

Hi-Nella Board of Education
March 23, 2026
MINUTES

1A. CALL TO ORDER-Board President Theresa Tally

B. Open Public Meeting Statement

Mrs. Tally called the meeting to order pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act at 4:36 p.m. The secretary certifies that all requirements of the Sunshine Law have been met.

“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 interest may be discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Stratford Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, purpose and place thereof posted in the Courier Post on March 9, 2026 and on authorized premises.” Thank you for attending our Board meeting.

C. Roll Call

Present	Absent
Tyran Basil	
Davida Ryan	
Theresa Tally	

Request for approval of the following items:

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3. COMMUNICATIONS

4. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S NOTES

- Review tentative budget

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board welcomes participation of interested organizations and individuals. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to **agenda items only**. Public participation will be limited to thirty (30) minutes in length unless designated otherwise by the Board President. Each speaker will have five (5) minutes to address the Board in order to allow other individuals to speak.

NONE

A Motion was made by Mr. Basil, seconded by Ms. Ryan to approve the following:

6. MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- February 17, 2026

Yes: Basil, Ryan, Tally

No;

Abstain:

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Basil to approve items 7–10:

7. FINANCE

A. Finance Items

Financials for January and February 2026:

- that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary *can certify* that as of **January 31, 2026**, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the State Monitor for the Hi-Nella School District pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2 and no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.12 (a) 1.
- that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, the Hi-Nella School District after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and the Monthly Bank Reconciliation Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials *can certify* that as of **January 31, 2026**, that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a)1 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- The Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for **January 2026**.
- The transfer report for **January 2026**. - NONE
- that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary *can certify* that as of **February 28, 2026**, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the State Monitor for the Hi-Nella School District pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2 and no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.12 (a) 1.
- that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, the Hi-Nella School District after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and the Monthly Bank Reconciliation Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials *can certify* that as of **February 28, 2026**, that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a)1 and that

sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- The Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for **February 2026**.
- The transfer report for **January 2026**. – NONE

B. Bills Lists

- The bills list for March 2026 in the amount of \$989,220.71.

C. Castle Contract and homebound instruction

The contract with Castle and homebound instruction for Student ID# 5099270304 effective February 23, 2026 for approximately 6 weeks.

D. 2026 BOE Meeting Schedule

E. Tentative Budget 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-27 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	General Fund	Sp Revenue	Debt Service	Total
2026-2027				
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,456,152.00	\$ 23,686.00	\$ -	\$ 3,479,838.00
Less:				
Anticipated Revenues	\$ 1,927,844.00	\$ 23,686.00	\$ -	\$ 1,951,530.00
Taxes to be Raised	\$ 1,528,308.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,528,308.00

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Courier Post in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing be held at the Hi-Nella Boro Hall Council Chambers located at 100 Wykagyl Road on April 27, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

WHEREAS the Hi-Nella Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the School Business Administrator and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS the Hi-Nella Board of Education established \$0.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$0.00 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$350.00 plus the cost of admission and related travel for New Jersey School Boards (NJSBA) workshops for the 2026-2027 school year.

8. TRANSPORTATION & CAFETERIA

9. EDUCATION/CURRICULUM

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- Discussions on website access for education informational postings

Yes: Basil, Ryan, Tally

No:

Abstain:

11. OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC – (5-minute limit; 30 minutes total)

The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items directly related to the operation of the School District. Attempts to resolve problems and/or complaints should be addressed with the appropriate administrator(s) or staff member(s). Such matters should only be brought to the Board after all avenues within the chain of command have been exhausted. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response forthcoming if and when appropriate. Comments regarding individual students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. Please remember that the Board is limited in its ability to respond to the public on the following matters: personnel, anticipated and pending litigation, negotiations, attorney-client privilege, unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, tactics and techniques in protecting the safety and property of the public.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan seconded by Mr. Basil to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Trasatti, Board Secretary

Theresa Tally
President

Date