

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

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

4. Roll Call

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

5. Showcase of Success

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

7. Presentations

- ❖ NJPGA Results Presentation

8. Reports

- ❖ President's Report
- ❖ Superintendent's Report
- ❖ Committee Reports

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

July 16, 2024	Special Business Meeting (1)
July 16, 2024	Special Business Meeting (2)
July 16, 2024	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. Appointment - Lunch Aides

Move to approve the following lunch aides in the Metuchen Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year, effective August 28, 2024, pending criminal history clearance:

Name	Rate
Ana Ayala	\$16/hour
Nancy Chin	\$16/hour
Joan DiFino	\$16/hour
Sheri Kady	\$16/hour
Donato Minutillo	\$16/hour
Carol Spears	\$16/hour
Cheryl Weisberg	\$16/hour
Debra Knight	\$16/hour
Farida Vavro	\$16/hour

2. Instructional and Non-Instructional Stipends

Move to approve the following Instructional and Non-Instructional Stipends for the 2024-2025 school year as listed on the attached chart.

3. Appointment - Event Staff

Move to approve the following Event Staff for the 2024-2025 school year, at the rate of \$55 per event:

Beth Abbott	Drew Bandola	Alexa Baird	Dawn Valovcin
Margo Banner	Richard Cundari	Christina Dybas	Aubree Deminski
Jessica Gesumaria	Yoko Kato	William Latta	Anais Ortega
Mark Mooney	Chad Murray	Susan Paredes	Lindsay Nalepa
Samantha Palermo	Amanda Shorr	Michael Warnock	Ryan Clapp

Marilyn Levine	Maureen Azzara	Molly Yelencsics	Karin Flores
Joe Keagle	Kathy Keers-Nolde	Mike Knoth	Carolyn Taylor
Jim Thomas	Panos Tzetzos	Bob Ulmer	Tomasz Sobieniak
Nickolas Vosinas	Julie Youngman	Nicholas Zaneto	Nicole Benfatti
Emily Caponigro	Jacquelyn Jacobi	Trey Jaworski	Lauren Korellis
Bill McDuffie	William Ortman	Sean Rappleyea	

4. Appointment- Cash Box

Move to approve Maureen Azzara for the 2024-2025 school year to handle the Cash Box at athletic events, at the following rates:

Position	MHS Football Games (per game)	MHS Basketball Games (per game)
Cash Box	\$ 78	\$ 67

5. Informal Mentor Teachers

Move to approve the following staff to serve as an informal mentor for the 2024-2025 school year, effective August 26, 2024, to be paid at a rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed six hours:

Teacher	School	Mentor
Tara Siesputowski	EMS	Christina Theiss
Christine Jarrach	MHS	Dawn Valovcin
Christina Garison	Moss	Shannon Macmenamie
Danielle Pallotta	Moss	Kelsee Young
Laura Petty	CES	Lindsey Omark
Sydney Rudin	EMS	Beth McLaughlin

6. Formal Mentor Teachers

Move to approve the following formal mentor teachers to work with the following mentee teachers for the 2024 – 2025 school year:

New Teacher/Leave Replacement	School	Mentor	Payment Traditional Route \$550.00 Alternate Route \$1,000.00
Morgan Schleuss	EMS	Vivian Petrakakos	\$550
Elizabeth Dorsa	MHS	Emily Caponigro	\$1,000
Nick Tay	EMS	Jennifer Gumbrecht	Prorated \$1,000
Amanda Ludwig	CES	Melissa Gallo	\$550
Adero Solomon	MHS	Lindsey Nalepa	Prorated \$1,000
Ashley Pietrowski	CES	Julie Anderson	\$550
Lauren Corrigan	Moss	Christina Dybas	Prorated \$1,000

7. Salary Adjustment - Custodial Longevity

Move to approve a change in total salary for Christopher Comtess, Custodian, from \$51,293/year to \$51,539/year as a result of completing 20 years of service, effective September 1, 2024.

8. Leave of Absence Extension - Certificated Staff

Move to extend the leave of absence of Sofia Lopes, 4th Grade Teacher at Campbell School, through approximately January 2, 2025 (Agenda 12/19/23, Section 13 A4).

9. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Adrianna Reyes, ESL Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately November 25, 2024 through approximately April 22, 2025.

10. Resignation - Paraprofessional

Move to accept the resignation of Victoria Duniak, Paraprofessional at Moss School, effective August 9, 2024.

11. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Laura Petty, Leave Replacement for Samantha Murphy, Special Education Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately September 18, 2024 through approximately February 27, 2025, at a rate of \$311.76/day, pending NJ certification.

12. ESY Rescind

Move to rescind and approve the following teacher for the 2024 Extended School Year Staff (Agenda 6/25/2024, Section 13, A9).

Name	Position	Rate	Number of Days	Total
Rescind: Andrea Agnone	Resource ELA 5 (Partially ESSER Funded)	\$338.70	7.5 days	\$2,540.25
Approve: Andrea Agnone	Resource ELA 5 (Partially ESSER Funded)	\$338.70	12 days	\$4,064.40

13. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Mili O'Brien, Paraprofessional at Moss School, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$24,852/year, effective August 26, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

14. Leave of Absence Extension - Bus Driver

Move to extend the leave of absence of Anna Szwast, Bus Driver, through approximately August 30, 2024 (Agenda 5/14/24, Section 13, A8).

15. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Danielle Pallotta, Leave Replacement for Michelle Herold, Integrated Preschool Teacher at Moss School for the 2024-2025 school year, effective August 26, 2024 through approximately February 4, 2025, at a rate of \$311.76/day.

16. Special Education Program Trainers

Move to approve the following staff members to prepare and provide trainings for special education programs and mandated professional development for the 2024-2025 school year, at the hourly rate of \$50/hour:

Teacher	Assignment
Ann Leghorn-Orapallo	Dyslexia Training
Andrea Agnone	Dyslexia Training

17. EMS Library Storage Project - Summer 2024

Move to approve Charmane Montgomery to complete EMS library storage project, over the 2024 summer, at a rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed a total of 10 hours.

18. WIDA Screening

Move to approve the following staff to conduct WIDA screening for summer 2024, at the rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed a total of 5 hours each (Title III funded).

Janelle Fisher	Ellen Park	Adrianna Reyes
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19. 2024 New Teacher Orientation

Move to approve the following mentors to work with new teachers at the New Teacher Orientation on August 21, 2024, at the rate of \$50/hour for up to 6 hours each.

Vivian Petrakakos	Melissa Gallo
Emily Caponigro	Lindsey Omark
Shannon Macmenamie	Kelsee Young
Christina Theiss	Jennifer Gumbrecht
Christina Dybas	Lindsay Nalepa
Julie Anderson	

20. Paraprofessional Mentors

Move to approve the following staff to serve as Paraprofessional Mentors, for a stipend in the amount of \$250 for the 2024-2025 school year:

Pam Malone	Tina Huber	Farhana Khan
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21. 2024 New Teacher Orientation Workshop

Move to approve William Schlavis as a Presenter for New Teacher Orientation Workshop, at a rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed 2 hours.

22. Leave Replacement - Rescind

Move to rescind Rebecca Porretto as Leave Replacement for Elizabeth Rentenberg, Special Education Teacher at Campbell Elementary School from September 10, 2024 through February 11, 2025 (Agenda 5/28/2024, Section 13, A2).

23. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Anthony Caponigro, Paraprofessional at Metuchen High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$22,987/year, effective August 26, 2024 through June 30, 2025, pending criminal history clearance.

24. High Impact Tutoring Grant Project Management Stipends

Move to approve the following teachers to receive a grand funded project management stipend for coordinating tutoring services, as allowable in the High Impact Tutoring Grant, to be paid 1.2 hours per assigned student, for summer 2024, at a rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed a total of \$5,000.

Teacher	# of Students	# of hours	Stipend Total
Alexis Wolford	1	1.2	\$60
Alyssa Polesky	6	7.2	\$360
Andrea Agnone	1	1.2	\$60
Ann Leghorn	3	3.6	\$180
Aubree Deminski	2	2.4	\$120
Caroline Forde	6	7.2	\$360
Christina Spring	1	1.2	\$60
Ellen Park	3	3.6	\$180
Emily Presuto	7	8.4	\$420
Emily Tzetzos	5	6	\$300
Erin Santasieri	3	3.6	\$180
Francine Galassa	3	3.6	\$180
Jennifer Muller	7	8.4	\$420
Jenny Pasquale	1	1.2	\$60
Joe Fitzgibbon	2	2.4	\$120
Lindsey Omark	3	3.6	\$180
Lori Meyer	5	6	\$300
Melissa Savarese	4	4.8	\$240
Rachel DiVanno	2	2.4	\$120
Tara Pata	1	1.2	\$60
Tom Yakowenko	4	4.8	\$240
Veronica Araneo	2	2.4	\$120
Vin Signorile	9	10.8	\$540

25. ESY Special Services Certificated Staff - Revision

Move to approve Brianna Fortino, Speech Therapist, for 5 additional days of 2024 summer work at the rate of \$311.76/day (Agenda 6/25/2024, Section 13, A9).

26. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the Leave of Absence of Laurie Toth, Paraprofessional at Campbell School, effective September 6, 2024 through approximately October 4, 2024.

27. Appointment - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the appointment of Laura Vergara, Math RTI Teacher at Edgar School, for the 2024-2025 school year, at a salary of \$76,755/year, Step 3J, effective August 26, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

28. Appointment - Substitute Bus Drivers

Move to approve the appointment of the following, as Substitute Bus Drivers for the 2024-2025 school year, effective August 28, 2024, pending criminal history clearance:

Name	Position	Rate
Catina Long	Substitute Driver	\$25/hour
Marleny Perez Arias	Substitute Driver	\$25/hour
Lisette Santiago	Substitute Driver	\$25/hour
Ajaykumar Joshi	Substitute Driver	\$25/hour

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

B. FINANCE

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. IDEA Grant for 2024-2025

Move to approve the IDEA grant allocation for the 2024-2025 school year and the use of IDEA grant allocations towards special education needs:

IDEA Grant	Total Allocation	Public Allocation	Non-public allocation
Basic allocation	\$702,663	\$609,376	\$93,287
Preschool allocation total	\$19,554	\$19,554	\$0
Total allocation	\$722,217	\$628,930	\$93,287

2. IDEA Grant Allocation for Salary

Move to approve Moss Paraprofessional Sandra Spinelli's salary of \$24,613 to be partially funded by the IDEA grant, up to the amount of \$18,516.

3. FDU Orton Gillingham

Move to approve Lindsey Omark to coordinate the FDU Orton Gillingham Reading Professional Development, funded by the IDEA grant, at a rate of \$50/hour, not to exceed \$1,250.

4. Stipend - MHS and EMS Unified Club Advisors

Move to approve the following staff as Unified Club Advisors, for the 2024-2025 school year, funded by the IDEA grant:

Teacher	School	Stipend
Beth Abbott	MHS	\$1,192
Nicole Benfatti	EMS	\$1,192

5. Special Education Services

Move to approve Speech Tree to provide the following services for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Comprehensive feeding evaluation and report - \$500
- Feeding Consultation - \$100
- Comprehensive Speech Language Evaluation and report - \$400
- Speech and Language Therapy - \$84/hour
- Staff Training/Professional Development - \$125/hour

6. Technology Equipment Disposal

Move to approve the disposal of the obsolete equipment on the attachment.

7. 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 August 13, 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.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

Nothing at this time.

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

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Grant 2024-2025

Move to approve the district's ESSA Grant for 2024-2025 school year to accept the allocations and intended use as per the application.

Title	Total Allocation	Public Allocation	Non Public Allocation
Title IA	\$64,342	\$64,342	\$0
Title IIA	\$30,054	\$24,328	\$5,726
Title III	\$11,683	\$11,683	\$0
Title III Immigrant	\$4,887	\$4,887	\$0
Title IVA	\$10,000	\$8,095	\$1,905

2. James Stronge Observation

Move to approve the James Stronge observation and evaluation system for the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Corrective Action Plan 2024-2025

Move to approve implementation of the Corrective Action Plan for WIDA ACCESS testing for the 2024-2025 school year.

4. Title III Immigrant Funds

Move to approve Guzman Educational Consultants, LLC to provide professional development and coaching for the 2024-2025 school year, to support the needs of multilingual learners who are Immigrant status, through Title III Immigrant funds, not to exceed \$4,887.

5. Title III Funds

Move to approve Guzman Educational Consultants, LLD to provide professional development for the 2024-2025 school year, to support teachers in meeting the educational needs of multilingual learners in content areas, through Title III funds, not to exceed \$1,000.

6. Literacy Coaching Services

Move to approve BDO Consulting Services LLC to provide professional development and literacy coaching services for the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$1,500/day, not to exceed \$60,000, partially funded by ESSA Title IIA and IDEA.

-----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

Vincent Caputo
Vincent Caputo (Aug 15, 2024 10:03 EDT)

20240813 Board Agenda

Final Audit Report

2024-08-15

Created:	2024-08-14
By:	Jennifer Alijewicz (jalijewicz@metuchenschools.org)
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