

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

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

4. Roll Call

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

5. Showcase of Success

- ❖ Student Advisory Board - Maggie Rivera, Kyle Rutter and Eashaan Bhattacharyya spoke
- ❖ New Hires - New hires were introduced.
Trey Jaworski
Adero Solomon
Sean Rappleyea

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

7. Presentations

- ❖ Curriculum, Technology, School Based Budget, Special Education
Dr. Herzog spoke about the Curriculum budget. Mr. Thumann spoke about the Technology budget. Mr. Porowski, Ms. Azevedo and Dr. Costanza spoke about the budget for each of their schools. Ms. Bonassisa spoke about the Special Services Budget. Mr. Harvier spoke about the Moss school budget.

8. Reports

- ❖ President’s Report - None
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - Dr. Caputo gave a short report.
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Derflinger gave a report on the Curriculum Committee.
Dr. Spigner gave a report on the Equity Committee.

- ❖ Student Board Member Report - None

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

February 13, 2024	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 13, 2024	Special Business Meeting (2)
February 13, 2024	Board Meeting

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

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

13. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

(at this time the Board will take formal action on the following items – see attachments)
Oftentimes 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 - Administrator

Move to approve the appointment of Jennifer Asprocolas, Principal at Moss School, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$149,500/year, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

2. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Nicole Valera, 4th Grade Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately March 1, 2024 through approximately March 18, 2024.

3. Appointment - Administrator

Move to approve the appointment of Paul Pineiro as Interim Assistant Principal at Metuchen High School, from April 8, 2024 through approximately May 3, 2024, at a rate of \$515/day.

4. Coach - Revision MHS Spring Coach

Move to rescind the following 2023-2024 Metuchen High School spring coach appointment (Agenda 07/18/2023, Section 13, A8):

Name	Assignment	Step	Stipend 2023-2024
Rescind: Rich Stoner	Golf Head Coach	3	\$7,479

5. Campbell School Club - Revision

Move to rescind and approve the following co-curricular stipend for the 2023-2024 school year as listed (Agenda 11/14/23, Section 13, A6):

Campbell School		
Advisor	Assignment	Stipend 2023-2024
Rescind: Christofer Peckhardt	Chorus Grades 3&4 (C)	\$1,580
Approve: Christofer Peckhardt	Chorus Grades 3&4 (B)	\$1,349

6. Appointment - Additional Event Staff

Move to approve the following additional Event Staff for the 2023-2024 school year, effective February 27, 2024 (Agenda 8/8/23, Section 13, A10):

Andrew Southern

7. Appointment - Additional Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of additional substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year, effective February 27, 2024, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Rate
Andersen	Rheanna	Substitute with certification	\$115/day
Puerzer	Clare	Substitute with college degree	\$110/day

8. Additional MHS Weight Room Supervisor

Move to approve the following as a weight room supervisor for the 2023-2024 school year, effective February 27, 2024, at the rate of \$30/hour, as needed (Agenda 06/13/2023, Section 13, A21):

William Ortman

9. Additional Volunteer Robotics Coaches - Edgar School

Move to approve the following additional volunteer coaches for the Robotics Team at Edgar Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year (Agenda 01/23/2024, Section 13, A8):

Leigh Hanbridge	Shawn Afkhami	Francesca Ghezze	Luke Kwon
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10. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Mark Dubyna, Leave Replacement for Kevin Smedley, Industrial Arts Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective approximately May 17, 2024 through approximately June 20, 2024, at a rate of \$346.90/day (includes 6th period stipend).

11. Revision - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the rate revision of Rebecca Porretto, Leave Replacement for Andrea Agnone, Special Education Teacher at Edgar School, effective February 5, 2024 through approximately April 15, 2024, at a rate of \$346.90/day (includes 6th period stipend). (Agenda 2/13/24, Section 13 A2)

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Glassberg 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 December 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 February 27, 2024 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, 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	Approved	Payment	FFPI Proposal #
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3/11/2024	3/11/2024	Labor-management collaboration capacity building training	Gouveia, Michele	Edgar	0	No cost	
3/11/2024	3/11/2024	Rutgers Labor Management Collaboration	Santasieri, Erin	Campbell	0	No cost	
3/11/2024	3/11/2024	Labor-Management-Collaboration Capacity Building Training	Calantoni, Karen	Moss	0	No cost	
3/13/2024	3/13/2024	Rutgers Labor-Management Collaboration	Kurtin, Ilana	Central Office	0	No cost	
3/13/2024	3/13/2024	Labor-Management Collaboration Capacity Building	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	0	No cost	
3/13/2024	3/13/2024	Rutgers Labor-Management Collaboration sessions	Levin, Lisa	Campbell	0	Other	
3/14/2024	3/14/2024	Rutgers Labor-Management Collaboration Sessions	Huff, Michelle	Edgar	0	No cost	
3/20/2024	3/20/2024	Character.org National Evaluation Site Visit	Pasquale, Jennifer	Campbell	0	No cost	
3/21/2024	3/21/2024	Setting the Stage for Epic Storytelling	Young, Kelsee	Moss	0	No cost	
3/22/2024	3/22/2024	New Jersey Counselor Event featuring Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences!	Grauer, Traci	MHS	0	No cost	
4/15/2024	4/15/2024	Math Learning Disabilities: Powerful, Practical Strategies for Supporting Students with Special Needs (Grades K-12)	Solomon, Adero	MHS	\$279	FFPI	24-113
4/17/2024	4/17/2024	Behavior Blueprint: Responding to Challenging Behaviors	Young, Kelsee	Moss	0	No cost	
4/25/2024	4/25/2024	Behavior Blueprint: Revitalize & Thrive Through Your Own Self-Care	Young, Kelsee	Moss	0	No cost	
5/17/2024	5/17/2024	NJSELA Spring Meeting	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	0	No cost	
7/22/2024	7/26/2024	NGSS Summer Institute	Jaworski, Trey	MHS	\$528	FFPI	25-001

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
St. Francis Cathedral School	IXL Learning	1	NA	IXL Site License (Grades 1-8: 350 students) Math	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
St. Francis Cathedral School	CDW-G	22	6847262	Dell Chromebook 3110-11.6" - Intel Celeron - N4500-4 GB RAM - 32GB	\$267.44	\$5,883.68

6. Resolution - Special Inspection Services

WHEREAS, the Metuchen Board of Education (“Board”) issued an RFP for special inspection services in connection with the Board’s Additions & Renovations at Multiple Schools referendum projects (“Services”); and

WHEREAS, the Board received three (3) proposals in response to the RFP; and

WHEREAS, upon a review and analysis of the proposals, the Board determined that the proposal submitted by Underwood Engineering, Inc., Cherry Lane, New Jersey, was in the best interests of the Board, price and other factors considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards a contract for the Services to Underwood Engineering, Inc, Cheery Lane, New Jersey, in the amount of \$27,500.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board’s construction counsel is authorized to prepare a contract for the Services, subject to approval by the Administration.

Mr. Suss motioned. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Suspensions

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for February 12, 2024 - February 24, 2024.

2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- EMS012524001

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Derflinger 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	Eden Autism Services and Roosevelt Care Center	Grades 9-12; Students from the MHS Chamber Orchestra will visit Eden Autism Services to play for the participants of Eden. Afterwards, students will go to Roosevelt Care Center in Edison to play for the residents of the care center. Through these trips and performances, students will gain an understanding of the importance of musical outreach to different communities, such as adults with autism and the elderly.	Christopher McEwan and Jordyn Gallagher	4/17/ 2024	20	\$100	1 sub needed
MHS	Liberty Science Center	Grades 11-12; Mass - The students will be able to differentiate between the terms mass and weight as illustrated through various sports-related demos. Students will witness gravity firsthand while learning how the laws of physics always override those of any sport. Newton's Laws of Motion - The students will be able to describe the application of Newton's three laws as demonstrated in sports. Spinning Bodies - The students will learn how spinning affects our favorite sports and will be able to answer the question, "What makes a curveball curve?" Distribution of Force - The students will understand the importance of wearing a helmet and will understand	Lindsay Nalepa, Martin Klee	4/16/ 2024	45	0	2 subs needed

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		the physics behind head injuries and how to avoid them. Activities will include a whole group presentation called Sportacular, and will be aligned to the following standards: HS-PS2-1, HS-PS2-2, HS-PS2-3					
CES	Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium	Grade 1; Students will observe the patterns of day and night and will explore the daytime and nighttime sky, sun, moon, stars and planets along with their characteristics	Tara Palmieri, Rupel Conzo, Deanna Kindler, Tara Pata	5/13/2024	59	0	no subs needed
CES	Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium	Grade 1; Students will observe the patterns of day and night and will explore the daytime and nighttime sky, sun, moon, stars and planets along with their characteristics	Candace Evans, Elissa Cadel, Samanta Jackson, Bailey Tocci	5/14/2024	52	0	no subs needed
CES	Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium	Grade 1; Students will observe the patterns of day and night and will explore the daytime and nighttime sky, sun, moon, stars and planets along with their characteristics	Megan Shapiro, Julie Anderson, Jeremy Barnes, Brian Jeney	5/20/2024	42	0	no subs needed
MHS	Bensalem High School	Grades 9-12; First Robotics Competition Day 1 of 2	Kevin Smedley	3/23/2024	35	0	no subs needed
MHS	Bensalem High School	Grades 9-12; First Robotics Competition Day 2 of 2	Kevin Smedley	3/24/2024	35	0	no subs needed
MHS	Middlesex County Fire Academy	Grades 11-12; Students will compete in the Regional round of the NJ Consumer Bowl. In this competition, students demonstrate knowledge of consumer issues that teenagers may face in the future (e.g. fraud). If we win the county competition, there will be a Regional competition later this year. In the event we win the Regionals, there will be a third competition in Newark at NJ Consumer Affairs Office. When I know whether we'll be proceeding in that competition I'll input additional field trip forms, however, I won't have limited time to seek approval, which is why I'm giving the heads up now	Karen Van de Castle	3/8/2024	5	\$150	1 subs needed

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

- 14. Meeting Open to Public** (*for any topic*) - None
- 15. Announcements** - Mr. Bhatt 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. Lifton motioned to adjourn. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment 9:23 pm.