

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 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, 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	A
Mr. Derflinger	P	Mr. Lifton	P
Ms. Dimbeng	P	Dr. Spigner	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	P

5. Showcase of Success

❖ Edgar School Spring Musical

Edgar Middle School Drama Club proudly presents Disney's Camp Rock The Musical on April 19th, 20th, and 21st at Metuchen High School. This show includes songs from the two Disney Channel "Camp Rock" original movies, and a story based on "Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam". When the Camp Rockers arrive at camp, ready to spend another summer jamming out and having the time of their lives, they are shocked to find the new, flashy Camp Star across the lake that now threatens Camp Rock's very existence. To keep the doors open, Mitchie steps up, rallies her fellow Camp Rockers, and gets them into top shape for the ultimate showdown! Tonight, Mikayla LaTorre and Milo Haviland will preview our show with a performance of "This is Me".

❖ Edgar Middle School Science Fair 1st Place Winners

5th grade - Aiden Guhin - Which Lotion Is Most Hydrating?

6th grade - Natasha Drapkin-Clarke and Kavya Gandhi - Nail Adhesives

7th grade - Krishay Nair and Addyson Madeo - Winderful Turbines

8th grade - Cristian Lazar-Galoiu and Patrick Turc - How Does Temperature Affect Viscosity?

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

7. Presentations

❖ Mental Health Initiative - Dr. Tania Herzog gave the presentation. Board Members made comments and asked questions.

8. Reports

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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a report on the District Leadership Team.

❖ Student Board Member Report - Ms. Dimbeng gave her report.

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

March 26, 2024	Special Business Meeting (1)
March 26, 2024	Special Business Meeting (2)
March 26, 2024	Board Meeting

Mr. Lifton motioned. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. Motion carried 6-0-2. Mr. Glassberg and Mr. Lifton abstained.

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

Ms. Alisa Schleif of 28 Dorian Road came up to speak about project graduation.

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 - Additional Event Staff

Move to approve the following additional Event Staff for the 2023-2024 school year (Agenda 08/08/2023, Section 13, A10):

Marissa Plancher	Kate Eosso	Nick Tay	Julia Vaughn
Allison Sullivan	Audrey Hausser	Nicolette Jomo	

2. Revision- Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

Move to rescind the following co-curricular stipend for the 2023-2024 school year as listed (Agenda 8/22/23, Section 13 A9):

Campbell School		
Advisor	Club	2023-2024 stipend
Deanna Kindler	Mindfulness Club Grades 3&4 (A) .5	\$584

3. Appointment - Additional Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of additional substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year, effective April 9, 2024, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Rate
Gray	Katie	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/hour
Newman	Ray	Substitute teacher with certification	\$115/day
Johnson	Melynda	Substitute teacher with college degree	\$110/day
Isler	Rebecca	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/hour
Prashanth	Sumana	Paraprofessional sub	\$16/hour

4. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Bob Ulmer, PE/Health Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective approximately May 14, 2024 through approximately May 28, 2024.

5. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Christina Garison, Leave Replacement for Katie Upshaw, Preschool Self Contained Teacher at Moss School, at a rate of \$301.49/day, effective approximately May 16, 2024 through approximately June 19, 2024.

6. Retirement - Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Bonnie Stanski, Home Economics Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective June 30, 2024.

7. Leave of Absence

Move to approve the leave of absence of Angelina Dama-Delgado, Bus Driver, from March 18, 2024 through approximately June 30, 2024.

8. Resignation - Paraprofessional

Move to accept the resignation of William Colavito, Paraprofessional at Edgar Middle School, effective April 19, 2024.

Mr. Lifton motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0. Dr. Caputo wished Bonnie Stanski a happy and healthy retirement. Mr. Lifton added kind words.

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

B. FINANCE

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. 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 #
4/10/2024	4/10/2024	Criminal History and Bus Safety Workshop	Billy Ortman	Central Office	0	No cost	
4/12/2024	4/12/2024	"Linking Individualized Education Programs to the General Education Curriculum"	Lewis, Patricia	Edgar	0	No cost	
4/12/2024	4/12/2024	Linking Individualized Education Programs to General Education Curriculum	Benfatti, Nicole	MHS	0	No cost	
4/16/2024	4/16/2024	2nd Annual New Jersey Literacy Summit	Lewis, Patricia	Edgar	0	No cost	
4/16/2024	4/16/2024	2024 Effective School Solutions Youth Mental Health Summit	Kurtin, Ilana	MHS	0	No cost	
4/17/2024	4/17/2024	The Metacognitive Student: Teaching Your Youngest Students Emotional Intelligence throughout the day	Herold, Michele	Moss	0	No cost	
4/20/2024	4/28/2024	Emergency Learning Academy peak assessment	McLaughlin, Beth	Edgar	\$385	FFPI	24-138
5/3/2024	5/3/2024	2024 New Jersey Sustainability Summit	Nolde, Jonathan	CES	\$65.89	FFPI	24-141
5/3/2024	5/3/2024	2024 New Jersey Sustainability Summit	Vorensky, Sandra	Edgar	\$65.89	FFPI	24-142
5/9/2024	5/9/2024	Making the Best Use of AI Tools to Strengthen MATH Instruction	Albanese, Edward	Edgar	\$279	FFPI	24-137
5/31/2024	5/31/2024	NJTESOL NJBE Systems of Support Multilingual Learners Spring Conference 2024	Kandel, Stephanie	Moss	\$395	FFPI	24-140
6/10/2024	6/14/2024	2024 AP Reading	Flores, Karin	MHS	0	No cost	

2024	2024						
7/10/ 2024	7/18/ 2024	Pulsera Project Summer Teacher Trip	Cermak, Danielle	MHS	\$1,000	FFPI	25-002

2. Resolution

**PARKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
METUCHEN AND METUCHEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The parking spaces numbered 1-30 in the Social Center Parking Lot of First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen (FPC), located at 270 Woodbridge Ave, will be available to the staff at Moss School and Metuchen Board of Education (BOE) beginning on or about April 1, 2024 until October 31, 2024. At the end date of this agreement, FPC and Metuchen BOE will decide whether to continue this agreement. Either party can terminate the agreement at that time, for any reason.

Metuchen BOE will pay \$1000/month for each month that Moss School or Metuchen BOE staff use the parking spaces.

3. SEMI Action Plan

Move to approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Suss motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Suspensions

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for March 25, 2024 - April 5, 2024.

2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- EMS032024001

3. Policies and Regulations for 2nd Reading

Move to approve the second 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

Ms. Cook motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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	NJ Envirothon	Grade 11-12; A Natural Resources Problem Solving Competition Students are presented with a specific topic each year to help them understand the importance of environmental issues. The Current Issue changes each year. https://www.njenvirothon.org/about-us.html	Yoko Kato	5/18/24	5	\$210	no subs needed

2. Student Observer

Move to approve the following Student Observer in our school district for the 2024 Spring semester, through the University of Connecticut:

Name	School	Teacher
Serina Spitzer	EMS & MHS	Emily Rebelo

3. Curriculum Writers

Move to approve the following curriculum writers and amounts for the 2023-2024 school year:

Subject	Author	Amount
ELA 6	Suzy Palmer, Caroline Forde	\$650 each writer
ELA 7	Linda Donohue, Ann Leghorn Orapallo	\$650 each writer
ELA 8	Lauren Scala, Alyssa Dugas	\$650 each writer

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RWW 7	Lauren Scala, Alyssa Dugasz	\$400 each writer
English 9	Lauren Kim, Alexa Baird	\$650 each writer
Eng 10	Matt Sutin, Eileen Wagenblast	\$650 each writer
Eng 11	Adam Levy, Alexa Baird	\$650 each writer
English 12	Adam Levy, Jackie Jacobi	\$650 each writer
US 1	Eileen Wagenblast	\$1,000
Math 6 and Advanced	Karen Logan	\$1,000
Math 7	Ed Albanese	\$1,000
Pre Algebra 6-7	Shannon Connors	\$1,000
Pre Algebra 8	Chrissy Kremer	\$1,000
Algebra 1 (Grade 7/8/9)	Emily Caponigro, Sean Rappleyea	\$650 each writer
Algebra 2 and Honors	Emily Caponigro, Jennifer Stranz	\$650 each writer
Geometry (Grade 8, 9/10) and Honors	Emily Caponigro, Chrissy Kremer, Richard Cundari	\$525 each writer
PreCalc and Honors	Chad Murray	\$1,000
Calc Honors	Sean Rappleyea	\$1,000
Math Investigations	Emily Caponigro, Mike Warnock, Sean Rappleyea	\$275 each writer
Discrete Math	Emily Caponigro, Mike Warnock, Sean Rappleyea	\$275 each writer
Science 6	Rachel DiVanno	\$1,000
Science 7	Melissa Robbins	\$1,000
Science 8	Rachel DiVanno	\$1,000
Biology and Honors	Trey Jaworski, Samantha Green	\$650 each writer
Chemistry and Honors	Ann Lezama, Jingjing Wang	\$650 each writer
Physics	Martin Klee	\$1,000
Modern Environmental Science	Ryan Clapp, Yoko Kato	\$650 each writer
Health Science Honors	Ryan Clapp	\$1,000
Computer Science 6	Roseanna Misuraca	\$350
Computer Science 7	Roseanna Misuraca	\$350
Comp Science 8	Roseanna Misuraca	\$500
Construction Projects 6	Nicolas Tay	\$350
Construction Projects 7	Nicolas Tay	\$350
Engineering and Design 8	Nicolas Tay	\$500
Drafting/Comp Aided Design	Martin Klee	\$1,000
Engineering and Tech	Kevin Smedley	\$1,000
Digital Graphics I & 2	Kevin Smedley	\$1,000
Robotics	Kevin Smedley	\$1,000
Python	Jonathan Stevens	\$500
Web Programming	Jonathan Stevens	\$500
Honors Comp Programming in Java	Jonathan Stevens	\$1,000
Entrepreneurship	Karen Van de Castle	\$1,000
Digital Marketing	Karen Van de Castle	\$500
Woodworking	Nicolas Tay	\$1,000
Business Info Management	Karen Van de Castle	\$500
Physical Education, grades 1-4	Kathy Keers Nolde, Panos Tzetzos	\$650 each writer
Spanish 4 and Honors	Nick Vosinas	\$1,000
Genocide after WWII	Christopher Giddes	\$500

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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 at 9:03pm.