

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 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	P	Ms. Killean	P
Mr. Derflinger	P	Mr. Lifton	A
Ms. Dimbeng	A	Dr. Spigner	P
Mr. Glassberg	A	Mr. Suss	P

5. Showcase of Success

❖ Winter Sport Champions

MHS Girls Track Team

Sectional Champions Central Jersey Group I

Marina Armour
Kadijata Bah
Olivia Barry
Makenna Bruns
Sophia DeLaCruz
Gianna Hernandez

Kaitlyn Hsueh
Sarah Hyman
Carol Johnson-Fish
Sabrina Kandel
Sally Kelton

Lilly Kupersmit
Lucy Ongteco
Lola Petro
Ella Regan
Maggie Rivera
Rose Surgan

Sectional Champions
Group I 4x400 Relay

Kadijata Bah
Makenna Bruns
Gianna Hernandez
Rose Surgan

GMC Champion 800m

Maggie Rivera

Sectional Champion
55m Hurdles

Sarah Hyman

Sectional Champion
400m

Marina Armour

Sectional Champion
800m

Sectional Champion
1600m

Sectional Champion
3200m

Gianna Hernandez

MHS Boys Track Team
Sectional Champions Central Jersey Group I
Blue Division Champions
Blue Division Relay Champions
NJSIAA Group 1 Champions
NJSIAA Group 1 Relay Champions

Hunter Aldinger
Brady Allen
Jack Benedict
Gianni Ciambotti
Logan Clancy
Nicholas Davis
Kai Englert

Nico Hidalgo
Praket Jha
Arturs Kruminis
Harry Moorman
Vedant Naik
Robert Nawn
Tristan Ochoa

Alex Patelski
Jack Richards
David Rivas
Kacper Ruzsala
Eric Schleif
James Vissichelli

Sectional Champions
Group I 4x400 Relay

Nico Hidalgo
Vedant Naik
Kacper Ruzsala
Eric Schleif

GMC Champion

55m Hurdles

Sectional Champion

55m Hurdles

Sectional Champion

55m Dash

Vedant Naik

Sectional Champion 800m

Alex Patelski

GMC Champion 800m

Eric Schleif

GMC Champions

Distance Medley Relay

Sectional Champions

Distance Medley Relay

Hunter Aldinger

Nico Hidalgo

Alex Patelski

Eric Schleif

GMC Champions

4x800 Relay

Nico Hidalgo

Arturs Kruminis

Harry Moorman

Eric Schleif

GMC Champions
Sprint Medley Relay

Vedant Naik
Alex Patelski
David Rivas
Kacper Ruzsala

Sectional Champion
800m

Sectional Champion
1600m

Sectional Champion
3200m

Alex Patelski

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

Mr. Arthur Flaherty of 88 Durham Ave came up and spoke about his concerns with the softball team and trips.

7. Presentations

8. Reports

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

Ms. Cook gave a report on the Policy Committee.

Mr. Derflinger gave a report on the Curriculum Committee.

- ❖ Student Board Member Report - None

9. Old Business- Mr. Suss spoke about the groundbreaking ceremony that happened at Moss School on March 20, 2024.

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

March 12, 2024	Special Business Meeting (1)
March 12, 2024	Special Business Meeting (2)
March 12, 2024	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-2. Ms. Cook and Dr. Johnson-Marcus abstained.

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 - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Eileen Kuchar, Leave Replacement for Lindsay Kaye, Special Education Teacher at Edgar School, effective March 27, 2024 through approximately June 19, 2024, at a rate of \$301.49/day.

2. Appointment - Additional Substitutes

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

Last Name	First Name	Position	Rate
Gementgis	Isabella	Substitute Nurse	\$200/day
Grubman	Farrah	Substitute teacher with college credits	\$105/day
Lifton	Sarah	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/hour
Shahid	Sofia	Substitute teacher with college degree	\$110/day
Abramik	Sean	Substitute teacher with college credits	\$105/day
Erdem	Patcharapan	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/day
Gandhi	Payalben	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/day

3. Leave of Absence Extension - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence extension of Deanna Kindler, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, through June 30, 2024 (Agenda 1/23/24, Section 13 A13).

4. Leave Replacement Extension

Move to approve the leave replacement extension of Saima Khan, Leave Replacement for Deanna Kindler, First Grade Teacher at Campbell School, through June 19, 2024 (Agenda 2/13/24, Section 13 A3).

5. MHS 2024 Spring Musical Stipends

Move to approve the following staff for the below assignments related to the Footlighters Production, The Little Mermaid. All payments will be reimbursed from the MHS Footlighters account:

Name	Assignment	Payment
Christopher McEwan	Pit Band	\$200
John Flynn	Pit Band	\$200
John Messenger	Pit Band	\$200
Amanda Shorr	Choreographer	\$1,000

6. Field Experience

Move to approve Abeera Faizan to complete unpaid, field experience student observation hours at Campbell School.

7. Mentor Teacher Assignments

Move to rescind and approve the following additional mentor assignments for the 2023-2024 school year (Agenda 8/8/23, Section 13 A13 and 2/13/24, Section 13 A18):

New Teacher/Leave Replacement	School	Mentors	Payment: Formal Traditional Route \$550 for 30 weeks; Formal Alternate Route \$1000 for 30 weeks; Informal -\$49/hour, not to exceed 6 hours
Saima Khan	CES	Rescind: Erin Santasieri	Formal: \$1000, prorated, based on number of weeks
Saima Khan	CES	Approve: Tara Palmieri	Formal: \$1000, prorated, based on number of weeks

8. Safety Care Training - Non-certificated Staff

Move to approve the following non-certified staff to attend Safety Care Training at the their hourly rate, not to exceed 12 hours:

Brendan McCunney

9. Appointment- Volunteer Edgar Spring Coach

Move to approve the appointment of the following coach for the Spring 2023-2024 school sports session at Edgar Middle School: (Agenda 7/18/23, Section 13 A7):

Name	Assignment
Dan Benderly	Volunteer Softball Coach

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Ms. Cook 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 January 31, 2024.

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 March 26, 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. Professional Development

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

Board Minutes - March 26, 2024

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Name	Building	Approved	Payment	FFPI Proposal #
3/21/2024	3/21/2024	Grant Awards Event	Divanno, Rachel	Edgar	\$44.18	Other	
3/27/2024	3/27/2024	NJSBA/PAA meeting	Taylor, Carolyn	Central Office	0	approx \$25 (mileage)	
3/27/2024	3/27/2024	Developing a Common Language for your ESL and Special Education Teams	Bindra, Amrita	Campbell	\$125	FFPI	24-125
4/11/2024	4/11/2024	Mental Health (Friday Forum)	Huff, Michelle	Edgar	0	No cost	
4/12/2024	4/12/2024	NJMAA Meeting	Jaye, Ashley	Central Office	0	No cost	
4/17/2024	4/17/2024	NJASCD Whole Child Conference	Dougherty, Natalie	Central Office	0	No cost	
4/17/2024	4/17/2024	The Metacognitive Student: Teaching Your Youngest Students Emotional Intelligence Throughout the Day	Young, Kelsee	Moss	0	No cost	
4/17/2024	4/17/2024	The Metacognitive Student: Teaching Your Youngest Students Emotional Intelligence throughout the day	Upshaw, Katherine	Moss	0	No cost	
4/19/2024	4/19/2024	NJSCA Annual Conference at Kean Univ	Chango, Lisa	Edgar	\$51	FFPI	24-126
4/19/2024	4/19/2024	NJSCA spring conference	Campbell, Lauren	Edgar	\$51	FFPI	24-124
4/19/2024	4/19/2024	Introduction to Comprehensive Literacy Instruction: Version 2	Bianchi, Emily	Campbell	\$135	FFPI	24-128
4/19/2024	4/19/2024	New Jersey Leadership Academy Steering Committee NJLA 11	Costanza, Vincent	Campbell	0	No cost	
4/24/2024	4/24/2024	Preschool Inclusion	Lewis, Patricia	Edgar	\$56.37	FFPI	24-122
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	NJ Special Education Summit: Effective Practices: Advancing the Whole Child Through Literacy, Inclusion, Progress Monitoring, and Behavioral Support	Pasquale, Jennifer	Campbell	\$150	FFPI	24-132
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	NJ Special Education Summit: Effective Practices: Advancing the Whole Child Through Literacy, Inclusion, Progress Monitoring, and Behavioral	Omark, Lindsey	Campbell	\$170	FFPI	24-133

Board Minutes - March 26, 2024

		Support 					
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	Bilingualism & Disabilities: Critical Steps to Differentiate	Reyes, Adrianna	Campbell	\$225	FFPI	24-129
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	Bilingualism & Disabilities: Critical Steps to Differentiate Both	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$225	Other	
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	Bilingualism and Disabilities	Jeney, Meghan	Campbell	\$225	FFPI	24-130
4/26/2024	4/26/2024	Bilingualism and Disabilities	Lewis, Patricia	Edgar	\$225	FFPI	24-123
5/3/2024	5/3/2024	NJ Sustainability Summit	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	\$65.02	No cost	
5/10/2024	5/10/2024	Bilingualism and Disabilities	Park, Ellen	MHS	\$225.00	FFPI	24-127
5/30/2024	5/30/2024	2024 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference	Bethe, Michelle	Campbell	\$404	FFPI	24-136
5/30/2024	5/30/2024	2024 NJTESOL/NJBE SPRING CONFERENCE	Savarese, Melissa	Campbell	\$404	FFPI	24-134
5/30/2024	5/30/2024	2024 SPRING CONFERENCE	Tocci, Bailey	Campbell	\$404	FFPI	24-135
6/10/2024	6/18/2024	AP Biology Reader	Green, Samantha	MHS	0	No cost	
6/26/2024	6/28/2024	National Athletic Training Convention	Yelencsics, Molly	MHS	\$1,000	FFPI	24-131

4. Cybersecurity Grant

Move to accept the SLCGP Advanced Endpoint Protection Award (cybersecurity grant) from the State of New Jersey for CrowdStrike Overwatch service, valued at \$45,990/year. The Award will include four years of coverage, starting upon acceptance of this grant. For the award the District will pay \$0 for year 1, \$11,400 for year 2, \$17,100 for year 3 and \$22,800 for year 4.

5. Expenditure - Dell

Move to approve the expenditure of \$50,793.99 to Dell for payment 4 of 4 of contract #810-9107313-005 (Chromebook lease).

6. Authorization - Tech Agreements

Move to authorize the Administration to execute all documents and agreements (including the attached) in conjunction with the NJCCIC cybersecurity grant award and/or necessary to receive or implement the grant.

Mr. Suss motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- (a) EMS022724001
- (b) CES022924001
- (c) EMS030724001

2. School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports

Move to accept the following reports on the completion of the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill:

- 3/4/2024 10:01 – 10:20 AM, Moss School, in back of school. Van 22 used for all AM Preschool students. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Mike Knoth, and Billy Ortman
- 3/4/2024 11:10 – 11:25 AM, Moss School, in back of school. Bus 29 used for all AM Kindergarten students. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Mike Knoth, and Billy Ortman
- 3/4/2024 11:55 – 12:03 PM, Moss School, in back of school. Van 20 used for all PM Preschool students. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Mike Knoth, and Billy Ortman
- 3/4/2024 12:45 – 12:55 PM, Moss School, in back of school. Bus 29 used for all PM Kindergarten students. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Mike Knoth, and Billy Ortman
- 3/7/2024 7:35 – 7:52 AM, Edgar School, back bus circle for all big busses and front school loop for Special Education Van. E1, E4, E3, E8, E6, E2, E7, E5, and Van 20 all participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Neyda Evans and Marissa Plancher
- 3/8/2024 8:30 – 2:30 PM, Metuchen High School, student parking lot. Full School Evacuation Practice during Physical Education or Health Classes, Bus 23 was used for all. Supervised by Brian Stike / Teachers Leading the drill were Bob Ulmer, Nick Zaneto, Mark Mooney, Beth Abbott, Julie Youngman, and Drew Bandola
- 3/15/2024 8:12 – 8:30 AM, Campbell Elementary School, Locations for the drill were staff parking lot curb on Talmadge Ave, Durham Ave bus drop off lane. C4, C1, C9, C6, C8, C3, C2, C5, C7, Van 14, and Van 24 all participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Kathy Keers-Nolde, Panos Tzetzos Brooke Kirschner, and Officer Granato.

3. Suspensions

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for March 11, 2024 - March 22, 2024.

4. Sidebar Agreement

Move to approve the attached Sidebar Agreement between the Metuchen Board of Education and the Metuchen Association of Educational Secretaries concerning the Good Friday holiday during the 2023-2024 school year and authorize the Board President to execute the Sidebar Agreement.

5. Policies and Regulations for 1st Reading March 26, 2024

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| ❖ P 1140 | Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action (M) |
| ❖ P 1523 | Comprehensive Equity Plan (M) |
| ❖ P 1530 | Equal Employment Opportunities (M) |
| ❖ R 1530 | Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure (M) |
| ❖ P 1550 | Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices (M) |

- ❖ R 2200 Curriculum Content (M)
- ❖ P 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M)
- ❖ R 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure (M)
- ❖ P 2411 Guidance Counseling (M)
- ❖ P & R 2423 Bilingual Education (M)
- ❖ P & R 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M)
- ❖ P 3211 Code of Ethics
- ❖ R 5440 Honoring Student Achievement
- ❖ P 5570 Sportsmanship
- ❖ P 5750 Equitable Educational Opportunity (M)
- ❖ P 5755 Equity in Educational Programs and Services (M) (Abolished)
- ❖ P 5841 Secret Societies
- ❖ P 5842 Equal Access of Student Organizations
- ❖ P & R 7610 Vandalism
- ❖ P 9323 Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

6. 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
Apple Montessori School	CDW-G	1	7460158	Acer Extensa 15 EX215-23 - 15.6" - AMD Ryzen 3 Laptop	\$405.40	\$405.40

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0 for items 2-6 and for item 1 bullet points (a) and (c). Motion carried 6-0-1 for item 1 bullet point (b). Dr. Johnson-Marcus abstained.

-----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	Dest	Class/Group/Purpose	Teachers / Advisors	Date(s)	No. Of Students	Board Cost-Transportation	No. of Subs	No. of Chaperones	Total Cost for Chaperones
MHS	Costa Rica and Panama	Grade 11-12; This trip is continuing the longstanding tradition of the MHS World Language Department of organizing experiences for our students to use the	Nick Vosinas, Anais Ortega, Karin Flores, Danielle Cermak,	4/10 - 4/19/2025 (overnight trip)	42	TBD by Marissa-bus costs TBD pending flight info received.	5 (4/10 and 4/11 only)	7	\$6,300 (additional costs of \$150 per student)

Board Minutes - March 26, 2024

		languages they have been studying while interacting with speakers from the target culture as well. In this trip, students will be visiting various parts of Costa Rica and Panama. This allows them to see a wide variety of Hispanic culture in terms of art, history, architecture, and food. Also, while visiting these countries, students will be exposed to the linguistic diversity that exists in Central America, interacting with indigenous languages as well. Trips like these are valuable experiences for students to witness firsthand facets of culture they have studied, while using their language skills to communicate.	Chris Giddes, Samantha Rubin, Brian Stike, Anna Girin, John Cathcart, Alexa Baird						
MHS	Band Camp: Camp Wayne for Boys	Grades 8-12; This annual band camp provides the marching band with the days, times, space, and facilities necessary to learn their competitive field show. Students are refining their musical skills while also building relationships with one another, an important aspect of being a successful team. The academic and social and emotional student growth achieved at band camp is paramount to our success.	John Messenger, John Flynn, Jason Gomez, Dillion Fernandes, Maria Palacios, Natalia Alcieri, and Coaches	8/15/2024 - 8/19/2024 (annual/overnight trip)	87	\$0 to Board costs Please note: Students/MM EDO will absorb the costs of transportation (2 coach busses and Ryder truck)	no subs needed		
MHS	Brooklyn Museum	Grades 9-12; Visual art and art history students will tour a new exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum that features artwork from the Dean Collection which spotlights works by contemporary Black diasporic artists. Students will engage in reflective discussion on	Margo Banner, Chris McEwan, Kelly Murphy	4/11/2024	30	\$0	3 subs needed		

Board Minutes - March 26, 2024

		art practices as well as considerations in exhibition curation, design and installation. Students will also visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where they will enjoy time spent in nature, learn about various plants and conservation practices and sketch in plain air.							
Moss	Rutgers Farm	Grade K; Students will engage in community based instruction to the Rutgers Farm. Students will be able to use prior knowledge to understand this new experience, develop an expanding expressive vocabulary and engage in conversations about what they seen with peers and teachers.	Katie Upshaw, Farhana Khan, Tina Huber, Victoria Duniak, Rebecca, Lauren Corrigan, Shannon MacMenamie, Sandy Iacona, Laura Hermans, Karen Calantoni, Brianna Fortino, Dana Donatelli,	4/19/2024	15	\$100	no subs needed		
MHS	Wallace Theater of the Lewis Arts Complex, Princeton University	Grades 9-12; Students will enjoy a staging of George Feydeau's raucous comedy Le Dindon. The play is staged by L'Avant-Scène, the Department of French and Italian's French Theater Workshop at Princeton University. This experience will deepen students' knowledge of French culture and history. "Le Dindon" by George Feydeau, a master of the "farce", provides insight into French humor, social normal, and the theatrical traditions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students will gain appreciation for how theater reflects and critiques societal	Anna Girin	4/19/2024	20	\$0	no subs needed		

		normal and values. Play is performed in French.							
MHS	Monmouth County Fire Academy	Grade 11-12; students demonstrate knowledge of consumer issues that teenagers may face in the future (e.g. fraud). The team won the Middlesex County competition and has been invited to participate in the Central Jersey Region competition. If we win the regional competition, there will be a third competition in Trenton at the NJ Consumer Affairs Office.	Karen Van de Castle	4/16/2024	5	\$160	1 sub needed		

2. Student Teacher Replacement

Move to approve the following student teacher to complete an Clinical Practice placement for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, through Rutgers Mason Gross School of Arts:

Name	Teacher	School
Justin Farquhar	John Messenger	MHS

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Ms. Cook seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

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

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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned to adjourn. Mr. Derflinger seconded. All in favor. Adjournment at 8:37pm.