

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, April 13, 2021**

**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	A
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**

- ❖ Metuchen High School Governor’s Educator of the Year Recipients – Ms. Samantha Rubin and Mr. Christopher Giddes. Bruce Peragallo presented the award to Samantha Rubin. Christopher Giddes was unable to attend.
- ❖ Student Advisory Board spoke, including, Ayomi Cole, Sama Samim, Keira Caccavano, Jai Dreher, and Matthew Brown, dialogued with the Board on various topics about the school year.

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

-None

**7. Presentations**

-None

**8. Reports**

- ❖ President’s Report – Mr. Glassberg commended the MHS cheerleading team for being the state champs, discussed that it was Autism Awareness Month and the desire to open schools as normal in May.
- ❖ Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Caputo stated his pride in the students on the Student Advisory Board.
- ❖ Business Administrator/Board Secretary’s Report - None
- ❖ Committee Reports - None

**9. Old Business**

-None

**10. New Business**

-None

**11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings**

Move to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

March 23, 2021	Special Business Meeting (1)
March 23, 2021	Special Executive Meeting (2)
March 23, 2021	Board Meeting

Mr.Glassberg motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

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

-None

**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.

**A. PERSONNEL**

**Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call**

**1. Medical Leave of Absence**

Move to approve a medical leave of absence for Franchesca Hunt, Campbell School Teacher, effective April 5, 2021 through approximately May 11, 2021.

**2. Appointment – Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of Krista Szark as Leave Replacement for Franchesca Hunt, Campbell School Teacher, at a rate of \$275.68/day, effective April 7, 2021 through approximately May 11, 2021.

**3. Instructional Stipends - Rescission**

Move to rescind the following instructional stipends for the 2020-2021 school year as follows, effective April 1, 2021 (Agenda 9/22/20, Section 13 A10):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>2020-2021 Stipend</b>
Mike Warnock	MHS Math	\$7,281, prorated
Nick Romanak	MHS Math	\$7,281, prorated
Janis Lewandowski	MHS Math	\$7,281, prorated
Sheri Lifson	MHS Math	\$7,281, prorated

**4. Campbell School Lunch/Recess Stipend - Rescission**

Move to rescind the following Campbell School Lunch/Recess stipend for the period of April 5, 2021 to June 15, 2021 (Agenda 3/23/21, Section 13 A9):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>2020-2021 Stipend</b>
Franchesca Hunt	Campbell lunch/recess	\$1,873

**5. Formal Mentor Teachers**

Move to approve the following mentor teachers to work with the following mentee teachers for the 2020-2021 school year, effective April 5, 2021, as listed:

<b>New Teacher/Leave Replacement</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Traditional Route - \$550 Alternate Route - \$1,000</b>
Tomasz Sobieniak	Mike Warnock, MHS	Alternate Route; Partial Year – % TBD
Chris Russomanno	Yoko Kato, MHS	Alternate Route; Partial Year – % TBD

**6. Informal Mentor**

Move to approve the following staff to serve as an informal mentor for the 2020-2021 school year, effective April 5, 2021, to be paid at a rate of \$46/hour, not to exceed six hours:

<b>New Teacher</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Ji Yeon Lim	MHS	Chad Murray

**7. Approval and Rescission of MHS Spring Coaches**

Move to rescind and approve the following Metuchen High School spring coaches for the 2020-2021 school year (Agenda 7/21/20, Section 12 A2, Agenda 9/8/20, Section 14 A26 and Agenda 12/15/20, Section 13 A24):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>20-21 Stipend</b>
<b>Rescind:</b>		
Michael Spark (Step 3)	Assistant Track Coach	\$3,209.50 (.5)
Joe DiMeglio (Step 3)	Assistant Track Coach	\$3,209.50 (.5)
<b>Approve:</b>		
Joe DiMeglio (Step 3)	Assistant Track Coach	\$6,419
Michelle Huff (Step 1)	JV Softball Coach	\$6,148
Mark Mooney (Step 1)	Assistant Coach	\$5,653

**8. Appointment – Spring 2021 Observation**

Move to approve the following 2020-2021 Observation in our schools:

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Lindsey Curtis, University of Phoenix, Observation	Moss

**9. Appointment – Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 Student Teachers in our schools**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Erin Wallace, Kean University, Student Teacher	Edgar
Olivia Freed, Rutgers University, Student Teacher	MHS
Ashlyn Jarius, Kean University, Student Teacher	Edgar

**10. Appointment - Substitute Paraprofessional**

Move to approve the appointment of the following substitute paraprofessionals for the 2020-2021 school year at a rate of \$13.35/hour, effective April 14, 2021, pending criminal history clearance:

Brendan McCunney
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**11. Appointment – Substitute Teachers**

Move to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Michael Small Jr	Sub with college degree	\$90/day
Allison Sullivan	Sub with college degree	\$90/day

**12. Retirement – Certificated Staff**

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Valerie Gazda, MHS Physical Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2021.

**13. Appointment – 2020-2021 CARES Act (ESSER) Tutoring Teachers**

Move to approve the following 2020-2021 MHS CARES Act (ESSER) Virtual Tutoring teachers at the rate of \$46/hour, plus an additional .5 preparation time for each hour of student contact time:

<b>Name</b>
Janis Lewandowski
Sheri Lifson

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

Dr. Caputo gave a short statement honoring Val Gazda for her years of service to the district and wished her a happy and healthy retirement.

Mr. Manley, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Derflinger, Ms. Cook, Mr. Benderly all spoke kind words and praises for Val Gazda.

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

**B. FINANCE**

**Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call**

**1. Contract - Pines Manor for 2021 Prom**

Move to approve Pines Manor contract for the 2021 prom, on May 27, 2021.

**2. Student Agreement**

Move to approve the settlement agreement of Student # 2029010.

**3. Professional Development**

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

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Activity Title</b>	<b>Last, First Name</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>FPPI #</b>
3/24/2021	3/24/2021	Rutgers Interdisciplinary Collaboration Conference	Calantoni, Karen	Moss	\$ -	No cost	
3/24/2021	3/24/2021	NJ Labor Management Inter-District Meeting	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$ -	No cost	
3/24/2021	3/24/2021	NJ Public School Labor Management Collaborative	Fitzgibbon, David	Campbell	\$ -	No cost	

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3/24/ 2021	3/24/ 2021	Rutgers Interdisciplinary Collaboration Conference	Reed, Michele	Moss	\$ -	FFPI	
4/16/ 2021	4/16/ 2021	New Jersey School Counselors Association Spring Conference	Gupta, Brenda	Central	\$20.00	Other	
4/27/ 2021	4/27/ 2021	Medical and Recreational Marijuana for Mental Health and Healthcare Professionals	Rubin, Samantha	MHS	\$219.00	FFPI	21- 097
5/13/ 2021	5/13/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Cermak, Danielle	MHS	\$50.00	FFPI	21- 081
5/13/ 2021	5/13/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Egan, Estephania	MHS	\$50.00	FFPI	21- 083
5/13/ 2021	5/13/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Flores, Karin	MHS	\$50.00	FFPI	21- 086
5/13/ 2021	5/13/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Girin, Anna	MHS	\$50.00	FFPI	21- 082

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5/13/ 2021	5/13/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Vosinas, Nickolas	MHS	\$50.00	FFPI	21-085
5/14/ 2021	5/14/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Garfinkel, Linda	Edgar	\$50.00	FFPI	21-087
5/14/ 2021	5/14/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Smith, Audra	Edgar	\$50.00	FFPI	21-088
5/14/ 2021	5/14/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk technique and effective comprehensible reading instruction	Camargo, Laura	Edgar	\$50.00	FFPI	21-089
5/14/ 2021	5/14/ 2021	The basics of storytelling using the movie talk techniques and effective comprehensible reading instruction	King, Barbara	Edgar	\$50.00	FFPI	21-084
5/21/ 2021	5/21/ 2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	Flynn, John	Campbell	\$150.00	FFPI	21-093
5/21/ 2021	5/21/ 2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	Gallagher, Jordyn	Edgar	\$150.00	FFPI	21-095
5/21/ 2021	5/21/ 2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	Keyes, Robyn	Edgar	\$150.00	FFPI	21-096



5/21/2021	5/21/2021	creating a diverse and equitable music curriculum	Krombholz, Stefeny	MHS	\$150.00	FFPI	21-091
5/21/2021	5/21/2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	McEwan, Christopher	Edgar	\$150.00	FFPI	21-094
5/21/2021	5/21/2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	Messenger, John	MHS	\$150.00	FFPI	21-090
5/21/2021	5/21/2021	Creating a Diverse and Equitable Music Curriculum	Peckhardt, Christofer	Edgar	\$150.00	FFPI	21-092

Mr. Manley motioned. Mr. Benderly seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0

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

**C. POLICY**

**1. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported cases:

- (a) EMS031621001
- (b) EMS031821001
- (c) EMS031921001

Ms. Cook motioned. Dr. Johnson–Marcus seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0 on item 1(a).

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Manley seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0 on item 1(b).

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried to reverse HIB findings 6-2-0 on item 1(c). Mr. Benderly and Mr. Suss voted no.

**2. Suspensions**

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for March 24, 2021 – April 9, 2021.

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Benderly seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0

----- **end of policy section** -----

**D. CURRICULUM**

*Nothing at this time*

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

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

-None

**15. Announcements**

**Dr. Johnson-Marcus read 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 9:10pm.

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