

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021**

**BOARD RETREAT 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, 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**

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

**7. Presentations**

Mary Ann Freedman gave a presentation on behalf of the New Jersey School Boards Association. The topic was the Referendum Process 2021.

**8. Reports**

- ❖ President’s Report - None
- ❖ Superintendent’s Report -None
- ❖ Business Administrator/Board Secretary’s Report -None
- ❖ Committee Reports

Dr. Johnson Marcus reminded the School Board about the Gender Identity Zoom Meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Old Business**

-None

**10. New Business**

The Board had an open discourse about how the budget would work for the referendum.

The Board agree to continue to wear masks at the Board Meetings but will now be on one level.

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

Move to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

June 22, 2021	Special Business Meeting (1)
June 22, 2021	Special Executive Meeting (2)
June 22, 2021	Board Meeting

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion passed 6-3-0 for Special Business Meeting Minutes (1). Motion passed 6-3-0 for Special Business Meeting Minutes (2). Motion passed 7-2-0 for Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Benderly, Mr. Derflinger and Ms. Killean abstained from Special Business Meeting Minutes (1) and Special Business Meeting Minutes (2). Mr. Benderly and Dr. Derflinger abstained from Board Meeting Minutes.

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

**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.

Mr. Glassberg motioned to adjourn open session and open closed session. Mr. Suss seconded. All in favor. Open session adjourned 7:40 pm. Close session opened 7:40 pm.

Mr. Glassberg motioned to adjourn closed session Mr. Lifton seconded. All in favor. Closed session Adjourned 8:15 pm.

Mr. Glassberg motioned to go back into open session. Mr. Manly seconded. All in favor. Open session started at 8:15pm.

**A. PERSONNEL**

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

**1. Resignation – Certificated Staff**

Move to accept the resignation of Sue Whitlock, Social Worker for Metuchen Public Schools, effective August 31, 2021.

**2. Appointment – Certificated Staff**

Move to approve the appointment of Janelle Fisher, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$67,200, Step 3-H, effective September 2, 2021.

**3. Appointment – Certificated Staff**

Move to approve the appointment of Melissa Robbins, Science Teacher at Edgar School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$67,200, Step 3-H, effective September 2, 2021.

**4. Appointment – ESY Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Move to approve the following as Substitute Paraprofessionals as needed for 2021 ESY:

<b>Name</b>			<b>Per Hour</b>
DellaSala	Ann	sub para	\$20.36
Class	Raquel	sub para	\$20.36

Baiod	Leila	sub para	\$19.16
Lacaskey	Christine	sub para	\$19.76
Silverman	Rhonda	sub para	\$19.46
Tay	Tara	sub para	\$20.36
DiMeglio	Joe	sub para	\$20.36

**5. Appointment – ESY Substitute Teachers**

Move to approve the following as Substitute Teachers as needed for 2021 ESY:

Name			Per Diem
Sobieniak	Tomasz	sub teacher	\$95
Butler	Michael	sub teacher	\$95
Sporer	Emily	sub teacher	\$95
Evans	Candace	sub teacher	\$95
DiMeglio	Joe	sub teacher	\$95

**6. Appointment – ESY Substitute Nurses**

Move to approve the appointment of Susan Fackler and Marybeth Sonderberg as sub nurses as needed for ESY 2021 at the rate of \$125/day.

**7. Appointment- Interim Supervisor**

Move to approve the appointment of Kathy Glutz, Interim Supervisor of Guidance, at a rate of \$500/day, effective July 6, 2021 through July 23, 2021.

**8. Rescission and Approval – Tenured Teacher**

Move to rescind and approve the following tenured teacher for the 2021-2022 school year:

Teacher	Assignment	Salary
Rescind: Carol Gaffney (.4)	Moss-Art/Library	\$40,285
Approve: Carol Gaffney (.2)	Moss-Art	\$20,534

**9. Appointment – Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of Kaitlin Gilbride, Leave Replacement for Lauren Campbell, Edgar School Guidance Counselor, effective September 2, 2021 through January 19, 2022, at a rate of \$278.38/day.

**10. Appointment – Bus Driver**

Move to approve Ivon Macayza as a bus driver for the 2021-2022 school year, effective July 1, 2021, at a rate of \$22.44/hr.

**11. ESY – Paraprofessional**

Move to approve the following as an additional paraprofessional for the 2021 Extended School Year Program:

Name	Program	Per Hour	# of Hours	Total
Elana Celano	Multiply Disabled 1-4	\$19.16	103.5	\$1,983.06

**12. Summer Institute Mental Health Programs**

Move to approve the following staff for 2021 summer institute to be paid at the hourly rate listed below from the Mental Health Initiative Fund:

Name	Program	Per Hour	# of Hours	Total
Daniel Rosa	Summer Institute-Transitions	\$47.00	9	\$423.00

**13. Maternity Leave of Absence Extension**

Move to extend the maternity leave of absence of Melissa Harley, Edgar School Language Arts Teacher, effective September 2, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Agenda 4/28/20, Section 12 A5).

**14. Appointment – Certificated Staff**

Move to approve the appointment of Aubree Deminski, Special Education English Teacher at Metuchen High School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$68,000, Step 1-I, effective September 2, 2021.

**15. Appointment – Certificated Staff**

Move to approve the appointment of Nicole Benfatti, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant for Metuchen Public Schools, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$87,075, Step 4-L, effective September 2, 2021.

**16. Appointment – Certificated Staff**

Move to approve the appointment of Brianna Torrisi, Special Education Teacher, 18-21 Year Old Class at Metuchen High School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$54,863, Step 3-B, effective September 2, 2021.

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

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

**B. FINANCE**

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

**1. Professional Development**

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

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Last Name First Name	Building Name	Requested Expense Total	Approved Expenses	Payment Method
7/19/2021	7/22/2021	AP Biology at Rutgers AP Institute	Green, Samantha	MHS	1025.00		other

8/02/2021	8/05/2021	AP Language and Composition at Drew University	Baird, Alexa	MHS	775.00		other
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**2. Appointment - Neuropsychological Specialists**

Move to approve the appointment of Dr. Joel Morgan and Neuropsychology Associates of New Jersey (NPANJ) for the 2021-2022 school year, to conduct comprehensive neuropsychological assessments at a rate of \$4,500 per evaluation.

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

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

**C. POLICY**

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

*Nothing at this time*

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

**D. CURRICULUM**

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

**1. Appointment – Learning Strategies Staff**

Move to approve the following staff for Learning Strategies curriculum mapping for 10 hours each at a rate of \$47/hr:

Rebecca Dwyer	Andrea Agnone	Beth McLaughlin	Steve Cichetti
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**2. Appointment – Special Services Staff**

Move to approve the following staff to create 3 special education self contained program reference guides at a rate of \$525 per person, per guide for the following areas:

- 1.) Program set up and management;
- 2.) Assessment, specialized instruction, and data and
- 3.) Functional programs

Katie McKenna	Karen Calantoni	Karla Riera
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Mr. Derflinger Motioned. Ms. Killean seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

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

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

**15. 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 to adjourn open session. All in favor. Open session adjourned at 8:28 pm.