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

Special Meeting Minutes –June 29, 2026, 6:30 PM

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Meeting Called to Order: President, Mr. Douglas DelPidio at 6:30pm.

1.2 Open Public Meeting Statement:
"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend any meetings of public bodies at which their interests may be discussed or acted upon. In accordance with provisions of this Act, the Laurel Springs Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, purpose and place thereof published in the Courier Post and posted on authorized premises." The secretary certifies that all requirements of the Sunshine Law have been met.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Roll Call:

Mrs. Betty Hobbs	Present
Mr. Matthew Minder	Present
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. Bill Morlock, Board Solicitor

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1 Visitors' Comments – <u>AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – 5 MINUTE LIMIT</u>
Limited Citizen Participation- This is the first of two opportunities in which the public would like to address the Board.

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.

- **Holly Morrison** – asked about executive session and public comment procedures. Submitted request to SBA.
- **Andy Anderson** – asked about CSA decision
- **Kate Robertella** – commented on 5.1 ad 5.2, wanted a better shared service agreement.

  My goal tonight is to provide thoughtful input to ensure the Board is able to consider all community perspectives. It is my opinion that entering into this shared services agreement with Springfield Township and hiring an Interim Principal will lead to further leadership instability and is not in the best long-term interests of our students or our community.

  I'm asking the Board to take corrective action by immediately reaching out to our neighboring districts to begin working on a better shared services agreement for Superintendent. I understand that we need an agreement right now, but that doesn't mean that the board should stop looking for something that makes more sense.

  I am also urging the Board to prioritize hiring a full-time Principal as soon as possible.

  Having a full-time principal who is in the school 5 days a week is absolutely vital to fostering continuity and excellence in education for our children.

  I am advocating for decisions that reflect the community's desire for stable, long term leadership that best serves our students' needs.

  The Board and the Community should be working together to promote lasting positive outcomes for our children. I hope that the Board will fulfill its responsibility to act in the best interest of the students of this district.

  Thank you so much to Mr. Crispin on behalf of my kids and family; Welcome to Ms. Lacovara!

- **Doug DelPidio, Board President** gave an update on CSA and the County Superintendent disapproving the agreement. Introduced Mrs. Lacorvara.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

3.1 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. Brisbin** | **Time: 6:41pm** | ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

4. DISCLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPROPRIATE)

4.1 Return to Public Session
Motion to resume Public Session

Motion: Mrs. Korn | **Second: Mrs. Brisbin** | **Time: 7:00pm** | ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

5. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution No. 0629-01
Shared Services Agreement – Chief School Administrator Services
Motion to approve a Shared Services Agreement between the Laurel Springs Board of Education and the Springfield Township Board of Education for the provision of Chief School Administrator (CSA) Services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Under the terms

of the agreement, Springfield Township Board of Education shall provide CSA services to the Laurel Springs Board of Education at a per diem rate of $787.95 for an estimated 80 days of service, for a total estimated cost not to exceed $63,036.

Motion to table item 5.1

Motion by Mrs. Buckingham, second by Mrs. Korn

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

5.2 Resolution No. 0629-02
Motion to approve Mrs. Donna Lacovara as Interim Principal for the months of July and August at a contracted rate of $450 per day for three days per week.

5.3 Resolution No. 0629-03
Motion to approve Ms. Alyssa Stanley as a preschool teacher effective September 1, 2026 at a contracted rate of $59,816 which represents step 2 of the BA salary guide.

5.4 Resolution No. 0629-04
Motion to approve a contract with Partners In Learning Inc. for Behavior Consultation Services (BCBA) for the period of September 1, 2026 through June 15, 2027, for nine (9) hours per week at an hourly rate of $150/hr.

5.5. Resolution No. 0629-05
Dollar Amount $44,388.00
Be IT RESOLVED that the Laurel Springs School District Board of Education will enter into an SFA to SFA food service contract with the Sterling High School Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year. The pricing and total contract cost are outlined below:

Breakfast: $2.00 per meal
Lunch: $4.60 per meal
Total Contract Cost: $44,388.00

5.6. Resolution No. 0629-06
Dollar Amount $89,000
Budget Source 11-000-216-320
Motion to approve interpretation services from Sign 4U Interpreting Service, LLC for student SID# 8816321063 for the 2026-2027 school year, at a total cost not to exceed $89,000.

5.7. Resolution No. 0629-07
Dollar Amount: $495.00
Budget Source: 20-231-200-500
Motion to approve professional development attendance for Julie Knipfer – Participation in the IEP Facilitation Workshop.

5.8. Resolution No. 0629-08
Dollar Amount: $4,200.00
Budget Source: 11-000-219-320
Motion to approve a general services contract with Camden County Ed Services for LDTC services and learning evaluations not to exceed $4,200.00.

5.9. Resolution No. 0629-09
Dollar Amount: $7,746.00
Budget Source: 11-000-100-566
Motion to approve a prior year tuition adjustment (FY23) to Bancroft in the amount of $7,746.00.

5.10. Resolution No. 0629-10
Dollar Amount: $733.00
Budget Source: 11-000-100-566
Motion to approve a prior year tuition adjustment (FY25) to YALE School Southeast in the amount of $733.00.

5.11. Resolution No. 0629-11
Dollar Amount: $17,906
Budget Source: 11-209-100-106
Motion to approve ~~Ms. Kelsey Case~~, change to COLE WILLIAMS as a paraprofessional effective September 1, 2026, at the negotiated rate of pay.

Roll call to change

Motion: Mrs. DelPidio **Second: Mrs. Brisbin** ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

5.12. Resolution No. 0629-12
Motion to approve the submission of the 2026-2027 ESEA grant with the following amounts:
- Title I - $57, 313
- Title II - $ 9,322
- Title IV - $10, 000

5.13. Resolution No. 0629-13
Motion to approve to decline funds in Title III:
- $1, 961

Approval of Superintendent's Action Items

Motion by Mrs. Buckingham, second by Mrs. Korn that Resolutions 0629-02 - 0629- 13 are adopted.
Yes: Betty Hobbs, Giavonna DelPidio, Kate Buckingham, Kimberley Brisbin, Tim DiMarco, Monica Korn, Matt Minder, Douglas DelPidio

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Motion to approve sending to the executive county superintendent a six month CSA contract for approval of Steven Crispin at his current pay, prorated. This contract will be approved again after executive county superintendent approval at a meeting to be noticed for Thursday 7/2/2026.

Motion by Mrs. DelPidio, seconded by Monica Korn
YES: Mrs. Betty Hobbs, Mr. Matthew Minder, Mrs. Giavonna DelPidio, Mrs. Monica Korn, Mr. Timothy DiMarco, Mrs. Kimberley Brisbin, Mrs. Kate Buckingham, and Mr. Douglas DelPidio.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

6.2 Tim DiMarco asked about the public relations committee. He will now be chair per president, as former chair s no longer on the Board.

6.3 Steve Crispin discussed issues with website updates.

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

7.1 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 Morrison – sent via email (1st)
I have a procedural question regarding tonight's agenda.

The public notice for this special meeting was posted on June 18 and informed residents of the meeting's date, time, location, purpose, and that the Board would enter executive session. However, the agenda—which was not posted until approximately one day before tonight's meeting—revealed a significant procedural change.

After reviewing the Board's meeting agendas over the past two years, I found that the Board has consistently held the first public comment period after executive session. Tonight, for the first time, the agenda places the first public comment period before executive session, after which the Board returns to open session and proceeds directly to vote on the agenda items.

Can the Board explain why it chose to depart from its longstanding practice for this meeting?

While I understand that the Board has discretion in conducting its meetings, changes to established procedures that affect the timing of public participation should, in the interest of transparency, be communicated with sufficient advance notice so residents have an opportunity to understand and prepare for those changes.

My concern is not that the meeting itself was noticed—the public notice was posted on June 18—but rather that the change in the Board's established meeting format did not become apparent until the agenda was posted approximately one day before the meeting.

For the sake of transparency and the public record, I respectfully request that the Board explain the reason for this procedural change and ensure that both my question and the Board's response, if one is provided, are accurately reflected in the official meeting minutes. To assist with accuracy, I have submitted this comment to the Board Secretary via email and respectfully request that it be included in the meeting record.

Holly Morrison – Sent via email (2nd)
I would like to ask the Board to explain how the recent appointment to the vacant Board seat was consistent with the transparency principles recognized by the New Jersey Appellate Division in *Arminio v. Monroe Township Board of Education*.

Although the court acknowledged that a Board may discuss applicants in executive session, it emphasized the importance of returning to public session, providing the public with a meaningful explanation of the decision reached, and allowing for informed public discussion before proceeding with nominations and a vote. Those principles have been part of New Jersey case law for many years and exist to promote transparency and preserve public confidence in the Board's decision-making process.

During the recent appointment process, several qualified residents volunteered their time to serve this community. After executive session, the Board returned to open session and proceeded directly to nominations and a vote without publicly explaining the criteria used to evaluate the applicants or the factors that distinguished the successful candidate from the other qualified volunteers.

With that in mind, I respectfully ask:

• What objective criteria were established to evaluate each applicant?

• Were all applicants evaluated using the same standards?

• Can the Board provide a general explanation of the qualifications or factors that led to the selection of the successful candidate?

• Did the Board consider whether any close personal relationships between Board members and applicants should have been publicly disclosed in the interest of transparency and maintaining public confidence in the appointment process?

To be clear, I am not asking the Board to disclose confidential executive session discussions. Rather, I am asking for transparency regarding the process and the standards used to reach this important public decision, consistent with the guidance provided in *Arminio*.

As elected and appointed public officials, I would also hope that the Board is familiar with the transparency principles established by New Jersey courts and continues to incorporate those principles into its decision-making processes.

Finally, for the sake of an accurate public record, I respectfully request that the substance of my comments and each of the questions I have asked this evening be accurately reflected in the official meeting minutes.

To assist with accuracy, I have submitted this comment to the Board Secretary via email and respectfully request that it be included in the meeting record.

8. ADJOURN

8.1 Adjourn Meeting
Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:13pm.

Motion: Mrs. Brisbin **Second: Mrs. DelPidio** **Time: 7:13pm** ***Voice Vote: All in favor***

Final Resolution: Motion Carried