

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 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	P	Ms. Killeen	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**

❖ MHS Artwork

Art 1 students used color theory to create Playlist Covers based on their favorite music. Students began by creating sketchbook explorations while listening to different songs. Students then reflected on their artwork and made connections between their choices of materials, colors and symbols to the mood of each song. Students chose the most significant color schemes, symbols and marks from each exploration and combined them together to create one cover that reflects the overall mood of the music featured on their playlist. Students also made choices between a variety of media including watercolor paint, tempera paint, colored pencil, marker, oil pastel, chalk pastel and charcoal to best express their ideas. After the project was complete, students answered written reflection questions to make connections between their design choices and resulting artwork. Playlist Covers were displayed in the art room so students could view the work of their classmates and engage in peer critique.

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

Ms. Jessica Weiss of 104 Rutgers Street, came up with comments and questions about the referendum.

Ms. Melissa Shilowitz of 2 Laureldale Avenue, came up to express her concerns about the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Mr. Luke Kwon (address unspecified) came up to ask questions about the referendum costs.

Mr. Glassberg motioned to extend open public comment fifteen minutes. Mr. Lifton seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Gary Weitzer of 64 Norris Avenue, came up to speak about funding for the robotics club.

**7. Presentations**

- ❖ Review of Athletic Co-Curricular, Curriculum and Special Education/Mental Health Initiative Budgets – Mr. Harvier

Mr. Cathcart came up to speak about athletics.

Mr. Cohen gave a presentation on Curriculum.

Ms. Herzog gave a presentation on special education and mental health.

- ❖ Referendum Presentation - Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten presented by Mr. Lifton

Presentation was done by Mr. Cohen and Dr. Costanza.

- ❖ Safe Return/Road Forward Plan Update - Dr. Caputo
- ❖ Open to Public for Comments on Safe Return Plan/Road Forward

Dr. Caputo presented the updated Road Forward.  
There were no public comments.

**8. Reports**

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

Mr. Benderly gave a report on the District Leadership Team and gave a brief update on the Gardenstate Coalition of Schools.

Ms. Killeen gave a report on the Extra-Curricular Committee.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a very brief Human Relations Commission update.

Mr. Lifton gave a report for the Referendum Committee.

Mr. Suss gave a report for the Finance/Tech Committee.

**9. Old Business**

Mr. Benderly gave an impassioned speech defending the decisions made for the 2022-2023 school calendar.

**10. New Business**

None

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

February 22, 2022	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 22, 2022	Special Business Meeting (2)
February 22, 2022	Board Meeting

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1. Mr. Benderly abstained due to absence at the last meeting.

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

Rennée Riebling of 40 Plainfield Avenue, spoke about the concerns with the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Jared Weitzner of 64 Norris Avenue, came up to speak about funding for the robotics club.

Ms. Melissa Shilowitz of 2 Laureldale Avenue, came up to speak about funding for the robotics club.

**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. Salary Adjustment - Certificated Staff**

Move to approve a change in base salary for Brian Jeney, Campbell School Teacher, from Step 2A, \$52,788/year, to Step 3A, \$54,075/year, as a result of earning his Master's Degree, effective March 1, 2022.

**2. IDEA Grant Allocation for Salary**

Move to approve Moss Paraprofessional Sandy Iacona's salary to be funded by the IDEA grant, in the amount of \$10,281.60.

**3. Appointment – Formal Mentor Teacher**

Move to approve the following additional staff to serve as a formal mentor for the 2021-2022 school year (Agenda 8/24/22, Section 13A 16):

New Teacher	School	Mentor	Payment Traditional Route
Michael Richvalsky	Metuchen High School	Bonnie Stanski	Partial Year/\$220

**4. Appointment - Spring 2022 Student Teacher**

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

Name	School
Lenny Ramirez, Western Governors University	Campbell

**5. Volunteer Club - Edgar Middle School**

Move to approve the following additional volunteer club at Edgar Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year (Agenda 8/24/21, Section 13 A15):

Volunteer Club	School	Advisor
French Club	EMS	Linda Garfinkel

**6. 2021-2022 Spring Coach Appointments –Metuchen High School**

Move to approve the following additional 2021-2022 Metuchen High School Coach Appointments, pending criminal history clearance, and substitute certification (Agenda 6/22/2021, Section 13 A27 and Agenda 10/12/21, Section 13 A5):

Name	Assignment	Step	21-22 Stipend
Marcus Farris	Spring Flag Football Coach	-	\$2,250
Hannah Thomas*	Spring Flag Football Coach	-	\$2,250
Brooke Bandola*	Volunteer Softball Coach	-	-

\*Represents Adjunct Coach

**7. 2022-2023 Fall Coach Appointments –Metuchen High School**

Move to approve the following 2022-2023 Metuchen High School Fall Coach Appointments, pending criminal history clearance, and substitute certification:

Name	Assignment	Step	22-23 Stipend
Marcus Farris	Fall Football First Assistant Coach	1	\$7,894
Scott Leitner*	Fall Football Assistant Coach	3	\$7,894
Lonnie Rawles*	Fall Football Assistant Coach	1	\$7,522
Nick Zaneto	Fall Football Assistant Coach	1	\$7,522

\*Represents Adjunct Coach

**8. Appointment - Literacy Intervention Programing**

Move to approve Jennifer Pasquale to participate in 10 hours of literacy intervention programming at a rate of \$47/hr.

### 9. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Sheila Temkin, Leave Replacement for Joe Keagle, Physics Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective March 3, 2022 through April 1, 2022, at a rate of \$278.38/day.

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

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

### B. FINANCE

#### Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

#### 1. Jets Foundation Grant

Move to accept the Jets Foundation Grant, in the amount of \$8,000, for a High School Girls Flag Football Program, for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### 2. Home Instruction - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Move to approve Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) School Program to provide home instruction at a rate of \$59.44 per hour, as needed.

#### 3. 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 #
3/9/2022	3/9/2022	Annual Conference-NJECC	Williams, Raquel	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
3/18/2022	3/18/2022	NJCIE Inclusion Leadership Conference	Bonassisa, Deneane	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
3/18/2022	3/18/2022	NJCIE Spring Inclusion Leadership Conference 2022	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$50	FFPI	22-096
3/28/2022	4/8/2022	Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training	Pauls, Samantha	Campbell	\$1275	Other	
3/30/2022	3/30/2022	5th Grade NJSLA- S Science Assessment Training Session	Nolde, Jonathan	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
4/12/2022	4/19/2022	Teachers as Scholars Seminar 8: Teaching LGBTQIA* Literature in Secondary School	Nadler, Caitlin	Edgar	\$187.29	FFPI	22-095
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	ASCD/NJASCD Whole Child Conference	Dwyer, Rebecca	Edgar	\$0	FFPI	
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	ASCD/NJASCD Whole Child Conference	Masters, Sarah	Moss	\$99	FFPI	22-093
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	NJASCD Whole Conference 2022	Young, Kelsee	Moss	\$99	FFPI	22-092
4/28/2022	4/28/2022	Whole Child conference	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	\$99	FFPI	22-094
6/1/2022	6/7/2022	AP Grading for AP United States History Exam	Schlavis, William	MHS	\$0	No cost	
6/2/2022	6/8/2022	AP Exam Reading	Stevens, Jonathan	MHS	\$0	No cost	

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

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

**C. POLICY**

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

**1. Suspensions**

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for January 17, 2022 - March 4, 2022.

**2. First Reading of Policies and Regulations**

Move to approve the first readings of the following policies and regulations:

- ❖ P 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment
- ❖ P & R 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
- ❖ P 2451 Adult High School
- ❖ R 2460.30 Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (New)
- ❖ P 2622 Student Assessment
- ❖ R 2622 Student Assessment (New)
- ❖ P 3233 Political Activities
- ❖ P 5460 High School Graduation
- ❖ P 5541 Anti-Hazing (New)
- ❖ P & R 8465 Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts
- ❖ P 9560 Administration of School Surveys

**3. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported cases:

- METHS012822001
- METHS021122001

Ms. Cook motioned. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0 for items 1 and 2. Motion carried 8-0-1 for item 3. Mr. Dan Benderly abstained.

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

**D. CURRICULUM**

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

**1. Textbook Disposal**

Move to approve the disposal of the following textbook:

Textbook	ISBN	Copyright
Pre Calculus with Limits by Larson & Battaglia	9781439049099	2011

**2. Field Trips**

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

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School	Destination	Class/Group/ Purpose	Teachers/ Advisors	Date (s)	No. Of Students	Board Cost- Transportation	Board Cost- Subs.
CES	Target	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Learn and generalize social and emotional/ behavioral goals, as well as communication goals and teaching appropriate behaviors.	Pauls Jeney DiSerio Visschelli Ettore Omarzai Small Bakshi Kobayachi	4/8/ 2022	14	\$40	\$0
CES	What's The Scoop	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Learn and generalize social and emotional/ behavioral goals, as well as communication goals and teaching appropriate behaviors.	Pauls Jeney DiSerio Visschelli Ettore Omarzai Small Bakshi Kobayachi	4/29/ 2022	14	\$0	\$0
MHS	Functional Human Anatomy Lab	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade - The students will view actual human anatomy to reinforce material learned in class and will offer an in-person dissection of a human cadaver.	Clapp	5/10/ 2022	17	\$90	\$90
MHS	Frogbridge	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade - This senior trip has been a longstanding tradition at Metuchen High School. This venue features many outdoor team building activities such as dodgeball, tennis, beach volleyball and basketball to name a few.	Lezama 15 Teachers TBD	5/16/ 2022	205	\$5,400 Bus Cost to Students	\$1,425

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

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

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

None

**15. Announcements**

Dr. Spigner made 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 moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30pm.