

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

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

4. Roll Call

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

5. Showcase of Success

- ❖ Tournament of Bands Chapter VII Group IV Open Champions
- Tournament of Bands Group IV Open New Jersey State Champions
- US Bands Group V Open Grand National Finalist

The marching band competes annually in the Tournament of Bands circuit with bands from NJ, PA, WV and MD. They are currently the biggest band in the entire circuit, coming from one of the smallest schools. They also compete in open class, which is the most advanced class in the circuit. The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band is currently back-to-back state and chapter champions. At the end of the season, the band also competed against bands from throughout the country in the US Bands Grand National Championship at MetLife Stadium.

**2023-2024
Pride of Metuchen Marching Band**

* = Section Leader

Flute and Piccolo

Devin Fineman *
Abigail Hogan
Mirabella Hom
Kiko Li
Bella Staal

Clarinet

Ashley Chen
Ada Dolan
Joseph Duhme *
Amira Elsayed
Emma Huber
Ximena Johnstone-Asturias *
Anika Kundu
Neela Myers
Chloe Shen *
Anushree Sutradhar

Low Reeds

Daniel Afkhami *
Ayaan Saha
Ishaan Sarkar

Alto Saxophone

Sara Haq
Eliman Kassogue
Habib Kassogue
Nene Murao *
Shinnosuke Murao
Ryan Stein
Gianna Toscano
Victoria Zaniecki
Melody Zetino *

Tenor Saxophone

Daniel Choi
Caleb Han
Harshith Pasam
Daniel Ruiz
Nicholas Timko
Ryan Timko *

Trumpet

Tariq Alisammond
Sean Blaze
Julia Diaz
Alistair Fawcett
Elizabeth Fineman
Connor Gaughan
Jackson Gould *
Logan MacPherson
Michael McNamara *
Aidan McPherson
Vedant Naik *
Brandon Zhu

Mellophone

Alyson Chan *
Nicholas Cosenza
Ethan DelaGarza
Gianna Hernandez *

Baritone

Avner Chaplin *
Nell Massey
Siddhant Naik
Nicholas Reuter
Gage Rodey
Bowen Zhang

Tuba

Eli Duhme
Chamber Lam
Rose Michaels-LaMorte
Oliver Sydor

Drumline

Madeleine Cook
Praket Jha
Arturs Krumins
Janhavi Malik
Zoya Malik
Riva Nagvekar
Tyler Nicholson
Aidan Ogborn *
Ripley Wong *
Allen Zheng

Front Ensemble

Peter Coreschi
Katy Donohue
Joshua Feldmann
Milo Haviland
Alexandra Ho
Lindsey Kang
Peter Kukuruza
Emily Lanton *
Katherine Meyer
Gavin Moorman
Ronan Sequeira
Daniel Stone
Marisol Torres
Matthew Zetino *
Michael Zetino

Guard

Elizabeth Aiyaleso
Jocelyn Branch
Faith Cordova
Michaela Coreschi
Munachiso Ezem-Madu
August Garner *
Evy Hand
Zora Haviland
Eileen He
Adrienne Lee
Melinda Li
Gwendolyn Osmond
Caelum Ritzdorf *
Emma Staal *

❖ Sports Champs

MHS Girls Cross Country
Red Division Champions
GMC Champions
Central Jersey Group 1 Sectional Champions
Group 1 Champions

Ella Andersen
Gianna Hernandez
Kaitlyn Hsueh

Sally Kelton
Lilly Kupersmit
Maggie Rivera

GMC Champion
Sectional Champion

Gianna Hernandez

MHS Boys Cross Country
White Division Champions
Central Jersey - Group 1 - State Sectional Champions

Brady Allen
Kai Englert
Arturs Krumins

Michael McNamara
Harry Moorman
Alex Patelski

Eric Schleif
James Vissichelli

White Division Champion
Central Jersey Group 1 Sectional Champion

Alex Patelski

MHS Girls Tennis
Co-White Division Champions

Julia Armour
Marina Armour
Alyson Joy Chan
Katie Chen
Nicole Dudek
Abigail Hogan
Lindsey Kang

Lauren Kantar
Emily Lan
Anna Leon
Cindy Li
Chelsea Lu
Mary McGrath
Erika Mihaylov

Suhani Modha
Nene Murao
Mai Nguyen
Samantha Schulz
Vrinda Surati
Gina Yip

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

7. Presentations

8. Reports

- ❖ President’s Report
- ❖ Superintendent's Report
- ❖ Committee Reports
- ❖ Student Board Member Report

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

November 28, 2023	Special Business Meeting (1)
November 28, 2023	Special Business Meeting (2)
November 28, 2023	Board Meeting

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.

A. PERSONNEL

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Retirement - Custodial Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mark Cooper, Head Night Custodian at Campbell School, effective February 1, 2024.

2. Resignation - Certificated Staff

Move to accept the resignation of Jaclyn Reisman, Metuchen High School Special Education Teacher, effective January 26, 2023.

3. Resignation - Paraprofessional

Move to accept the resignation of Ernest Svolto, Metuchen High School Paraprofessional, effective December 31, 2023.

4. Maternity Leave of Absence - Date Revision

Move to approve the updated effective date of the maternity leave of absence of Sofia Lopes, 4th Grade Teacher at Campbell School, effective December 14, 2023 through approximately May 23, 2024 (Agenda 7/18/23, Section 13 A17).

5. Volunteer Clubs - Additional

Move to approve the following Volunteer Clubs for the 2023-2024 school year as listed (Agenda 08/22/2023, Section 13, A10):

Metuchen High School	
Club	Advisor
Writing & Literary Magazine Club	Aubree Deminski
SWENext	Jing Jing Wang
Edgar Middle School	
Club	Advisor
Cheer	Brendan McCunney

6. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Lauren Corrigan, Paraprofessional at Metuchen High School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$22,435/year, prorated, effective approximately January 22, 2024 (or earlier if released from her current district).

7. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Trey Jaworski, Biology Teacher at Metuchen High School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$64,000/year, Step 1H, prorated, effective approximately January 30, 2024.

8. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Maricruz Araujo, as Leave Replacement for Edgar School Spanish Teacher, effective December 12, 2023, at the rate of \$150/day.

9. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Victoria Dunyak, Paraprofessional at Moss School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$24,255/year, prorated, effective December 20, 2023.

10. Rate Increase – Substitute Secretaries

Move to approve the rate increase for the following Substitute Secretaries, to \$16/hour, effective January 1, 2024.

Lucy MacDonald	Amy Jeney	Rosemary Orlandini	Patricia Yelencsics
Kellie Davideit	Jeanmarie Teitler	Lauren Cohn	Jennifer Korpon

11. Rate Increase – Substitute Custodians

Move to approve the rate increase for the following Substitute Custodians, to \$16/hour, effective January 1, 2024.

Thomas Bilgrav	Miguel Gonzalez	Kelda Asiain-Arvizu
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12. Rate Increase – Lunch Aides

Move to approve the rate increase for the following Lunch Aides, to \$16/hour, effective January 1, 2024.

Ana Ayala	Nancy Chin	Joan DiFino
Sheri Kady	Donato Minutillo	Carmelita Spears
Jeffrey Salzer	Cheryl Weisberg	Debra Knight

13. Family Medical Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the family medical leave of absence of Deanna Kindler, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, effective November 13, 2023 through approximately December 22, 2023.

14. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Adero Solomon, Special Education Math Teacher at Metuchen High School, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$58,564/year, Step 3A, prorated, effective approximately January 29, 2024, pending receipt of certification, through June 30, 2024.

15. Appointment - Additional Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of the additional substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year, effective December 1, 2023, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Rate
DeCerbo	Mia	Substitute Para	\$15/hour
Yerger	Colin	Substitute Para	\$15/hour
Almeida	Lily	Substitute with college credits	\$100/day
Dreitser	Annie	Substitute with college credits	\$100/day
Corrigan	Joseph	Substitute with college credits	\$100/day
Smith	Victoria	Substitute with college credits	\$100/day
Shin	Yohan	Substitute with college credits	\$100/day
Bruno	Rachel	Substitute with college degree	\$105/day
Toomey	Angelina	Substitute with college degree	\$105/day
Solomon	Adero	Substitute with college degree	\$105/day
Sullivan	Allison	Substitute with college degree	\$105/day
Dees	Amy	Substitute with teacher cert	\$110/day

16. Rate Increase – Daily Substitutes

Move to approve the rate increase for the substitute teachers and paras, as listed on the attached, effective January 1, 2024.

17. Student Teacher Mentor Stipend

Move to approve a Student Teacher mentor stipend of \$275 to Jeremy Barnes, Campbell School Teacher, for mentoring Michael Small, Student Teacher, for the months of September to December 2023 funded by the University of Phoenix.

18. Appointment - MHS Winter Coach

Move to approve the following 2023-2024 Metuchen High School Coach Appointment:

Name	Assignment	Step	23-24 Stipend
McKenzie Larsen	Winter Cheer Head Coach	1	\$3,743

19. Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Christine Piovoso, Leave Replacement for Deanna Kindler, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, at a rate of \$301.49/day, effective December 13, 2023 through approximately December 22, 2023.

20. MHS Winter Coach - Rescind

Move to rescind the appointment of the following coach for the Winter 2023-2024 school sports session at Metuchen High School (Agenda 06/13/2023, Section 13 A19):

Team	Coach	2023-2024 stipend
MHS Winter Track	Michael Spark	\$3,339 (Step 3)

21. Medical Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the medical leave of absence of Andrea Agnone, Special Education Teacher at Edgar School, effective December 7, 2023 through December 22, 2023.

-----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 October 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 December 19, 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 October 31, 2023.

4. Professional Development

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

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Name	Building	Requested	Approved	Payment	FFPI Proposal #
11/28/2023	11/28/2023	Youth Summit	Abbott, Beth	MHS	0	No cost		11/28/2023
12/8/2023	12/8/2023	NJSELA Meeting at Rutgers University	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	0	No cost		12/8/2023
1/5/2024	1/5/2024	North New Jersey Math Supervisors Roundtable	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	0	No cost		1/5/2024
1/6/2024	1/6/2024	IMSE Phonological Awareness Digital Course	Masters, Sarah	Moss School	\$400	FFPI	24-080	1/6/2024
1/11/2024	1/11/2024	Strengthening Students' Writing Skills While Significantly Decreasing Grading Time (Grades 6-12)	Wagenblast, Eileen	MHS	\$279	FFPI	24-084	1/11/2024
1/12/2024	1/12/2024	AP STEM Roundtable	Green, Samantha	MHS	0	No cost		1/12/2024
1/18/2024	2/5/2024	Taking a Deep Dive with Section 504: Understanding, Implementing, and Compliance	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$199	Other		1/18/2024
1/22/2024	1/22/2024	Increase Your Success in Working with Students with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	24-083	1/22/2024
1/22/2024	1/22/2024	Increase Your Success in Working with Students with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders	Thompson, Lauren	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	24-082	1/22/2024

1/26/ 2024	1/26/ 2024	3D Printing and Data Science Teacher Workshop	Stranz, Jennifer	MHS	0	No cost		1/26/2024
1/26/ 2024	1/26/ 2024	3D Printing Teacher Workshop	Caponigro, Emily	MHS	\$15.52	FFPI	24-081	1/26/2024
2/13/ 2024	2/13/ 2024	Beyond Bias: Unconscious Bias	Nalepa, Lindsay	MHS	0	No cost		2/13/2024

5. Nonpublic Technology Aid

Move to approve the following nonpublic technology aid for the 2023-2024 school year. These expenditures are required for the district to fulfill certain legal obligations under state legislation to administer federal or state funds provided to nonpublic schools within our jurisdiction:

School	Vendor	QTY	Item #	Description	Price	Total
Metuchen Christian Academy	CDW-G	8	7608123	HP S5 840 G8 Core i5-1145 256GB SSD 16GB RAM W11 Notebook Computer	\$660.84	\$5,286.72

6. Behavioral Technician Services - Revision

Move to approve Soliant Health, LLC, to provide behavioral technician services, at a rate of up to \$65/hour, not to exceed \$120,000 (Agenda 11/28/2023, Section 13, B7).

7. BCBA Services

Move to approve Brett DiNovi & Associates as a provider of independent BCBA services for the 2023-2024 school year, at a rate of \$135/hour and Clinical Associates services at a rate of \$60.50/hour, not to exceed \$60,000 (Agenda 06/27/2023, Section 13, B31).

8. Resolution

WHEREAS on December 7, 2023, the Metuchen Board of Education (“Board”) held a public bid opening for additions and alterations at Metuchen Schools; at Moss and Edgar Middle School

WHEREAS the Board received six (6) bids at the public bid opening; and

WHEREAS all of the bids received substantially exceeded the Board’s cost estimates for the Project and the Board’s appropriation for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the bids are not reasonable as to price based upon the prior cost estimates provided to the Board; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22 permits a board of education to reject all bids when they substantially exceed the Board’s appropriation for the Project and/or the Board’s cost estimates for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth here at length.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board rejects all bids for the Project on the basis that 1) they are unreasonable as to price as they substantially exceed the Board's cost estimate for the Project and/or 2) substantially exceed the Board's appropriation for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to return the bid securities of all bidders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to re-bid the Project.

9. Resolution

WHEREAS on December 14, 2023, the Metuchen Board of Education ("Board") held a public bid opening for additions and alterations at Metuchen Schools; and Campbell Elementary and Metuchen High School

WHEREAS the Board received three (3) bids at the public bid opening; and

WHEREAS all of the bids received substantially exceeded the Board's cost estimates for the Project and the Board's appropriation for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the bids are not reasonable as to price based upon the prior cost estimates provided to the Board; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22 permits a board of education to reject all bids when they substantially exceed the Board's appropriation for the Project and/or the Board's cost estimates for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth here at length.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board rejects all bids for the Project on the basis that 1) they are unreasonable as to price as they substantially exceed the Board's cost estimate for the Project and/or 2) they substantially exceed the Board's appropriation for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to return the bid securities of all bidders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to re-bid the Project.

10. Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metuchen Board of Education hereby authorizes the use of a Project Labor Agreement for additions and alterations at the Metuchen Schools.

11. Technology Equipment Disposal

Move to approve the disposal of the technology equipment as shown on the attached list.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Suspensions

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for November 24, 2023 - December 15, 2023.

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

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Field Trips - Retroactive

Move to approve the following field trip, retroactively, 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	Algonquin Theater for A Christmas Carol	Grade 5-12; CRP1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee CRP3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being CRP4 Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.	Dawn Valovcin, Christina Dybas, Alexis Wolford, Michelle Schutz, Jordan Leitner, Marilyn Levine, Joseph DiMeglio, Janine Haulenbeek	12/15/2023	12	\$130	no subs needed

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- Transportation	Number of Subs Needed
MHS	Piscataway High School	Grade 9-12; To participate in a mock trial scrimmage in order to prepare for the mock trial competition	Kevin Smedley	1/6/2024 (after school)	10	\$160	no subs needed
MHS	Middlesex County Courthouse	Grade 9-12; Transportation for Mock trial Day 1	Kevin Smedley	1/22/2024 (after school)	10	\$110	no subs needed

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MHS	Middlesex County Courthouse	Grade 9-12; Transportation for Mock trial Day 2	Kevin Smedley	1/23/2024 (after school)	10	\$110	no subs needed
MHS	Middlesex County Courthouse	Grade 9-12; Transportation for Mock trial Day 3-Mock Trial Competition semi finals. Please note that we will only require transportation if we make the semi finals.	Kevin Smedley	1/24/2024 (after school)	10	\$110	no subs needed
MHS	Middlesex County Courthouse	Grade 9-12; Transportation for Mock Trial Competition semi finals. Please note that transportation will not be necessary if we do not perform well in semifinals.	Kevin Smedley	1/25/2024 (after school)	10	\$110	no subs needed
MHS	Strand Theater	Grade 9-12; We have been invited to participate in the 36th Annual Music Spectacular Jazz Festival at the Strand Theater in Lakewood. Included in the performance is a clinic with some of the top jazz musicians in NJ and also a recording of the event.	John Messenger and John Flynn	4/16/2024	25	\$500	1 sub needed

3. Curriculum Writing

Move to approve the following curriculum writers for the following subjects:

Subject	Grade	Author	Amount
Social Studies	1	Jennifer Spak	\$650.00
Social Studies	1	Lisa Levin	\$650.00

4. Outdated Book Disposal

Move to approve the disposal of outdated books from the Campbell Elementary School Library as per the guidelines outlined in the district's policy on Disposition of Property.

5. Externship

Move to approve Devin Croake for an Externship placement with the following teachers for the Spring 2024 through Lafayette College:

Name	Placement	School
Emily Bianchi	Speech Therapist	Campbell Elementary School Edgar Middle School
Lindsey Omark Jenny Pasquale	Special Education and General Education	Campbell Elementary School

6. Curriculum Writers

Move to rescind and approve the following curriculum writers and amounts for Summer 2022, (Agenda 6/14/22, Section 13 D2):

Course	Author	Amount
PE Grade 5	Rescind: Melanie Gilbert	\$1,000
PE Grade 5	Rescind: John Butler and Kristen Kulthau	\$650.00 each writer
PE Grade 6	Rescind: Rick Carter	\$1,000
PE Grade 7	Rescind: Melanie Gilbert	\$1000
PE Grade 5	Approve: Kristin Gallo	\$1000
PE Grade 6	Approve: John Butler	\$1000
PE Grade 7	Approve: Rick Carter	\$1000

-----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