

SPECIAL MEETING DOCKET

HACKENSACK CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday, January 28, 2026 5:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Open Public Meeting Act: *The City Clerk announces that the meeting is being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meeting Act", N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to The Record and The Star Ledger and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.*
- b. Roll Call
- c. Flag Salute
- d. Approval of Minutes: None

II. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

III. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – None

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM PROFESSIONALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

- a. Department Head Reports – None
- b. City Professional Presentations – None
- c. City Manager's Report– None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items only)

VI. NEW BUSINESS (ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS)

- | | |
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| 1. Resolution #41-26 | Resolution Authorizing the City of Hackensack to Make a One-Time Transfer of Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000.00) to the Hackensack Board of Education to Maintain Educational Continuity for the Children of Hackensack for the 2025-2026 School Year by Way of An Amendment to the 2026 Temporary Budget |
| 2. Resolution #42-26 | Resolution Authorizing 2026 Emergency Temporary Appropriation |

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURN

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll	X		X				
Diaz			X				
Mayor Gaines							X

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 41-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HACKENSACK TO MAKE A ONE-TIME TRANSFER OF SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,500,000) TO THE HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAINTAIN EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE CITY FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR BY WAY OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Hackensack Board of Education (“BOE” or “Board”) is currently in the midst of a financial crisis due to a recently-discovered funding shortfall of over \$17,000,000 that, absent immediate intervention, will lead to a significant mid-school year Reduction in Force (i.e. layoffs), thereby severing instructional relationships and disrupting educational continuity for hundreds of Hackensack children; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education Trustees who assumed leadership positions in January 2025 (“current Trustees”) hired an independent auditor to assess the finances of the Hackensack Public Schools (“Schools” or “District”) who discovered a significant shortfall for the current school year and presented said findings to the public on January 21, 2026 in accordance with statutory timelines; and

WHEREAS, the audit revealed a systemic lack of fiscal diligence by former District administrators and the BOE from 2019 until it was discovered by the current Board Trustees in 2025, including reckless overspending and reliance on reserve funds, as well as the actions of the Board majority who unquestioningly and irresponsibly “rubber-stamped” over forty unbudgeted hires engendered by the erroneous claim, voiced repeatedly by then-Board President Scott James-Vickery, that Trustees could not and should not oppose personnel recommendations by the Superintendent, in clear contradiction with their statutory oversight obligations outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1 and fiduciary responsibilities outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council commend the current Trustees for seeking accountability and attempting to reclaim allegedly misappropriated funds by suing suspended Superintendent Thomas McBryde, Jr. and former Business Administrator Lydia Singh for allegedly conspiring with vendors to defraud the District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack ("City") must acknowledge actions taken by the previous Mayor and Council during the same period of 2019-2025 that also had an adverse budgetary impact on the District, such as granting over two dozen Long-Term Tax Exemptions ("PILOTs") to corporate developers for the purpose of constructing thousands of luxury housing units, which increased the student population without contributing a cent toward their education; and

WHEREAS, these properties were consequently removed from the City tax rolls, and the resulting "PILOT payments" are not statutory funds allocated to the Schools, thereby materially depriving the District of vital revenue for decades to come while shifting the financial burden onto taxpayers who do not benefit from exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the District's audit further revealed that the BOE forfeited approximately \$15,000,000 in tuition revenue since September 2020, and will continue to lose approximately \$4,500,000 annually, due to the severance of the half-century long sending-receiving relationship between the Hackensack and Maywood Public Schools in 2019, a move that was welcomed by former Hackensack Mayor John Labrosse in a December 26, 2018 Open Letter and an Op-Ed by former Hackensack Councilwoman Stephanie Von Rudenborg published on January 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City has a solemn responsibility to all its residents, most especially its children, who deserve a stable learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council understand that the BOE must and will act to reduce their spending and cut costs, and share in the belief that the children of the City of Hackensack should not "pay the price" for this shortfall mid-school year, especially as State Testing and the college admissions process are on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council share in the belief that access to a high-quality, public education is the fundamental bedrock of a thriving community and is essential for the future success and well-being of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council firmly believe that supporting our public schools will preserve property values, provide a free, quality-education for all children, and ensure the long-term vitality of the City of Hackensack; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council share in the voiced concerns of our District students and City residents, that the mid-year loss of classroom instructors would have a devastating and irreparable adverse impact on students, undermining educational programs, the continuity of instruction, and overall quality of the school system; and

WHEREAS, the Board must both urgently make cuts and pursue additional revenue streams in order to present a balanced budget for the 2026-2027 school year before they can be granted permission by the New Jersey Department of Education to use their own reserves to prevent the District from falling off a financial cliff; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further find that this crisis constitutes exigent circumstances warranting immediate municipal action, subject to compliance with all applicable State budget laws; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently operating under a temporary budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 and has been advised by its auditor that it maintains sufficient unassigned fund balance (reserves) to support a one-time transfer without impairing municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council take their fiduciary responsibility seriously and understand that providing one-time financial support is the most fiscally-responsible action that can be taken in the midst of the Schools' financial crisis; and

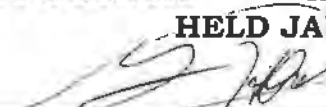
WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that in accordance with State Law, any such transfer must be unconditional, shall not constitute a loan or receivable, and must be authorized by the Division of Local Government Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The City hereby authorizes a one-time transfer of Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000) to the Hackensack BOE for the purpose of maintaining complete educational continuity for all students, as it is important that no child's learning environment is destabilized due to this budgetary crisis.
2. This transfer is conditioned upon:
 - a. Inclusion in the City's permanent municipal budget; and
 - b. Approval by the Division of Local Government Services for any required budget amendment.
3. The Chief Financial Officer, City Manager, and City Attorney are directed to prepare and submit all necessary documentation to the Division of Local Government Services to obtain approval for this appropriation.
4. This transfer shall be unconditional and shall create no repayment obligation or debt on the part of the Hackensack Board of Education.
5. By accepting these funds by resolution, the Board shall agree to preserve full and direct educational services and instructional stability for the 2025-2026 school year in order to maintain continuity for all District students as outlined above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT
THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK
HELD JANUARY 28, 2026**



TIMOTHY J. HOFFMAN, ACTING CITY CLERK

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins			X				
Carroll	X		X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines							X

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 42-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2026 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION - TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the following appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records.

2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Current Fund Budget

		Other Expenses
6-01-29-405-405	Contribution to Local School Board	\$ 6,500,000

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TIMOTHY J. HOFFMAN, ACTING CITY CLERK