII. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

M:

S:

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

M:

S:

XX. ADJOURNMENT

M:

S:

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSENT AGENDA (XIV)

Be IT RESOLVED, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS in conjunction with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary move that the following actions be taken:

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A. PERSONNEL, NEGOTIATIONS, AND FINANCE

1. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the list of bills dated March 24, 2026, Warrant No.'s # 32178(recut for lost check #32133)thru #32246 (Current Account) totaling \$1,593,986.19; Wire Transfer #03102026 (Health Insurance)totaling \$ 381,835.47 Warrant No. #1364 thru # 1367 (Cafeteria Account) totaling \$58,977.87 ; Warrant #1105 thru #1106 (Before & After Care Account) totaling \$70.82; Wire Transfers #02192026, # 03092026, & 03112026 (Postage) totaling \$300.00;Wire transfers # 03112026 (Pers ER Liability) totaling \$255,438.00 be paid if, properly sworn to and funds are available in accordance with Board of Education Policy and to be appended to the minutes of this meeting. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11I3, certifies that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) and the Board of Education, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, certifies that after review of the Board Secretary's & Treasurer's --monthly financial reports that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). Further, the Board of Education and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certify that major accounts/fund balances have not been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(Exhibit B)

2. The Little Falls Board of Education authorize the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary's action of making transfers prior to the Board Meeting as per the attached February 28, 2026 Transfer Report.

(Exhibit B-1)

3. The Little Falls Board of Education accept the Treasurer and Secretary's Reports for the month ending February 28, 2026.

(Exhibit C)

4. WHEREAS, the Little Falls Board of Education ("the Board") solicited proposals for landscaping services; and

WHEREAS, the Board received one quote; and

WHEREAS, Paul C. Pytal, LLC submitted a proposal for landscaping services in the amount of \$24,700.00; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds Paul C. Pytal, LLC's proposal to be most advantageous, price and other factors considered; and

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WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for landscaping services to Paul C. Pytal, LLC pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37, which allows a Board to award a contract without public bidding when the contract amount does not exceed the qualified purchasing agent bid threshold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board awards the contract for landscaping services to Paul C. Pytal, LLC LLC, 40 Houston Road Little Falls, NJ 07424 in the amount of \$24,700.00.

5. The Little Falls Board of Education amend Bergen County Special Services School District Educational Enterprise Division to provide audiology services for student 2003142 and **student 2002582** at a rate not to exceed **\$780.00**, for a maximum of **two hours, per student**.
6. The Little Falls Board of Education accept the following, pursuant to Board of Education Policy #7230, "Gifts, Grants and Donations," for the 2025-2026 school year.

A.

Date	Check Number	Amount	Received From	Donation for
2/26/2026	1976	\$700.00	School #1 PTA	7 th Grade Field Trip
2/26/2026	1977	\$700.00	School #1 PTA	8 th Grade Field Trip
2/26/2026	1978	\$700.00	School #1 PTA	6 th Grade Field Trip
2/26/2026	1979	\$700.00	School #1 PTA	5 th Grade Field Trip

7. **WHEREAS**, the Little Falls Board of Education advertised bids for Little Falls Roof Replacements at School No. 2 and School No. 3 ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2026, the Board received ten bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Arco Construction Inc. (Arco) submitted the lowest responsible bid with a base bid in the amount of \$1,774,000 which is responsive in all material respects; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for the Project to Arco Construction Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to Arco Construction Inc. for a total contract sum of \$1,774,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the Project specifications, together with an

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AA201-Project Manning Report, and an executed AIA Agreement, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and the terms contained in the bid documents and specifications for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

8. **WHEREAS**, the Little Falls Board of Education advertised bids for Little Falls Art Room, Toilets & Stairs Renovations (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2026, the Board received twelve bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Accurate Construction, Inc. (“Accurate Construction”) submitted the lowest responsible bid with a base bid in the amount of \$644,900 and Alternate No.1 in the amount of \$17,690, for a total bid in the amount of \$662,590, which is responsive in all material respects; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for the Project to Accurate Construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to Accurate Construction for a total contract sum of \$662,590; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the Project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, and an executed AIA Agreement, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and the terms contained in the bid documents and specifications for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

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9. **WHEREAS**, the Little Falls Board of Education ("Board") is a member of the ESCNJ #65MCESCCPS Cooperative Pricing System; and

WHEREAS, the Board has deemed it necessary and in the best interest of the district to supply and install a new Voice/Evacuation Fire Alarm system at School #2; and

WHEREAS, Open Systems Integrators, INC (OSI) ("Vendor") is a qualified, authorized contractor under ESCNJ Bid # Q25-0800, which is active from June 2026 and

WHEREAS, the vendor has provided a proposal for the project in the amount of \$ 527,664.07; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent/School Business Administrator/Purchasing Agent recommends the award of this contract to Open Systems Integrators, Inc. through the ESCNJ cooperative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the contract to supply and install a new Voice/Evacuation Fire Alarm system at School #2 to: Open Systems Integrators, Inc.

211 Yardville Hamilton Square Road, Hamilton, NJ 08620

For a Total Contract Amount of \$ 527,664.07

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, along with the approved proposal, the ESCNJ bid, and the Cooperative Pricing System Agreement, constitute the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate this award.

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

	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$21,426,218.00	\$18,723,336.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$ 374,407.00	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$ 2,711,655.00	\$ 2,212,360.00
TOTALS:	\$24,512,280.00	\$ 2,093,569.60

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Herald & News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be held in the Multi-Purpose Room at School #1, 32 Stevens Avenue, Little Falls, New Jersey on April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. School #1 for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing on the Budget for the 2026 - 2027 School Year, with the regularly scheduled meeting to follow immediately after the Budget Presentation.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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 2025-2026 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 insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

15. The Little Falls Board of Education approves the appointment of Melissa Sanzari-Stevens as the Purchasing Agent for the Little Falls Township School District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Purchasing Agent is authorized to award contracts up to his bid threshold of \$53,000.00 and establish the quote threshold at \$7,950.00. (These are the amounts for a Qualified Purchasing Agent.)

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16. The Little Falls Board of Education amend/approve Kid Clan for the following services for the 2025-2026 school year.

<u>EVALUATIONS</u>	<u>FEE</u>
Occupational Therapy	\$365.00
Physical Therapy	\$365.00
Monolingual Speech	\$365.00
Monolingual Psychological	\$365.00
Monolingual Educational	\$365.00
Monolingual Social	\$365.00
Bilingual Speech	\$465.00
Bilingual Psychological	\$465.00
Bilingual Educational	\$465.00
Physical Therapy Service	\$115.00 per hour
LDTC Therapy Services	\$ 90.00 per hour
IEP Meeting Attendance	\$110.00 per hour

17. The Little Falls Board of Education authorize the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the attached bills list dated through March 24, 2026, to the trustee M&T Bank, for the purpose of the Passaic County improvement Authority Projects (PCIA).

(Exhibit D)

18. The Little Falls Board of Education amend Performance Pediatrics, 156 Rt 15, North Lafayette NJ for Speech/Language Therapy services, for a total of **six- and one-half hours** per week at a rate of \$89.00 per hour, with a \$55.00 meeting and scheduling fee and a one percent administrative fee, January 6, 2026 through April 24, 2026, contingent upon a satisfactory criminal history review, appropriate NJ certification, and personnel clearance.
19. The Little Falls Board of Education amend the following staff member and rate effective, **March 1, 2026** through April 30, 2026 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mentor	Provisional Teacher	School	Certificate	Rate	Weeks
Diane Simmons	Samantha Conforti	School #2	CEAS	\$122.28	7 weeks

20. The Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to the following individuals for chaperoning the 7th and 8th grade dance at School #1 on March 12, 2026, at the contractual chaperone rate of \$42.50 per hour, for three hours.

Employees	Date	Amount
Jessica Prawetz	3/12/2026	\$127.50
Briana Cruz	3/12/2026	\$127.50
Sonia Santos	3/12/2026	\$127.50

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21. The Little Falls Board of Education approve/ratify payment to Jayashree Sathyamurthi for extracurricular supervision for the 7th and 8th Grade Dance on March 12, 2026 at the contractual chaperone rate of \$30.00 per hr., for a maximum of three hours.
22. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the approval of the following maternity leave of absence for the 2025-2026 school year:

25/26 SY

Name	Position/ Location	Leave Start Date	Accumulated Sick days Applied	FMLA Start date	NJFLA Date	EXTENDED LEAVE Unpaid leave/no benefits	Date of Return (Anticipated)
5091	Sch. 1	09/07/2026			9/7/2026 Through 11/29/2026		11/30/2026

23. The Little Falls Board of Education approve Elba Castrovinci as Director of Special Services & Curriculum Coordinator, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
(Exhibit D-1)
24. The Little Falls Board of Education rescind the appointment of Leslie Cornejo, ABA paraprofessional.
25. The Little Falls Board of Education approve Sophie Nicholaides, ABA paraprofessional, Effective April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, Step 1, pending all background checks.

B. EDUCATION AND STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

1. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the following new substitute applicants supplied to us by the Northern Regional Educational Services Commission Substitute Teacher Registry. All substitutes have filed Federal Form I-9, and are in possession of acceptable clearance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1/18A:39-10.1/18A:6-4.14: (Exhibit E)
2. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the following Caldwell University student for observations for the following:

Jeremy Atiencia
3. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the submission of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan to the county office.
4. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the field trips as attached.
(Exhibit F)

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5. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the calendar and schedule for the 2026-2027 Extended School Year Program as follows:

ESY Program Dates: Monday July 6, 2026 through Thursday July 30, 2026
Monday through Thursday Only

ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD AT SCHOOL 1

6. The Little Falls Board of Education approve/ratify The Cub Scouts Pack 14, visit to The Hive Aftercare Program, for Schools 2 and 3, on March 6, 2026.
7. The Little Falls Board of Education amend the 2025-2026 District School Calendar as circulated.
(Exhibit G)
8. The Little Falls Board of Education approve 2026-2027 District School Calendar as circulated.
(Exhibit H)
9. The Little Falls Board of Education approves 2026-2027 Custodial Office Calendar as circulated.
(Exhibit I)
10. The Little Falls Board of Education approves 2026-2027 Central Office Calendar as circulated.
(Exhibit J)

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11. The Little Falls School District Board of Education, in the County of Passaic, New Jersey approves the following amended tuition rates for non-resident pupils for events for 2024 – 2025 School Year.

REGULAR TUITION	2024-2025 School Year
Preschool/Kindergarten	\$ 15,882.00
Grades 1 – 5	\$ 17,768.00
Grades 6-8	\$ 18,588.00

SPECIAL EDUCATION	2024- 2025 School Year
LLD1 Program	\$ 28,509.00
LLD2/MD	\$ 40,993.00
Pre-k Dis F/T	\$ 38,161.00

C. **MAINTENANCE, BUILDING & GROUNDS AND REFERENDUM COMMITTEE**

1. The Little Falls Board of Education approve the use of district facilities by the following community groups who have filed the proper application form and have submitted proof of necessary insurance coverage:

School #1 *approve/ratify

Date	Event	Location and Time	Requested By:	Cost
6-4-2026 through 6-6-2026	St. George Antiochian Festival	School #2 Parking Lot 6:00pm-11:00pm (6-4/ 6-5) 3:00pm-11:00pm (6-6-2026)	St. George Antiochian Church	\$0.00

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D. HEALTH, SAFETY AND POLICY COMMITTEE

1. The Little Falls Board of Education hold a second reading of the following policy alert 236: (Exhibit K)

P	0142.1	Nepotism (M)(Revised)
P	1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)(Revised)
P&R	1552	Sexual Harassment- Staff (M)(Revised)
P&R	2530	Resource Material (Revised)
P&R	2535	Library Material (M)(New)
P	3362	Sexual Harassment (M)(Abolished)
R	3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
P	4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
R	4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
P&R	9130	Public Complaints (Revised)