

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

of the Metuchen Board of Education

Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

1. Call to Order

2. Flag Salute

3. Notice of Meeting

I hereby make this statement to indicate compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act known as Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of New Jersey, 1975, which became effective 90 days after enactment, January 19, 1976.

Notice of this meeting was given by providing the location, time and date of this meeting, and posting of the same on the front door of the Board of Education offices, by delivering copies to the Borough Hall and the Metuchen Public Library, The Home News and Tribune, The Criterion Sentinel, The Star Ledger, The Metuchen Mirror, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

4. Roll Call

Mr. Benderly	P	Ms. Killean	P
Ms. Cook	P	Mr. Lifton	P
Mr. Derflinger	P	Mr. Manley	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P		

5. Showcase of Success

- ❖ The Vivaldi String Ensemble, conducted by Chris McEwan, is a chamber group made up of 13 select students from the MHS Orchestra. They performed the first movement of "Palladio" by composer Karl Jenkins.
- ❖ Mr. Rick Cohen presented certificates to Ms. Michele Herold and Ms. Nga Pham, Moss School Governor's Educator of the Year Recipients.
- ❖ Student Advisory Board Members Keira Dowd, Cecilia Zuniga and Eashaan Bhattacharyya dialogued with the Board on various topics about the school year.

6. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr. Lucas Rabinowitz, 44 Finch, and Mr. Brian Kiesche, 11 Kent Place, spoke about the in-person/hybrid/remote school schedules.

7. Presentations

- ❖ Mr. Harvier reviewed 2021-2022 Technology, Transportation and School Based budgets with Mr. Cohen, Mr. Porowski, Ms. Azevedo, Mr. Peragallo and Mr. Thumann.

8. Reports

- ❖ President’s Report – Mr. Glassberg reported about the survey that was sent out today to students and parents.
- ❖ Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Caputo also spoke about the survey.
- ❖ Business Administrator/Board Secretary’s Report – no report
- ❖ Committee Reports
 - Human Relations Commission – Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave report
 - Facilities – Mr. Lifton gave report
 - Extra-Curricular – Mr. Suss gave report
 - Curriculum – Mr. Derflinger
 - The other Committees have not met since the last Board meeting

9. Old Business – *nothing at this time*

10. New Business – *nothing at this time*

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

Move to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

February 9, 2021	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 9, 2021	Special Executive Meeting (2)
February 9, 2021	Board Meeting

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1. Ms. Killean abstained.

12. Meeting Open to the Public *(for any topic)*

MHS students spoke about school schedules and related issues, including Vegas Rockafeller, Senior, Natalie McHam, Senior, Maggie Kleiner, Senior, Max Schilowitz, Junior, Peter Wassef, Senior, Elliot Gerlach, Sophomore, Alea Gnaly, Sophomore. Parents Ms. Jessica Weiss, 104 Rutgers Road, and Ms. Antonette McHam, 14 Woodruff Road, also spoke about their concerns.

13. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

(at this time the Board will take formal action on the following items – see attachments)

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate board committee. The members of the board committee work with administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then, is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

13. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

(at this time the Board will take formal action on the following items)

A. PERSONNEL

1. Appointment – Substitute Teacher

Move to approve the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, effective February 24, 2021, pending criminal history clearance:

Name	Certification	Rate
Daniel Lordi	Sub with college degree	\$90/day
Elizabeth Wallace	English Certification	\$95/day

2. Appointment – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Michelle Duggan as Leave Replacement for Emily Tzetzos, Edgar School Teacher, effective approximately February 26, 2021 through June 15, 2021, at a rate of \$275.68/day.

3. Salary Adjustment – Non-certificated Staff

Move to approve the salary adjustment, prorated, for the following non-certificated staff, due to obtaining longevity:

Name	Longevity	Effective	From	To
Mulyanti Uhrlass, MHS Custodian	20 years of completed service	2/1/21	\$47,824	\$49,249

4. Family Leave - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the family leave of absence for Eric Stein, Speech Teacher at Campbell School, effective from approximately April 5, 2021 through approximately April 30, 2021.

5. Appointment – Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Briana DeMaio as a Paraprofessional at Campbell School for the 2020-2021 school year, at a salary of \$20,966/year, Step 1, prorated, effective approximately February 24, 2021, pending criminal history clearance.

6. EMS Self Contained Class Rescission and Approval

Move to rescind and approve the (.4) instructional stipend for Chris Peckhardt at Edgar School for adapted music for the self contained class for the third and fourth marking periods, effective February 1, 2021. (Agenda 1/19/21, Section 13 A16)

Name	Assignment	2020-2021 Stipend
Rescind Chris Peckhardt	Adapted Music Stipend	(.4) \$2,498 prorated
Approve Chris Peckhardt	Adapted Music Stipend	(.4) \$2,912 prorated

7. Medical Leave of Absence

Move to approve the medical leave of absence of Julie Anderson, Campbell School Teacher, effective April 5, 2021 through approximately June 9, 2021.

8. Maternity/Family Leave of Absence Adjustment

Move to approve the new end date of the maternity/family leave of absence for Candace Evans, Campbell School Teacher, from April 12, 2021 to March 25, 2021 (Agenda 10/13/20 Sec 13 A16).

9. Leave Replacement – End Date Revision

Move to extend the leave replacement term of Darcy Moran, leave replacement for Candace Evans, Campbell School Teacher, through June 15, 2021.

10. Rescission and Approval of Instructional Title 1 RTI Stipend

Move to rescind and approve the following Instructional Title 1 RTI Stipend for the 2020 – 2021 school year, prorated to take effective March 1, 2021:

Name	Assignment	2020-2021 Stipend
Rescind Andrea Elton	Edgar 7 th grade ELA RTI	\$7,281 prorated
Approve Todd Gural	Edgar 7 th grade ELA RTI	\$7,281 prorated

11. Appointment – Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Kelsee Young as Preschool Special Education Teacher, for the 2020-2021 school year, at a salary of \$51,000/year, Step 1A, prorated, effective March 1, 2021.

12. Leave of Absence Extension

Move to extend the leave of absence end date of Kerry Blaze, MHS Teacher, through June 30, 2021.

13. Leave Replacement – End Date Revision

Move to extend the leave replacement term of Robert Gwiazda, leave replacement for Kerry Blaze, MHS Teacher, through June 15, 2021.

14. Appointment – 2021-2022 Student Teacher

Move to approve the following 2021-2022 Student Teacher in our schools:

Name	School
Katelyn Borsos	Campbell

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

-----end of personnel section-----

B. FINANCE

1. Treasurer of School Monies and Board Secretary’s Reports

Move to approve the Treasurer of School Monies’ Report, and Board Secretary’s Report as of December 31, 2020.

2. Payment of Bills

a) Board Secretary’s Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(d), the Board Secretary has certified that as of February 23, 2021 no budgetary line item accounts have obligations and payments which exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education.

Michael A. Harvier, Board Secretary

Date

b) Approve the Following Items Submitted by the Board Secretary

Payment of bills and claims, as shown on the attached list(s) that have been certified by the Board of Education and filed in the Business Office.

3. Budget Transfers

Move to approve budget transfers effective December 31, 2020.

4. Student Agreement

Move to approve the settlement agreement of Student #2021119.

5. Speech and Language Evaluations

Move to approve Marlana Hamfeldt Loden to conduct Speech and Language evaluations, as needed, at a rate of \$415 per evaluation.

6. Educational Evaluations

Move to approve Tomasso Educational Services to conduct Educational Evaluations, as needed, at a rate of \$550 per evaluation and \$75/hour for meeting.

7. Educational Evaluations

Move to approve Brunswick Reading and Speech Center to conduct Educational Evaluations, as needed, at a rate of \$450 per evaluation.

8. Professional Development

Move to approve the following professional development activities as shown on the attached chart:

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Last, First Name	Building	Requested	Payment Method	FFPI #
2/25/2021	2/25/2021	NJASCD Early Childhood Conference	McKenna, Katherine	Moss	\$ 50.00	FFPI	21-067
2/25/2021	2/25/2021	NJASCD Early Childhood Summit Conference	Masters, Sarah	Moss	\$ 100.00	FFPI	21-068
3/3/2021	3/5/2021	Character.org Spring 2021 Virtual Forum	Levin, Lisa	CES	\$ 179.00	Other	
3/3/21	3/10/21	Supporting Students with Verbal Working Memory Limitations (2 separate night sessions)	Smith, Rebecca	CES	\$115.	FFPI	21-076
3/4/2021	3/4/2021	The Nurtured Heart Approach ®; Transforming Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Outcomes	Rubin, Samantha	MHS	\$ 90.00	FFPI	21-075
3/5/2021	3/5/2021	Using the Patterns of Strengths and Weaknesses (PSW) Model to Identify Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and Other Learning Problems	Rosa, Daniel	EMS	\$ 60.00	FFPI	21-073
3/11/2021	3/11/2021	MINDSET: Let's Keep Positive	Spring, Christina	CES	\$ -	No cost	
3/13/2021	3/13/2021	Get Your Teach On' Level Up Virtual Conference	Spak, Jennifer	CES	\$ 159.71	FFPI	21-070
3/13/2021	3/13/2021	Get Your Teach On: Level Up Virtual Conference	Signorile, Vincent	CES	\$ 159.71	FFPI	21-069
3/19/2021	3/19/2021	Inclusion Leadership Conference	Pasquale, Jennifer	CES	\$ 50.00	FFPI	21-071
3/19/2021	3/19/2021	NJCIE Inclusion Leadership Conference	Omark, Lindsey	CES	\$ 50.00	FFPI	21-072

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3/25/2021	3/25/2021	Kids and Adults Coping in the United States of Anxiety	Spring, Christina	CES	\$ -	No cost	
4/1/2021	4/1/2021	Substance Use and Youth: Current Trends. Warning Signs, and Engagment Techniques	Rubin, Samantha	MHS	\$ 90.00	FFPI	21-074
4/22/2021	4/22/2021	Making Sense of our Natural World	Spring, Christina	CES	\$ -	No cost	

9. Resolution

Resolution for the removal of Student #2030257, Student #2028444 and Student #2026271 from the District rolls as they are not eligible to attend Metuchen school as they are non-residents.

Mr. Manley first motioned to add #9 to the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Manley motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion carried for Items #1-3, 5-9, 9-0-0. Motion carried for Item #4, 8-1-0. Mr. Lifton voted no.

----- **end of finance section** -----

C. POLICY

Nothing at this time

D. CURRICULUM

1. Music Curriculum Guide

Move to approve the revised curriculum guide for the following subjects:

Revised Curriculum Documents	
Subject	Description
Music	MHS Music Technology

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Mr. Manley seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

----- **end of curriculum section** -----

14. Meeting Open to Public *(for any topic)*

Nothing at this time

15. Announcements

Ms. Cook read the announcements.

16. Motion to Go Into Executive Session *(when applicable)*

Resolution to Close Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the Sunshine Act, N.J.S. 10:4-12 and 13, that the Board of Education will now meet in executive session to discuss _____ and that matters discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as the reason for confidentiality no longer exist.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Glassberg motioned. All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED 11:13 PM
