

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

**MEETING MINUTES
of the Metuchen Board of Education**
Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Call to Order

Flag Salute

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

Roll Call

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

Showcase of Success

❖ Artwork Display

This evening we have the pleasure of having the Edgar Middle School Arts Festival Preview showcased. Every year each student who has Art and Industrial Arts, has a piece of artwork on display. Mrs. Gumbrecht, Ms. Banner and Mr. Jones transform the Edgar gymnasium into an amazing Art Gallery. As you see here, there is a sampling of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade artists showcasing a variety of mediums including:

- 5th grade tempera paint and oil pastels
- 6th Grade drip drawings, sculpey clay, and Tim Burton inspired self portraits
- 7th grade ceramic food sculptures and neurographics
- 8h grade micrography, watercolors, and clay containers

Industrial Arts Projects produced by 8th grade woodworkers include:

- Charcuterie boards
- Chess boards
- Poured resin
- Clocks
- Pens

Thanks to the Metuchen Education Foundation, students are able to utilize the Glowforge, a 3-D laser engraver. They have the ability to monogram boards, cut custom designs, and laser cut intricate designs into jewelry. Please join us Thursday June 8th from 7-9pm in the Edgar Middle school Gymnasium to see the FULL Edgar Middle School Arts festival Experience!

❖ **MHS Seal of Biliteracy**

Metuchen High School is proud to announce the following 46 students received the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy in Chinese, French, Gujarati, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, and Vietnamese. The State Seal of Biliteracy was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, listening and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. To earn the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy students must meet English Language Arts graduation requirements and earn a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid or higher on a state approved, world language assessment. Students noted also earned their Global Seal of Biliteracy. Congratulations to the following students:

Seniors

Selin Altunyay - Spanish	Brianna De La Fuente - Spanish
Bryan Ayala - Spanish	Irene Lin - Chinese
Samira Bahridinova - Spanish & Russian	Hiyori Suzuki - Japanese

Juniors

Ann Carlos - Spanish	Kevin Notch - Spanish & Italian
Michael Cedeno Martinez - Spanish	Kevin O'Brien - Spanish
Nicole Dudek - Polish	Kayla O'Malley - Spanish
Leslie Flaherty - Spanish	Alex Patelski - Polish
August Garner - Spanish	Shivalik Paul - Spanish
Kristal Goytia - Spanish	Liliana Petro - Hungarian
Arjun Gupta - Spanish	Mairead Rivera - Spanish
Matthew Han - Spanish & Korean	Liana Rodriguez - Spanish
Erin Hart - Spanish	Savanna Rodriguez - Spanish
Richard Ho - Spanish & Vietnamese	Alexander Serban - Russian
Ximena Johnstone Asturias - Spanish	Leila Shao - Spanish
Michelle Kiantony - Spanish	Penelope Shao - Spanish
Emily Lan - Chinese	Chloe Shen - Spanish
Cindy Li - Chinese	Vrinda Surati - Gujarati
Ivan Lin - Chinese	Julia Swykowski - Spanish
Nicole Lin - Chinese	Isaac Taegar - Spanish
Nene Murao - French & Japanese	Alyssa Tay - Spanish
Zachary Musmanno - Spanish	Aidan Van Skyhawk - Spanish
Dhiya Naresh - Spanish & Tamil	Michael Zetino - Spanish
Robert Nawn - Spanish	Anya Zhang - Spanish

6. Meeting Open to the Public *(for any topic)* - None

7. Presentations

8. Reports

- ❖ President's Report - Mr. Lifton gave his report.
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - None
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Benderly gave a few words about the Garden State Coalition of Schools.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a report for the Human Relations Commission and mentioned an Equity event.

- ❖ Student Board Member Report - Mr. Solasky gave a report.

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

May 9, 2023	Special Business Meeting (1)
May 9, 2023	Special Business Meeting (2)
May 9, 2023	Board Meeting

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1. Dr. Spigner abstained.

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

Ms. Jennifer Gumbrecht of 6 Ely Court came up and spoke. She honored the retiring teachers.

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. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Rebecca Klein, Library Media Specialist for Campbell School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$57,225, Step 3B*, effective August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (*salary may be adjusted upon the settlement of the new contract).

2. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Andrew Southern, Science Teacher at Edgar Middle School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$67,200, Step 3H*, effective August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (*salary may be adjusted upon the settlement of the new contract).

3. Informal Mentors

Move to approve the following staff to serve as an informal mentor for the 2022-2023 school year, effective August 30, 2022, to be paid at a rate of \$48/hour, not to exceed six hours (Agenda 8/9/23, Section 13 A18):

New Teacher	School	Mentor
Nicole Kogan	Campbell	Ellissa Cadel
Nadia Salzer	Campbell	Gina Kustelski
Magy Naguib	Moss	Stephanie Kandel

4. Formal Mentor

Move to approve the following formal mentor teacher to work with the following mentee teacher for the 2022-2023 school year(Agenda 8/9/23, Section 13 A20):

New Teacher/Leave Replacement	School	Mentor	Payment Traditional Rate \$550.00 Alternate Route \$1,000.00
Stephanie Sandbeck	Campbell	Ellissa Cadel	\$550.00

5. Salary Adjustment – Certificated Staff

Move to approve a change in base salary for Magy Naguib, Moss School Teacher, from Step 1I, \$68,200/year, to Step 3I, \$71,610/year, as a result of earning her Master’s Degree, effective June 1, 2023.

6. Salary Adjustment – Certificated Staff

Move to approve a change in base salary for Vincent Signorile, Campbell School Teacher, from Step 1C, \$55,000/year, to Step 2C, \$56,375/year, as a result of his 30 additional credits (BA+30), effective June 1, 2023.

7. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Adrianna Reyes, ESL Teacher at Campbell School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$63,210, Step 3G*, effective August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (*salary may be adjusted upon the settlement of the new contract).

8. 2022-2023 Spring Coach Appointments –Metuchen High School

Move to approve the following additional 2022-2023 Metuchen High School Coach Appointments (Agenda 6/28/2022, Section 13 A27):

Name	Assignment	Step	22-23 Stipend
Marcus Farris	Spring Flag Football Coach	-	\$2,295
Hannah Thomas*	Spring Flag Football Coach	-	\$2,295

*Represents Adjunct Coach

9. Appointment of Substitute Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of the following additional substitute paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 school year, pending criminal history clearance (Agenda 8/23/2022 Section 13 A17):

Substitute Paraprofessional	Rate
Colin Yerger	\$15/hour

10. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Julia Vaughn, Social Studies Teacher at Edgar School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$54,000, Step 1A*, effective August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (*salary may be adjusted upon the settlement of the new contract).

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Benderly seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

-----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 March 31, 2023.

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 May 23, 2023 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 March 31, 2023.

4. Resolution Food Service

Be it resolved that the Metuchen Board of Education “SFA” accepts the Food Service Management proposal from The Pomptonian, Inc. “FSMC” for the food service operation for 2023-2024.

1. FSMC Fee:

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$32,470.00 to compensate the FSMC for

Board Minutes - May 23, 2023

administrative and management costs. This fee shall be included as a cost of operation and billed in 10 monthly installments of \$3,247.00 per month. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC.

2. There is no guaranteed financial performance
3. Total Estimated Cost of Contract:
Total estimated expenses (cost) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses, and FSMC management fee.

The Total Estimated Cost of Contract is \$757,675.81.

5. 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 #
5/23/2023	5/23/2023	NJASECD: From Survival to success by Exploring the Three C's	Young, Kelsee	Moss	75	Other (payment updated from 5/9 agenda)	
5/23/2023	5/23/2023	"From Survival to Success by Exploring the Three C's."	Calantoni, Karen	Moss	150	Other	
5/23/2023	5/23/2023	NJASECD: From Survival to success by Exploring the Three C's	Levin, Lisa	CES	150	FFPI	23-141
5/23/2023	5/23/2023	NJASECD: From Survival to Success by Exploring The Three C's	Spak, Jennifer	CES	150	FFPI	23-142
6/5/2023	6/7/2023	5th Grade NJSLA- S Science Assessment Operational Test Range Finding	Nolde, Jonathan	CES	0	No cost	
6/5/2023	6/5/2023	Rutgers' Collaborative School Leadership Inter-District Meeting	Dougherty, Natalie	Central Office	0	No cost	
6/7/2023	6/8/2023	Spotlight on Dyslexia Virtual Conference	Thompson, Lauren	EMS	99	Other	
6/12/2023	6/14/2023	AAC for Gestalt Language Processors	Donlin, Emily	CES	376	FFPI	23-143
6/12/2023	6/13/2023	Evaluation and Treatment of Childhood Apraxia of Speech: The Kaufman K-SLP Methods and Behavioral Strategies to Build Vocal Communication	Peluso, Emily	Moss	129	FFPI	23-144
6/22/2023	6/22/2023	NJASCD Board Retreat	Dougherty, Natalie	Central Office	0	No cost	

8/28/ 2023	8/28/ 2023	Auditory Processing Workshop and Equipment Inservice	Donlin, Emily	CES	100	FFPI	24-001
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6. RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF \$82,236,000 SCHOOL BONDS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE. (see attachment)

7. Therapeutic and Behavioral Services

Move approve the appointment of the following to provide counseling, therapeutic and behavioral services for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Effective School Solutions- to provide Therapeutic Mental Health Services for an annual contract of \$299,800
- Rutgers UBHC- to provide Therapeutic Mental Health Services for an annual contract of \$299,800
- Wellspring Center for Prevention to provide counseling services for an annual rate of \$96,000 (ESSER Grant Funded)

8. Student Placement

Move to approve placement of student 20341125 to attend Rutgers Day School, effective approximately June 5, 2023 for the rate of \$7,681 per month.

9. Jets Foundation Grant

Move to accept the Jets Foundation Grant, in the amount of \$4,000, for a High School Girls Flag Football Program, for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Suss motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0 for item 1 and items 3-9. Motion carried 6-0-1 for item 2. Mr Benderly abstained.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Representative to the ESCNJ Board of Directors

Pursuant to enacted legislation, P.L. 192-1989, Chapter 254, the Metuchen Board of Education elected Dr. Vincent Caputo to the Representative Assembly of The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey at their meeting held on May 23, 2023 from June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. 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- Transportation	Number of Subs Needed
MHS	Ecuador & Galapagos Islands	Grades 11 & 12; EF Tours trip to Ecuador & Galapagos Islands; previously approved in 2019 rescheduled for 4th time.	Chris Giddes, John Cathcart	7/10/ 2023 - 7/18/ 2023	11	TBD	n/a (summer)
CES	Hands of Hope	Grade 4; Students in 4SL are hosting a trivia day to raise funds/canned goods for their service learning project. We learned about the different challenges immigrants face and want to help others. We will be bringing all canned goods to the shelter to help sort for local immigrants. SWBAT complete their service learning project by bringing canned goods to Hands of Hope.	Sofia Lopes	6/12/ 2023	26	\$0	0
MHS	Campbell	Grades 9-12; Teaching Internship for the students at Metuchen High School. The mentoring program will be facilitated by four teachers within our district who will help train students to use steps and SElf-questions to develop goals and goal setting. The workshops would be 4 one hour sessions after school at MHS and one hour session at Campbell school for the MHS students to conduct teaching of younger kids.	Rick Cohen, Courtney Crawford, Lindsay Nalepa, Emily Presuto, Kelsee Young	6/13/ 2023	35	\$0	0 (event after school)

Board Minutes - May 23, 2023

CES	Edgar	Grade 4; This is the annual orientation trip to Edgar School to help prepare students for their entry into Edgar School in the Fall of 2023	Thomas Yakowenko	6/8/2023	174	\$160	0
EMS	Metuchen Municipal Pool	Grade 5-8; We would like to have one more National Blue Ribbon School Award celebration this year. We would like to have a pool party at the Metuchen Pool!	Suzy Azevedo and Edgar Middle School Staff(approximately 100 staff)	6/5/2023 Grades 5 & 6 will go from 9am-11 am Grades 7 & 8 will go from 12pm - 2pm	774	\$0	0
MHS	Amazing Escape Room	Grade 9-12; Team building and collaborative program helping to develop team unity and leadership skills	John Cathcart, Ashley Jaye,	6/2/2023	12	\$70	0
MHS	Metuchen Municipal Pool	Grade 12; The Senior Class trip is taking place at the Metuchen Pool again this year.	Susan Paredes, Nick Zaneto, Anais Ortega, Ryan Clapp, Chris Giddes, Nick Vosinas, Ann Lezama, Mark Mooney, Lindsay Nalepa, Dawn Valovcin	6/14/2023	190	\$360(4 buses)	TBD

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

Meeting Open to Public (*for any topic*) - None

Announcements - Dr. Spigner made announcements.

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.

Adjournment

Mr. Lifton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Glassberg seconded.
All in favor.

Adjournment at 8:35 pm.