

VIRTUAL Budget Hearing Meeting – March 25, 2026

The Budget Hearing Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Irvington was held Virtually on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. This meeting was called to order by Board President Syesha Benbow, followed by a flag salute.

Present were: Shante Barr
Annette Beasley
John Brown
Jordan Geffrard
Audrey Lyon
Joseph Sylvain
Joel Wanamaker
Janelle Lowery, Vice President
Syesha Benbow, President

Others: Dr. April Vauss, Superintendent of Schools
Craig Smith, QPA, Interim Assistant Superintend for Business/Board Secretary
Dr. Matin Adegboyega, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Sean Evans, Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Roger Monel, Associate School Business Administrator
Dr. Edna Correia, Assist. to the Assist. Superintendent for Curriculum and Inst.
Farrah Irving, Human Resource Manager
Ronald Hunt, Board Attorney
Several other administrators, interested citizens and newspaper reporters

Board President Syesha Benbow reported that in accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, adequate notice of this meeting was posted in the Administration Building and copies of said notice sent to the Irvington Herald, the Star Ledger, and Township Clerk.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Craig Smith, QPA, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary presented the budget with highlights in PowerPoint for all in attendance.

Dr. Matin Adegboyega, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction presented highlights outlining the programs and activities that impacted the budget via PowerPoint for all in attendance.

Dr. April Vauss, Superintendent of Schools thanked the Board for always being supportive of the district's innovations. She thanked the community stating their vote for the tax levy as well as those tax payers in the state make it possible to ensure the students received a "Quality Education". She ended by stating that as those in the community considered their vote for the budget in the affirmative the district will continue to "Build Our Community One Student at a Time".

DISTRICT BUDGET STATEMENT FOR 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Irvington Board of Education adopted a Tentative Budget on March 18, 2026 and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 25, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget was advertised in the public notice section of the Star Ledger on March 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Final Budget is presented at a public hearing held Virtually on March 25, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Final Budget for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$234,525,434.00 using the State Aid Figures which includes \$17,459,529.00 which shall be funded by local tax levy (no increase).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Irvington Board of Education has allotted maximum travel expenditure for the 2026-2027 school year of \$75,000.00 district wide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Irvington Board of Education includes in the maximum travel expenditure the per person travel amount for Regular Business travel not to exceed \$1,500.00 and no more than \$150.00 per day for Regular Business travel.

ACTION:

Motion by: Janelle Lowery, Seconded by: Shante Barr

Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on the dates as indicated, as corrected and transcribed, be received and filed.

February 11, 2026 Virtual Meeting

February 25, 2026 Special Virtual Meeting

ACTION:

Motion by: Annette Beasley, Seconded by: Joseph Sylvain

Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

PERSONNEL
MARCH 25, 2026

1. SEPARATIONS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approved the separation of the listed personnel, effective as indicated:

Retirements

Certificated

- (a) Valerie Benn, ELA Teacher, University Middle, Effective July 1, 2026. DOH 04/23/2001.

ACTION:

Motion by: Janelle Lowery, Seconded by: Annette Beasley

Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

2. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- (a) **AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR 2025-2026 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE SCHOOL**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve an After School Academic Enrichment Program for students in Grades 3-5. Attending high-quality afterschool programs and regular participation can lead to improved social and emotional competencies, including prosocial behavior, intrinsic motivation, better concentration efforts, and higher sense of self-worth, which will enhance students' performance on the NJSLA. The program will begin in March 2026 and conclude June 2026. The program will run on Mondays and Wednesdays for one hour per day. Six (6) teachers Denise Petersen, Gail McNeil, Valerie Lawson, Vendetta Manley-Keyes, Geraldine Emeh, Sandra Frederic will be hired. Each teacher will be paid \$47.00 per hour not to exceed a total of 60 hours and a cost of \$9024.00. Payable from account number 20-TI6-100-100-09-30.

Board approved on Curriculum: November 19, 2025, Item 24, Page 57.

ACTION:

Motion by: Janelle Lowery, Seconded by: Annette Beasley

Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

CURRICULUM
MARCH 25, 2026

3. **IRVINGTON TECH TITANS SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP T3 CREATORS
COLLECTIVE - OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, RETENTION, AND
RECRUITMENT**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approved the implementation of the Tech Titans Summer Enrichment Program. Tech Titans is an innovative educational program designed to expose students in STEAM concepts such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Cybersecurity, Esports, Digital Navigator/Civic Technician, Animation Creation and related STEAM disciplines. TTESC will be conducted by T3 Creators Collective, LLC 600 Kings Highway, Suite 8102, Cherry Hill, NC 08002. Students who attend the program will also be exposed to Career Exploration opportunities in preparation for CTE pathways at Irvington High School and Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy. The program will be offered to 150 for students in grades 3 through 8. Students in grade 5 emerging 6th grade who will be attending Anna B. Scott Junior STEAM Academy are required to attend the Tech Titans program. In addition, 8th graders emerging 9th grade who will be attending RLOSA are required to attend the program. The program will be held at Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy. The program will be offered Monday to Friday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm from July 6, 2026 through July 31, 2026. The total cost of the program is not to exceed \$600,000.00. The cost \$216,435.00 payable from 20-TI6-100-500-00-30 and \$350,565.00 payable from 20-TI6-200-500-00-30.

2nd Quote: Jasfel

ACTION:

Motion by: Annette Beasley, Seconded by: Janelle Lowery
Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

4. **FOR THE RECORD**

- (a) Item 101, Page 66, Board approved March 18, 2026, the account number should read 11-000-230-610-00-18

ACTION:

Motion by: Annette Beasley, Seconded by: Janelle Lowery
Roll Call: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION

“In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, be it hereby resolved that the Irvington Township Board of Education meet in closed session, April 15, 2026 (Virtually) at 5:00 p.m., to address confidential matters of personnel, negotiations, and/or attorney client privilege.

It is expected that the matters discussed will be made public at the time that the need for confidentiality no longer exists.”

Upon the motion by John Brown, seconded by Joel Wanamaker and unanimously approved on a roll call vote, the Budget Hearing of the Irvington Board of Education held virtually adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Craig Smith, QPA
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

CS/rcs