



Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District
Finance, Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wade Administration Conference Room
February 18, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

BOE Attendance:

Steven Singer
James Maloney
Michael Pepe

Administrative Liaison:

Kevin Lomski
Bob Beers

Guests:

1. Business agenda review.

Discussion – The Business Administrator reviewed the draft business action items for the February 24th meeting with special attention to the purchases and bid awards as they relate to the referendum and ROD Grant projects.

Recommendation – Consensus was to approve the action items.

2. BR Cares 2026–2027 Proposed Fees

Discussion – Mr. Lomski shared with the Committee that the BR Cares fees for the 2026–2027 school year will be prorated based on the length of care time. Overall there will be a slight decrease for families signing up for both AM and PM care while others that opt for only one, AM or PM care, may see an increase in comparison to the current 2025–2026 fees.

Recommendation – Consensus was to approve the fee schedule.

3. 2026–2027 Budget Update

Discussion – Mr. Lomski shared a draft tentative budget for the 2026–2027 school year which began with an initial analysis from earlier in the year which showed a potential budget gap of \$4.7 million. This was due to inflationary increases and a large anticipated increase in health care costs. Information was also shared with the committee that stated the NJ Education Health plans are seeing an average increase of over 30% but that due to the district entering into a self-insured plan we are better suited to manage the rise in health care costs. The Business Administrator shared with the committee that overall headcount will be lower due to declining enrollment, and other areas of the budget that will see reductions, and that it will be discussed in more detail at the board retreat on Monday, February 23rd. The Business Administrator also shared the administration's intent to utilize \$1.5 million of banked cap allowing the district to raise the tax levy slightly under 3% and that there will still be a budget gap of around \$500,000, which the district can decide to make more cuts or increase the tax levy by utilizing the allowable health care adjustment. The next FFT meeting date was set to coincide with the receipt of state aide information.

Recommendation – To discuss the district’s options with the full board at the February 23rd retreat.

4. Regionalization Study

Discussion – The Business Administrator shared that the administration was approached by a neighboring district to participate in a regionalization study with them. This would be for informational purposes only to see if there are any potential benefits to regionalize.

Recommendation – Further discussion will take place at the board retreat

5. Other Matters

Discussion – A board member requested that as part of the board’s goals, the committee would like to begin reviewing and updating policy later in the school year. Also discussed was the Township’s request to meet with the committee/Township Liaisons to discuss traffic safety around district schools.

Recommendation – None at this time

6. Adjournment: 6:55 pm

7. Next Meeting date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ **5:30 PM**