

M I N U T E S



THOMAS EDISON ENERGYSMART CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

THE MEETING NOTICE HAS BEEN ADVERTISED IN THE COURIER NEWS.

THOMAS EDISON ENERGYSMART CHARTER SCHOOL

150 Pierce St. 2nd Floor, Somerset, NJ 08873

Tel: 732-412-7643 Fax: 732-412-7645

www.energysmartschool.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

Date : January 28, 2026/ 7:30 pm
Place : 150 Pierce St. 2nd Floor, Somerset, NJ 08873

I. Call To Order

The Regular Board Meeting of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School is called to order. Time: 7:39 PM

II. Meeting Notice Announcement

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School has caused this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in 'The Courier News'. The Board reserves the right to act on any and all agenda items.

III. Flag Salute

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IV. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS	P/A
Raif Rustamov (Board President)	P
Keshaw Sahay (Vice President)	E
Stephen Alexis (Board Member)	E
Ashok Munisamy (Board Member)	P
Mehmet Eke (Board Member)	P
Raquel Neri (Board Member)	E
Latif Dolunay (Board Member)	P

Also Present:

Oguz Yildiz (Lead Person)	E
Ilgar Sadigov (Board Secretary)	P

V. Public Comment

Board President or designee opens the public comment session on any topic. Each person is limited to speak for a period of three (3) minutes and will be asked to give their full name, spell their last name, and provide their address. During this portion of the meeting, the public is invited to address the Board with questions or comments on agenda items. While all comments will be considered and a response will be made if and when appropriate, the Board will not respond to speakers at the time of their appearance. Board President or designee closes the public comment session on any topic.

VI. Report by Lead Person

Below is a schedule of the activities that have taken place since the last board meeting:

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 2

- Virtual PTO Meeting

Wednesday, December 3

- MS/HS Winter Math Showdown, 5-630pm, in the math quad
- FBLA Sports Business & Marketing Day, prd 6-9, Ms. Robinson

Friday, December 5

- Rutgers Math researcher, Ah-in Kim, Second observation, Period 6, Mrs. Ghosh

Monday, December 8 - Wednesday, December 10

- PTO holiday shop in LC
- Winter Concert
 - 8th @ 6pm Ensemble Showcase
 - 9th @ 9am K-2 General Music
 - 10th @ 9am Grds 3–8 General Music

Tuesday, December 9

- HS BB Game #1 @ NUI @ 5:30pm @ Mercer City Comm College
- MS BB Tryouts in gym 3-430pm

Wednesday, December 10

- Character Ed - Human Rights Day

Thursday, December 11

- HS BB Game #2 @ Watching Hills @ 4pm
- Early Dismissal / Staff PD / Maria provides brunch for staff (11-1) / staff holiday party

Friday, December 12

- PTO winter carnival, gym/cafeteria, 530-7pm
- TEECS AI Challenge @ 1015 in LC, Mr. Ozer

Saturday, December 13

- FTC event in gym, Mr. Kurt

Monday, December 15

- Green Day-National Energy Conservation Day, students send in photos for book token (none received)
- HS BB Game #3 @ CJCP

Tuesday, December 16

- Spelling Bee, 9am in gym

Wednesday, December 17

- Last day for Student Council Toys for Tots, Ms. Syed
- Senior Thankfulness Parent Breakfast in cafeteria @ 924am, Mr. Gross
- Wintery Wednesday holiday dress down - hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

Thursday, December 18

- HS BB Game #4 @ Morris County Vo-Tech
- Jeopardy, prd 8, grades 3-8
- Ugly Sweater holiday dress down

Friday, December 19

- Early Dismissal / No Extended Care
- Winter PJs holiday dress down

Saturday, December 20

- ISHA gym rental from 330-730pm, Mrs. J Patel

Monday, December 22 - Wednesday, December 31

- Winter Break

Monday, December 29

- HS BB Holiday Tournament 1 @ Belvidere HS against Sussex Tech @ 10am

Tuesday, December 30

- HS BB Holiday Tournament 2 @ Belvidere, won 3rd place game

JANUARY**Thursday, January 1 - Friday, January 2**

- 1-2 - Winter Break continues

Monday, January 5

- School resumes

Tuesday, January 6

- HS BB Game #7 @ Henry Hudson High School

Wednesday, January 7

- HS BB Game #8 @ Pioneer Academy

Thursday, January 8

- HS BB Game #9 @ Belvidere High School
- MS BB Game #1: Home vs. CrestHaven Academy

Friday, January 9

- Rutgers Math researcher, Ah-in Kim, Third observation, Period 6, Mrs Ghosh
- Alumni Panel in LC, 9-12, Ms. Long

Saturday, January 10

- Open House 10-12pm

Monday, January 12

- Parent Workshop with Mrs. Errickson on Zoom 530-6pm
- MS BB Game Home vs College Achieve

Tuesday, January 13

- Early Dismissal / Virtual PTO meeting

Monday, January 19

- MLK holiday/school closed
- FTMLK breakfast, Syed, Student Council, organized with Mrs. Tabanli
- Character Ed - MLK Day of Service

Tuesday, January 20

- Host Chinese Education Counselor from NY @ 10am

Wednesday, January 21 - Thursday, January 22

- MS/HS Art show in LC, Ms. Ferguson

Monday, January 26 - Friday, January 30

- National School Choice Week

Thursday, January 29

- PTO Great TEECS Baking Show, 5-7pm, virtual?
- Green Day - Environmental Education - Green Team students spoke with classes about sustainability

Friday, January 30

- 2nd Q ends

Saturday, January 31

- Elementary Science Bowl (Tiger Tank) in gym from 9-11am, \$5/family, Mrs. Lindenbaum

GREEN TEAM UPDATES

- **Completed:** TEECS Recycling Champion competition to see what students do to help the planet at school and at home - Aanya in Grade 3 was our Champion, she received a certificate and a token for the book vending machine
- **Completed:** Green Day - December 15/National Energy Conservation Day - students to submit photos of them conserving energy - no submissions received
- **Completed:** First round submissions of Sustainable Jersey for Schools Silver Certification
- **In Progress:** changing the clothing bin company, current company is unresponsive
- **In Progress:** two grants
 - SJS \$15,000 grant to Reduce Waste in the Cafeteria due Jan 30
 - NJDOE \$46,000 grant for Climate Literacy due Feb 12
- **In Progress:** Green Day - January 29/Environmental Education Day - Green Team students to meet with classes to discuss topics on sustainable education
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - April 25/Wellness Fair
 - May 15/Community Hike
 - April 29/Red Cross Blood Drive

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION

Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School is always looking for ways to improve our communication for the TEECS community. A Beginning of the Year parent survey was sent out in early October. Based on the results of the survey our parents:

- Receive enough information to start the year successfully
- Had an easy transition into school after the summer
- Thought their students felt prepared to start the new school year
- Thought the First Marking Period Project was effective for their student
- indicated that they do not idle their cars during pick-up and drop-off
- Thought we could offer a larger variety of after school programs

To better our communication:

- We continue to send out quarterly surveys to our parents and staff. These surveys provide an opportunity for our community to provide feedback on our communication - are we providing enough details, is it timely and efficient, are we meeting their needs, etc.
- We strive to make all our communication/expectations clearer. All faculty members are made aware of the suggestions and steps are taken to ensure dates, times, requirements and expectations from parents, if any, are clear. In addition, answering email/voice mail in a timely fashion is stressed to our staff members.
- TEECS' PTO has set up WhatsApp Groups for all grades. All parents/guardians are reminded of this as an additional way to receive communication about school activities and reach out to other parents in their child's grade.
- In addition to quarterly surveys, we send out a Quarterly Update email to all parents on the status of any new projects and events that may be going on as well as any future plans that the school may be planning.

VII. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the following minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting:

- ❖ Regular Meeting Minutes of November 2025 (Minutes forwarded to trustees via email)

Motion# 260128.1	Motioned by: Mr. Eke			Seconded by: Dr. Rustamov		Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay
YES	V				V		
NO							
ABSTAIN				V			V
ABSENT		V	V			V	

VIII. Financial Section: Mr. Ilgar Sadigov, Board Secretary

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve the Bill List from November 20, 2025, to January 28, 2026. No unusual budgetary line-item account expenditure. (Attached)

FY26 Revised Budget:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School has approved the revised budget for 2025-2026 school year.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Motion to approve the Board Secretary's and the Treasurer's Reports for the month of October 2025. (emailed)

WHEREAS both the Report of the Secretary and the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies are in agreement with the cash balance in the Governmental Funds for the month of October 2025;

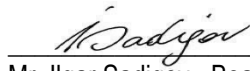
RESOLVED, that the Report of the Secretary and the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies be accepted.

Transfers: Motion to approve the list of Transfer of Funds resolution for the period ending January 2026.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School that the attached inter-appropriation transfer made on the financial records of the Board affecting the 2025-2026 budget be affirmed and approved.

a. Board Secretary's Cert of Accounts:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11, I certify that as of October 2025, no major budgetary line-item account expenditure exceeds the amount appropriated by the charter Board of Trustees.


Mr. Ilgar Sadigov - Board Secretary

01/28/2026

Date

b. Board Certification of Accounts:

RESOLVED, that after review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of October 2025, and based upon consultation with and representations of the appropriate officials (Secretary, Treasurer, Business Administrator and Lead Person), the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School has ascertained, to the best of our knowledge and ability, with the information provided, that no major account (Current Expense, Capital Outlay, Debt Service) has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the charter's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, and hereby certifies the charter's financial plan (the budget) as approved is being followed as revealed in the financial reports.

Motion# 260128.2	Motioned by:			Seconded by:		Mr. Eke	Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay	
YES	V			V	V			V
NO								
ABSTAIN								
ABSENT		V	V			V		

IX. Human Resources

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Lead Person to approve the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School approves the following hirings

Mrs. Jaylin Arce as a full-time maternity leave substitute with benefits with annual salary of [REDACTED] effective January 12, 2026, through May 01, 2026 (resume emailed)

Mr. Christopher Gillooly as an on-call Substitute without benefits with per diem salary of [REDACTED] effective January 16, 2026, through June 30, 2026 (resume emailed)

Motion# 260128.3 Motioned by:				Seconded by:		Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay
YES	V			V	V		V
NO							
ABSTAIN							
ABSENT		V	V			V	

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Lead Person to approve the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School accepts the following maternity leaves

- Mrs. Christine Lefebvre from 08/28/2025 to 01/16/2026
- Mrs. Kimberly Hannon-Dutton from 10/21/2025 to 02/09/2026
- Mrs. Laura Walters from 01/05/2026 to 05/04/2026
- Mrs. Courtney Lindenbaum from 02/02/2026 to 09/11/2026

Motion# 260128.4 Motioned by:				Seconded by:		Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay
YES	V			V	V		V
NO							
ABSTAIN							
ABSENT		V	V			V	

X. Action Items

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Lead Person to approve the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children; and;

WHEREAS, The Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School Board of Trustees seeks to support and work with school staff and administrators, students and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly and cost-effective solutions.

WHEREAS, Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School is participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program is to provide resources to school districts to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a program called the Sustainable School Food Service & Cafeterias Initiative;

THEREFORE, the Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School has determined that the school should apply for the aforementioned program. The program will support the district in reducing food waste and making its cafeteria(s) more sustainable through the addition and enhancement of our current sustainable cafeteria practices as outlined in the application checklists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of an application to participate in the Sustainable School Food Service & Cafeterias Initiative.

Motion# 260128.5 Motioned by:				Mr. Munisamy	Seconded by:		Mr. Dolunay	Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay		
YES	V			V	V			V	
NO									
ABSTAIN									
ABSENT		V	V			V			

XI. Action Items

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Lead Person to approve the following resolution.

RESOLVED that the Audit Report based on the 2024-2025 school year is accepted. No findings have been reported.

Motion# 260128.6 Motioned by:				Mr. Dolunay	Seconded by:		Mr. Munisamy	Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay		
YES	V			V	V			V	
NO									
ABSTAIN									
ABSENT		V	V			V			

XII. Action Items

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Lead Person to approve the following resolution

RESOLVED, that the board of trustees of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School has approved following trips.

Trip Name	Date (s)	Grades Attending	# of Students	# of Chaperones	Trip Location	Notes
Castle Shakespeare Repertory Theatre	5/22/2026	Gr. 9-12	50	5	23 Lake Shore Road, Budd Lake NJ, 07828	
Science Olympiad	1/15/2026	MS Science Olym.	30	4	200 College Dr, Blackwood, NJ	
Mayo Performing Arts Center	2/17/2026	Gr. 5-6	100	6	100 South Street Morristown, NJ 07960	
Harvard University	2/8/2026	MS Science Olym.	17	0	Boston, MA	no busses needed
Thomas Edison National Historical Park	2/18/2026	Gr. 10 AP Physics	33	3	211 Main Street, West Orange, NJ 07052.	
2026 NJSPE Engineering Career Day	3/18/2026	Gr. 11 Students	40	5	Rutgers University	
Princeton University, Youth STEM Conference	3/11/2026	Select Students Gr. 7-10	10	2	Princeton University	
NJ State Museum	2/12/2026	Gr. 9 and 10	47	5	Trenton, NJ	
Liberty Hall	2/23/2026	Gr. 3	50	5	1003 Morris Ave, Union, NJ 07083	
NJASC Convention	4/8/2026	Student Council	5	0	Bridgewater, NJ	no busses needed
Science Olympiad	2/21/2026	HS Science Olympiad	19	10	Sacred Heart University	no busses needed

Motion# 260128.7 Motioned by:				Mr. Munisamy		Seconded by:		Mr. Dolunay		Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay				
YES	V			V	V		V				
NO											
ABSTAIN											
ABSENT		V	V			V					

Adjournment

Time: 8:44 PM

Motion# 260128.8 Motioned by:				Mr. Eke		Seconded by:		Dr. Rustamov		Passed:	Yes
ROLL CALL	R Rustamov	K Sahay	S Alexis	A Munisamy	M Eke	R Neri	L Dolunay				
YES	V			V	V		V				
NO											
ABSTAIN											
ABSENT		V	V			V					

Attachments

Previous Meeting Minutes
Board Secretary's Report

Bill List
Treasurer's Report

FY26 Revised Budget
Resumes (Emailed)