

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

**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, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

4. Roll Call

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

5. Showcase of Success

- ❖ Edgar Middle School proudly presents Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr! Celebrate the joys of learning with the Edgar Middle School drama club. This musical revue highlights the hits of the classic cartoon *Schoolhouse Rock!* Reintroduce yourself to Bill, Interplanet Janet, and the Conjunction Conductor, amongst other favorite characters from the popular series. To give a sneak peek, Giovanni Figuera and Celeste Falkovitch will perform the classic tune "Just a Bill." Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased from the Edgar Middle School main office prior to the event. Dates- 2/25 and 2/26, at 7 PM. 2/27, at 2 PM

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

Ms. Sarah Herman of 23 Washington Place, came up and spoke about her concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Mr. Lucas Raminowitz of 44 Finch Street, came up and spoke about mask mandates.

Mr. Josh Danziger of 43 Barnstable Street, came up and spoke about his concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Rabbi Eric Rosin of 10 Mark Circle, came up and spoke about his concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Ms. Joanna Koster of 22 Concord Ave, came up and spoke about her concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Ms. Jackie Gibson of 72 Lake Ave, came up and spoke about her concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Ms. Jamie Grubam of 68 Carson Ave, came up and spoke about her concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

7. Presentations

- ❖ Review of Transportation and Technology Budgets - Mr. Harvier and Mr. Chris Thumann gave a presentation.
- ❖ Referendum Presentation - Referendum Concepts, Edgar/MHS Architectural Drawings presented by Mr. Lifton - Mr. Lifton gave presentation.

8. Reports

- ❖ President's Report - None
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - None
- ❖ Committee Reports

Ms. Cook gave the Policy Committee report.

Mr. Derflinger gave the Curriculum report.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave the Human Relations Commission report.

Mr. Lifton gave the Referendum Committee report.

Mr. Suss gave the Finance/Tech Committee report.

The Board had comments and questions on Committee reports.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

Dr. Caputo's Birthday!

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

February 8, 2022	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 8, 2022	Special Business Meeting (2)
February 8, 2022	Board Meeting

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 7-0-1. Ms. Killean abstained.

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

Ms. Debra Golbe of 131 Highland Ave, made comments about the referendum.

Ms. Jackie Gibson of 72 Lake Ave, made comments about the referendum.

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. Retirement - Substitute Coordinator

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Judy Kurabinski, Substitute Coordinator for the Metuchen Schools District, effective June 30, 2022.

2. Salary Adjustment – Certificated Staff

Move to approve a change in base salary for Caroline Forde, Edgar School Teacher, from Step 1F, \$57,250/year, to Step 3F, \$60,113/year, as a result of earning her Master’s Degree, effective March 1, 2022.

3. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Annie Kim, Paraprofessional at Moss School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$22,848/year, prorated, using IDEA grant funds, effective February 23, 2022, pending criminal history clearance.

4. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Richard Cundari, Math Teacher at Metuchen High School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$54,250/year, prorated, Step 1D, effective April 25, 2022, or earlier if he is released from his current district.

5. Appointment - Custodian

Move to approve the transfer of position of Lorenzo Asiain, from Night Head Custodian to Day Head Custodian at Edgar School, effective February 14, 2022.

6. Appointment - Custodian

Move to approve the appointment of Raul Morales as Night Head Custodian at Edgar School, effective February 14, 2022, with the additional compensation of \$4,550/year, prorated, for the 2021-2022 school year.

7. Appointment - Event Staff

Move to approve the following additional Event Staff for the 2021-2022 school year (Agenda 9/14/21, Section 13 A14):

Name	Position	Rate Per Game
Jose Almeida	Edgar Basketball Supervisor	\$50

8. Appointment - Substitute Nurses

Move to approve the appointment of the following additional substitute nurse for the 2021-2022 school year, effective February 23, 2022, at a rate of \$125/day, pending completion of criminal background clearance (Agenda 8/24/2021, Section 13 A7):

Briana Heintjes

9. Appointment - 1:1 Substitute Nurses

Move to approve the appointment of the following 1:1 per diem substitute registered nurses for the 2021-2022 school year, effective February 23, 2022, at a rate of \$280/day, pending completion of criminal background clearance:

Briana Heintjes
Mary Sondergaard

10. Campbell School Lunch/Recess Stipend

Move to approve the following non-instructional lunch stipend for the period of March 1, 2022 through April 14, 2022 as follows:

Name	Assignment	2021-2022 Stipend
Candace Evans	Campbell lunch/recess	\$1,138.50

11. Campbell School Lunch/Recess Stipend

Move to approve the following non-instructional lunch stipend for the period of March 7, 2022 through June 21, 2022 as follows:

Name	Assignment	2021-2022 Stipend
Janelle Fisher (.5)	Campbell lunch/recess	\$1,173.00

12. Appointment - Substitute

Move to approve the additional substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, effective February 23, 2022, pending completion of substitute paperwork and criminal background clearance (Agenda 8/24/2021, Section 13 A5):

Substitute Teacher	Certification	Ray Rate
Kaitlyn Borsos	Sub with college degree	\$90/day

13. Family Leave - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the family leave of absence of Joseph Keagle, Physics Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective approximately March 7, 2022 through approximately April 25, 2022.

14. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Neha Makwana, Leave Replacement for Megan Shapiro, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, at a rate of \$278.38/day, effective approximately March 24, 2022 through approximately June 24, 2022, pending criminal history clearance.

15. Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities - Metuchen High School.

Move to approve the name change of the following co-curricular volunteer club at Metuchen High School for the 2021-2022 school year (Agenda 2/8/22, Section 13 A11):

Co-Curricular/Club	School	Advisor
Rescind: Black Student Union	MHS	Ann Lezama
Approve: African American Club	MHS	Ann Lezama

16. Behavioral Technician Training - Paraprofessionals

Move to approve the following paraprofessionals to complete the Registered Behavioral Technician training, not to exceed 45 hours each, at their hourly rate as follows:

Name	Rate
Abeera Faizan	\$19.16
Michael Small	\$19.16
Nicolette Dulin	\$19.16
Sandy Iacona	\$19.16

17. Appointment - Informal Mentor Teacher

Move to approve the following additional staff to serve as an informal mentor for the 2021-2022 school year, to be paid at a rate of \$47/hour, not to exceed six hours (Agenda 8/24/22, Section 13A 17):

New Teacher	School	Mentor
Matthew Sutin	Metuchen High School	Katie Tencza

18. Medical Leave of Absence - Extension

Move to extend the medical leave of absence of Jo-Ann Rice, Secretary at Edgar School, through approximately March 18, 2022.

19. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Elena Celano, as Leave Replacement for Campbell School Art Teacher Gina Kustelski, effective approximately March 3, 2022 through June 24, 2022, at a rate of \$150/day.

20. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Ben Hohmann, Paraprofessional at Campbell School, for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$21,785/year, prorated, effective March, 1 2022.

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

Dr. Caputo shared kind words and well wishes for Judy Kurabinski on her retirement.

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

B. FINANCE

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

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, 2021

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 22, 2022 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, 2021.

4. Student Agreement

Move to approve the settlement agreement of student 2020610.

5. Student Agreement

Move to approve the settlement agreement for student 2032001.

6. Professional Development

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

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Name	Building	Approved	Payment	FFPI Proposal #
3/8/2022	3/8/2022	2022 NJECC - New Jersey Educational Technology Conference	Mertz, Emily	Edgar	\$163	FFPI	22-090
3/10/2022	3/10/2022	A New Place: Civics 2022	Stead, Pamela	Edgar	0	No cost	
3/10/2022	3/10/2022	A New Place: Civics 2022	Gural, Todd	Edgar	0	No cost	
3/16/2022	3/16/2022	Teaching Writing with Spice for the NJSLA Online Workshop	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$106	FFPI	22-080
3/16/2022	3/16/2022	Teaching Writing with Spice for the NJSLA Online Workshop	Dwyer, Rebecca	Edgar	\$106	FFPI	22-082
3/18/2022	3/21/2022	2022 Annual Conference Recharge & Reconnect	Dougherty, Natalie	Central Office	\$1000	Other	

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3/18/2022	3/18/2022	NJCIE Inclusion Leadership Conference Spring 2022	Omark, Lindsey	Campbell	\$50	FFPI	22-086
3/18/2022	3/18/2022	NJCIE Inclusion Leadership Conference	Pasquale, Jennifer	Campbell	\$50	FFPI	22-085
3/24/2022	3/24/2022	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference	Bormann, Kristina	Campbell	\$168	FFPI	22-067
3/24/2022	3/25/2022	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference: Celebrate	Kurtin, Ilana	Central Office	\$320	Other	
3/24/2022	3/25/2022	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference: Celebrate	Azevedo, Suzy	Edgar	\$330	Other	
3/26/2022	3/27/2022	Introduction To PROMPT technique	Donlin, Emily	Campbell	\$499	FFPI	22-087
4/8/2022	4/8/2022	Structured Literacy - Learn the Basics of the Orton Gillingham Method	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$250	FFPI	22-081
4/8/2022	4/8/2022	Structured Literacy - Learn the Basics of the Orton Gillingham Method	Thompson, Lauren	Edgar	\$250	FFPI	22-083
4/8/2022	4/8/2022	Structured Literacy- Learn the Basics of the Orton Gillingham Method	Kaye, Lindsay	Edgar	\$250	FFPI	22-084
4/14/2022	4/14/2022	Work-Based Learning (formerly Structured Learning Experiences) Supervision	Dybas, Christina	MHS	\$739	Other	
4/26/2022	4/29/2022	2022 SHAPE America National Convention and Expo!	Huff, Michelle	MHS	\$1000	FFPI	22-062
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	Making Best Use of Google Classroom to Strengthen Your Social Studies Instruction	Stead, Pamela	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	22-091
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	NJASCD: Whole Child Conference 2022	Bormann, Kristina	Campbell	\$99	FFPI	22-069
5/9/2022	5/9/2022	Dyslexia Best Strategies to Accelerate Student Success	Kuchar, Eileen	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	22-089
5/9/2022	5/9/2022	Dyslexia: Best Strategies to Accelerate Student Success	Bruno, Kristin	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	22-088
5/17/2022	5/17/2022	Payroll Administrators Program	Donohue, Sheila	Central Office	\$100	Other	
3/8/2022	3/8/2022	2022 NJECC - New Jersey Educational Technology Conference	Mertz, Emily	Edgar	\$163	FFPI	22-090
3/10/2022	3/10/2022	A New Place: Civics 2022	Stead, Pamela	Edgar	0	No cost	

Mr. Suss motioned. Mr. Lifton seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. District Calendar

Move to approve the district calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded.

There were comments and questions from the Board.

Motion carried 5-3-0. Ms. Cook, Mr. Derflinger, Mr. Glassberg, Mr. Lifton, and Dr. Spigner voted yes. Dr. Johnson-Marcus, Ms. Killean, and Mr. Suss voted no.

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

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Metacognition and PBL Coach

Move to approve Susan Stevens of Dr. Goodreader Consulting Services to serve as a Secondary Math Coach for the 2021-2022 school year to provide professional learning focused on real-world math PBL. Cost not to exceed \$8,000.

2. Field Trips

Move to approve the following field trips for students in the Metuchen School District as shown:

School	Destination	Class/Group/ Purpose	Teachers/ Advisors	Date (s)	No. Of Students	Board Cost- Transportati on	Board Cost- Subs.
MHS	Menlo Park Mall	5 th – 12 th Grade - Students will gain experience visiting and shopping throughout places in our community and will practice demonstrating appropriate social behaviors and practice their math skills by making purchases in stores.	Dybas Thomas Valovcin	3/4/ 2022	15	\$80	\$0
CES	Stop & Shop	1 st – 4 th Grade – Students will learn and generalize social and emotional/behavi oral goals, as well as	Pauls Jeney DiSerio Visschelli Ettore Omarzai Small Bakshi	3/11/ 2022	14	\$40	\$0

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		communication goals and teaching appropriate behaviors.	Kobayachi				
MHS	Shoprite	5 th – 12 th Grade - Students will bring shopping lists for their families to Shoprite and will purchase items using price comparison, next dollar up and Item identification.	Valovcin Dybas Thomas Schutz DiMeglio Grant Leitner Molfetto 1 Nurse 3 Para's from EMS	4/1/ 2022	14	\$80	\$0
MHS	Christmas Tree Shoppes & Lunch	5 th – 12 th Grade - Students will shop at Christmas Tree shoppe for Mother's Day gifts.	Valovcin Dybas Thomas Schutz DiMeglio Grant Leitner Molfetto Nurse Smeha 3 Paras from EMS	5/6/ 2022	13	\$90	\$0
MHS	Metuchen Diner	5 th – 12 th Grade - to reinforce restaurant skills including etiquette, taking turns, making good choices, and financial skills	Valovcin Dybas Thomas Schutz DiMeglio Grant Leitner Molfetto Nurse Smeha 3 Paras from EMS	5/13/ 2022	13	\$60	\$0
EMS	Philadelphia Zoo	6 th – 8 th Grade - Students will use their observation skills and evaluate and connect relationships between plants, animals, and the environment.	Stead Butler Connors Donohue Elton Hembree Albanese Camargo Robbins Bruno Ames Hertzog Butler	6/14/ 2022	184	\$5,000 Bus cost to Students	\$270

Dr. Derflinger motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

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

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

Ms. Jamie Grubam of 68 Carson Ave, spoke again about her concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

15. Announcements

Dr. Spigner gave 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. All in favor. Adjourned at 10:13 pm.