Laurel Springs School District
Board of Education
623 Grand Avenue
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2026, 6:30 PM

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Board President, Mr. Douglas DelPidio.

1.2 Open Public Meeting Statement:
Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published on the school district's website, and electronic notice was sent by the Board Secretary to the Laurel Springs Borough. In accordance with P.L. 2025, c. 72, required legal notices will be published on the Board of Education's official website, where they are available for public review.

1.3 Roll Call:

Mrs. Betty Hobbs	Present
Mr. Matthew Minder	Absent
Mrs. Giavonna DelPidio	Present
Mrs. Monica Korn	Present
Mr. Timothy DiMarco	Present
Mrs. Kimberley Brisbin	Present
Mrs. Kate Buckingham	Present
Mr. Douglas DelPidio	Present

Other Attendees:
Mr. Steve Crispin, Superintendent
Mr. James McCullough, BA/Board Secretary

At that time, the Board entered into Executive Session until 7:00 p.m. The public portion resumed at 7:00 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

2.1 Motion to approve the following Resolution and enter into an Executive Session:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances exist;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Town of Laurel Springs in the County of Camden and State of New Jersey, as follows: The public shall be excluded from discussion on the actions upon the hereinafter specified subject matter: Personnel matters, contracts/litigations, negotiations, matters of attorney/client privilege. Any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as is practicable. Minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene to public session at the conclusion of the executive session. This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

Motion: Mrs. Korn | **Second: Mrs. Hobbs** | **Time: 6:30pm** | ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

3. DISCLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPROPRIATE)

3.1 Return to Public Session
Motion to resume Public Session

Motion: Mrs. Brisbin | **Second: Mrs. Buckingham** | **Time: 6:56pm** | ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

4. **MEETING OPENING CONTINUED**

4.1 Pledge of Allegiance

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes May 6, 2026.pdf

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2026.

Motion by Mrs. Korn, second by Mrs. Brisbin

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: **Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio**

5.2 Executive Meeting Minutes (if available)

May 6 26 LS Exec Mtg Minutes.pdf

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2026.

Motion by Mrs. Korn, second by Mrs. Brisbin

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: **Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

6.1 Visitors' Comments

Limited Citizen Participation- This is the first of two opportunities in which the public would like to address the Board on Board Agenda items only.

Concerns stated, or actions requested by the public, will be taken under advisement by the board for investigation, discussion, and action or disposition at a later time/date.

Pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12(b), the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board shall not discuss personnel, litigation, Negotiations, Attorney-Client Privilege matters and shall not respond to comments made by members of the public.

Employees of the Laurel Springs School District retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not entertain such comments. Nor shall the Board be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Further, the Board asks that citizens who choose to speak at a public board meeting be reminded that comments should always be respectful, non-defamatory and should maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a meeting of a public body.

When addressing the Board, please respect the following procedure:

1. Be recognized by the Board President
2. State your full name and address before commenting.
3. Identify the resolution on which you will comment.
4. Limit your comment(s) to the specific resolution.
5. Per Policy #0167, each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five-minute duration.

- **Kate Robertella**, 418 Park Ave -Stated the BOE Seat Vacancy was announced via Email in April, however found out yesterday that another vacancy was recently posted, but only on the website. Ms. Robertella submitted her resume and cover letter today, only to be told the deadline had closed. She spoke to the Board Secretary who said the Vacancy Announcement was not shared via Email, just posted on the Districts website. Ms. Robertella shared concerns that there is only one candidate now, but many others would have applied. She continued that the BOE represents the whole community and requests that the application deadline be extended and the policy be revised to include sharing any future vacancy via email or standard district communication, not just the website. Ms. Robertella then spoke on the principal recommendation, sharing that many wish not for long-term hire, but act in the best interest of staff and students with the best hire. The Superintendent and Staff went through an interview process and recommend their top choice. She stated that the staff care the most about our kids and want quality over longevity and recommended that BOE members recuse themselves from a vote if they have a close relationship with a Principal candidate.
- **Holly Morrison**, 227 Washington -Shared her disappointment that the BOE Vacancy was not announced via Email or Class Dojo, the same as the previous announcement was.

- **Rosemary Pedano**, 210 R -Discussed Sunshine Law and District Agenda should be posted 48 hours in advance and Meeting Minutes should be posted promptly. Stated that tonight's agenda just became available today and that minutes are not current from January. She's interested in where her tax money is being spent and would like to stay informed of district happenings.
- **Ryan Plotts**, 437 Glen Ave -He's incredibly invested in this town. Implored the BOE to consider a Principal who would remain in that role for a long time. Continued that as Baseball Commissioner in town, his relationship with the Principal is an important one, as they assist with coordination for league registration. Stated that constant turnover in the position is disruptive in many ways.
- **Dr. Mariana Collins**, 602 E Atlantic Ave -Glad to see that the District has opted to separate the Principal and Superintendent positions and suggests continuing that. Stated that many on the BOE know her from continuous attendance at BOE meetings and that the many infractions she identified is why previous Principal/Superintendent is no longer at the District. She continued stating the next Principal should not be mediocre, they should be top quality, what the teachers want and students need. The Principal should not be someone your know or are friends with, if they are, she will work to find State and Federal violations and continue to file civil suits against the district.
- **Rocco M** -Moved to Laurel Springs about 8 years ago, thinks it's a very special community. Continued that the District needs leadership that lives and breathes Laurel Springs, not someone that will be using the position as a stepping stone. History of the Principal position shows much transition, the District needs someone that is more vested in the community.
- **Joshua Hahn**, 522 Glen Ave -Thanked the BOE for volunteering and leading the BOE, understands that it's not an easy position. Continued with selecting a Principal is also not easy, which made tonight's meeting a big one to attend. He shared his disappointment in the current BOE Seat Vacancy not being communicated in the same manner as the previous posting, feels it lacks transparency. He suggested requiring Email, Class Dojo, or other Standard Communication forms to notify of future vacancies and requested an extension for applications for the current opening. He continued that stability should be the top priority for the next Principal hire, who wants to build something meaningful and will meet the top priority for the next Principal hire, who wants to build something meaningful and will meet students' needs during their time. Mr. Hahn said uncertainty is difficult, but the BOE should hire someone invested in the community, not someone building a resume, someone who values inclusion and understands all the supports our students need.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

- HIB Report
- April Safety Drills- Fire drill 4/29/26 @ 1:07pm
- April 2026 Nurse's Report
- **MANDATED TRAINING** - The following board members have been registered to complete their mandated training online. You should have received an email from NJSBA with your online course information. The DEADLINE to complete the course is December 31, 2026. Please let Mr. McCullough or Mrs. Dolce know if you have any questions.

BOE Member	Course	Form	Deadline
Matt Minder	Governance IV	Online	12/31/2026
Kimberly Brisbin	Governance IV	Online	Complete
Monica Korn	Governance III	Online	12/31/2026
Tim DiMarco	Governance I	Online	Complete
Gia DelPidio	Governance II	online	12/31/2026

- **School Board Election - Nomination Petition** - The following information is provided for Board of Education members whose current term will expire on December 31, 2026 and who may be interested in seeking re-election.
  Nomination Petition Filing Deadline:
  - The deadline to file a Nomination Petition for the School Board Election on November 4, 2026 is **Monday, July 27, 2026, before 4:00 p.m.**
  - Petitions must be filed with the Camden County Clerk's Office either in person or by mail. (*Note: Petitions must be received—not postmarked—by the deadline.*)
  - Petitions must now include a minimum of 25 valid signatures to be considered complete.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. YELLIN REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

10. LAUREL SPRINGS REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

11. HSC REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S BOARD ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Resolution No. 0520-1
Motion to approve 2026-27 renewal with Just Kids. Just Kids Contract 2026-27

12.2 Resolution No. 0520-02
Motion to approve the Dragon Camp Schedule -July 7-July 30, 2026 from 9am-12pm.

12.3 Resolution No. 0520-03
Motion to approve the following Dragon Camp staff:

- Bart White
- Brian Hofacker
- Vicki Bill
- Emma Cavallaro
- Alexa Davis
- Debbie Bertolino
- Janet Cybulski
- Kaitlyn Nutley

12.4 Resolution No. 0520-04 Summer Hours
Motion to approve summer hours Monday – Thursday from 7am-1pm; June 22- August 27.

12.5 Resolution No. 0520-05
Motion to approve the reimbursement in the amount of $148.50, from account 11-00-213-610, to Lisa Corrigan.
L Corigan CE

12.6 Resolution No. 0520-06 – TABLED
Motion to approve the appointment of the new principal to become effective on July 1, 2026.

Motion to table item 12.6
Motion by Mrs. Brisbin, second by Mrs. Hobbs
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio
Abstain: Monica Korn
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

12.7 Resolution No. 0520-07
Motion to approve Mrs. Julie Knipfer as an eleven-month Supervisor of Special Services effective July 1, 2026 at an annual salary of $105,000.

12.8 Resolution No. 0520-08
Dollar amount $77.48
Budget Source 11-000-230-890
Motion to approve a reimbursement for BOE member Kate Buckingham for her Criminal History Review Fees.

12.9 Resolution No. 0520-09
Dollar amount $66.59/per hour
Budget Source 11-150-100-320
Motion to approve the Hospital School Program Service Agreement with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for the provision of hospital school instructional services for student SID# 1773385181 during the 2025–2026 school year, at a rate of $66.59 per hour of service, not to exceed five (5) hours per week, as needed, in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement.
12.9 CHOP Hospital School Program Service Agreement.pdf

12.10 Resolution No. 0520-10
Dollar amount $2,200
Budget Source 20-231-200-100
Motion to approve Janet Cybulski as Title I Coordinator in the amount of $2200.

Approval of Superintendent's Action Items
Motion to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendations (0520-01 – 0520-010), with exception of item 12.6.

Motion by Mrs. Brisbin, second by Mrs. Hobbs
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio

13. BILLS

13.1 Motion to approve the following Bill Lists:

Bill List 1	May 1, 2026	Fund S/a	$	246.72
Bill List 2	May 1, 2026	Fund 60	$	3,793.80
Bill List 3	May 6, 2026	Fund 60	$	4,751.80
Bill List 4	May 13, 2026	Fund 10	$	1,293.00
		Fund 11	$	267,600.07
		Fund 20	$	2,528.99
			$	271,422.60

** Fund S/A = Student Activities **

Motion by Mrs. DelPidio, second by Mrs. Brisbin
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio

14. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

14.1 Risk Management Consultant
WHEREAS, the **Laurel Springs School District** hereinafter referred to as DISTRICT, is a member of the Burlington County Insurance Pool Joint Insurance Fund, a self-insurance pooling fund; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of said Fund state that each DISTRICT may appoint a Risk Management Consultant, hereinafter referred to as RMC, to perform various professional services; and

WHEREAS, a fee as indicated in the attached Risk Management Consultant Agreement which expenditure represents reasonable compensation for the services required and was included in the cost considered by the DISTRICT; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-1 et. seq.) defines Insurance as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service requiring that the awarding of contracts without competitive bidding must be approved by resolution of this DISTRICT;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the DISTRICT does hereby appoint **The Barclay Group** as its RMC and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DISTRICT's Business Official/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Risk Management Consultant Agreement annexed hereto.
14.1 2026 BCIP RMC Agreement.pdf
14.1 2026 BCIP RMC Resolution.pdf

14.2 KDI, Inc. Copier Lease and Maintenance
Budget Source 11-190-100-500
Motion to approve the proposal from Keystone Digital Imaging, Inc. for the lease and maintenance of two Ricoh IM 7000 multi-functional copiers, including PaperCut software and related support services, for a sixty (60) month term at a monthly cost of $571.50 for copier services and $71.75 for PaperCut services. The agreement includes all service, supplies, installation, training, automatic meter collection, toner fulfillment, and removal of existing equipment at no additional charge. The Board authorizes the Business Administrator to execute all necessary documents related to this agreement on behalf of the District.
14.2 KDI Laurel Springs School District.pdf

14.3 Resolution Urging Relief from Rising Public School Employee Health-Care Costs
WHEREAS, At a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, Despite record levels of state investments in public education, these school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the mounting insolvency of the state's public employees health benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, Both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers alike; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, The seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, These projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, This growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, These cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, For the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences — including district deficits, program cuts and school closures — mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, These are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Implementing real, sustainable solutions to the rising cost of health benefits and reforming how benefits are delivered through the SEHBP would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's leadership and continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators and families, which directly advances our shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laurel Springs School District Board of Education in the county of Camden calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Laurel Springs School District Board of Education in the county of Camden urges the Governor to engage in meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term reforms to the state's system of delivering health care to its public employees in order to generate meaningful, long-term savings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, State Senator James Beach, Assemblywoman Melinda Kane, Assemblyman Louise D. Greenwald and the New Jersey School Boards Association.
14.3 DISTRICT 6 Rising Health Care Costs May2026 Sample Resolution NJSBA (002).pdf

14.4 ESS Northeast, LLC – Substitute Staffing
Dollar amount $154.66
Budget Source 11-421-200-300
Motion to approve an agreement with ESS for substitute staffing services from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
14.4 EXTLaurelSpringsSchoolDistrictNJESSNortheast2026-2027.pdf

Approval of Board Secretary's Action Items
Motion to Approve the Board Secretary's Recommendations (14.1 - 14.4) as presented above.

Motion by Mr. DiMarco, second by Mrs. Buckingham
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio

15. VISITOR'S COMMENTS - OPEN END, 5 MINUTE LIMIT

15.1 Public Comments
Limited Citizen Participation- This is the second of two opportunities in which the public would like to address the Board. The Board is limited in its ability to respond in public on the following matters: (Personnel, Litigation, Negotiations, Attorney-Client privileges).

- **Holly Madison**, 227 Washington Ave -Stated that in the past she has brought to the attention of BOE Members that a staff member had put their hands on a child and wanted to know if anything had been done about it? She requested re-training of all staff members and that she follows BOE agendas and has not seen any other trainings or professional developments approved. Mr. DelPidio stated that the Superintendent will follow up with her.

16. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. DelPidio discussed budget at last meeting with a difficult decision to not replace a staff member to reduce tax levy impact. Discussed budgetary concerns moving forward.

17. NEW BUSINESS

17.1 Board of Education Vacancy Interviews – TABLED

- Jacob Falana, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

All candidates will be afforded five minutes to introduce themselves and present responses to the questions below and potential follow-up questions. To be considered as a candidate for the vacancy, potential candidates should attend the BOE Meeting.

Candidate Questions for Vacancy on Board of Education

1. Why did you choose to apply for the vacant position on the Laurel Springs School District BOE?
2. What qualities/experience would you bring to the Laurel Springs School District BOE?
3. What do you think is the number one priority that the Laurel Springs School District BOE is facing?

Motion to table item 17.1 to revisit advertising
Motion by Mrs. Brisbin, second by Mrs. Korn
Yes: (6) Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Monica Korn
NO: (1) Doug DelPidio
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

17.2 Interim Superintendent
Motion to post for 2026-2027 interim Superintendent.

Motion by Mr. DiMarco, second by Mrs. Buckingham
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio

17.3 Doug DelPidio - Zoning Board Meeting tomorrow night to discuss building plans.

17.4 Kimberley Brisbin - Sterling High School Class of 2026 Valedictorian is LS Grad, all applauded.

19. ADJOURN

19.1 Adjourn Meeting
Motion to Adjourn the at 7:35pm

Motion by Mr. DiMarco, second by Mrs. Buckingham
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Monica Korn, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Douglas DelPidio

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James McCullough, Board Secretary