

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

**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	Ms. Killean	P
Ms. Cheatham	P	Mr. Lifton	P
Mr. Derflinger	P	Ms. Michaels-LaMorte	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Dr. Spigner	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Mr. Suss	P

5. Showcase of Success

❖ Introduction of New Teachers

Rheanna Andersen – CES Leave Replacement (for Zimmerman) starting November

Alicia Fernandez – CES Leave Replacement (for Gallo)

Amy Fitzharris – EMS PE/Health

Robin Gill – EMS Leave Replacement (for Spanier)

Rebecca Porretto – CES 4th grade

Julia Sudol – EMS Special Education

Deborah Lee – EMS Leave Replacement (for Presuto)

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

7. Presentations - None

8. Reports

❖ President's Report - None

- ❖ Superintendent's Report - Dr. Caputo gave a small report.
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Glassberg gave a report on Construction.

- ❖ Student Board Member Report - Ms. Michaels-LaMorte gave a report.

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

August 26, 2025	Special Business Meeting (1)
August 26, 2025	Special Business Meeting (2)
August 26, 2025	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1. Dr. Spigner 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 - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Joyee Mondal, Paraprofessional at Campbell School, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$24,241/year, prorated, effective approximately September 15, 2025 through June 30, 2026, pending criminal history clearance.

2. Resignation - Paraprofessional

Move to accept the resignation of Sonia Aswani, Paraprofessional at Campbell School, effective August 26, 2025.

3. Rescind - Paraprofessional Appointment

Move to rescind the appointment of Mone Benekin, Paraprofessional at Edgar School, effective August 27, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (Agenda 8/12/25, Section 13 A6).

4. Leave of Absence - Administrator

Move to approve the intermittent leave of absence of Brian Stike, Assistant Principal at Metuchen High School, effective October 6, 2025 through October 24, 2025, and January 2, 2026 through February 6, 2026.

5. Paraprofessional Mentors

Move to approve the following staff to serve as Paraprofessional Mentors, for the stipend in the amount of \$250 each for the 2025-2026 school year:

Anthony Caponigro	Tara Tay	Sharon Mok	Massoumeh Valanejad
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6. Appointment - Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the chart below, effective September 2, 2025, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

25-26 SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES	
Teacher sub with 30+ college credits - \$115/day	
Teacher sub with College bachelors degree - \$120/day	
Teacher sub with certification - \$125/day	
Nurse sub - \$210/day	
Para sub - \$105/day	
Nurse 1:1 sub - \$280/day	
Name	Certification/Sub Category
Diane Battaglia	Substitute paraprofessional
Christine Buck	Substitute with teacher cert
Hannah Chiusano	Substitute with college degree
Linda Griffin	Substitute with teacher cert
Alyssa Harrigane	Substitute with college degree
Melynda Johnson	Substitute with college degree
Paula Lifton	Substitute with college degree
Zahur Malik	Substitute with college credits
Antonette McHam	Substitute paraprofessional
Keith Miller	Substitute with college degree
Caroline Seidner	Substitute with teacher cert
Anne Sookchand	Substitute paraprofessional
Jeanmarie Teitler	Substitute with teacher cert
Eve Tricarico	Substitute nurse
Susan Williams	Substitute paraprofessional

7. Rescind - Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

Move to rescind the following co-curricular stipend for the co-curricular activity for the 2025-2026 school year as listed (Agenda 8/26/25, Section 13, A2):

Name	Club	Stipend
Rescind:		
Drew Bandola	MHS Peer Leaders Club (C) 0.5	\$822.00

8. Resignation - Bus Aide

Move to accept the resignation of Michael Molfetto, Bus Aide for Metuchen Schools District, effective September 5, 2025.

9. Appointment - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the appointment of Farhana Omarzai, Paraprofessional at Edgar School, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$26,465/year, effective September 10, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

10. Leave of Absence Extension - Custodian

Move to extend the leave of absence of Jonathan Alijewicz, Custodian at Metuchen High School, through approximately September 19, 2025 (Agenda 8/12/25, Section 13 A23).

11. Appointment - Lunch Aide

Move to approve the appointment of Constance Price, Lunch Aide for Metuchen Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year, at the rate of \$16/hour, effective September 10, 2025 pending criminal history clearance.

12. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Jessica Lanigan, Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective approximately December 1, 2025 through approximately April 3, 2026.

13. Leave of Absence - School Secretary

Move to approve the leave of absence of Kate Eosso, Secretary for Campbell School and Special Services Department, effective September 5, 2025 through approximately October 8, 2025.

14. Appointment - Substitute Secretaries

Move to approve the following additional substitute secretaries for the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 10, 2025. (Agenda 6/10/25, Section 13 A19, Agenda 8/26/25, Section 13 A5):

Name	Rate
Diane Battaglia	\$16.59/hour
Hannah Chiusano	\$16/hour

15. Appointment- Cash Box

Move to approve Maureen Azzara and Donna Corrigan for the 2025-2026 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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0 on items 1 through 5 and items 7 through 15. Motion carried 8-0-1 on item 6. Mr. Lifton abstained.

-----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 #
9/17/2025	5/6/2026	NJSBA PAA Meetings (5 meetings)	Taylor, Carolyn	Central Office	not to exceed \$150 (mileage/tolls)	Other	
9/10/2025	9/17/2025	Job Coaching for Career Exploration in Community Settings (2 meetings)	Valovcin, Dawn	MHS	\$0	No cost	
9/29/2025	9/30/2025	Generation AI Community of Practice	Evans, Neyda	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
10/21/2025	10/22/2025	NJ science convention, 2 days	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	\$520	FFPI	26-028, 26-029
10/24/2025	4/17/2026	Middlesex County Directors of Counseling	Kurtin, Ilana	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
10/27/2025	10/28/2025	Art and Soul	Gumbrecht, Jennifer	Edgar	\$290	FFPI	26-027
10/27/2025	10/28/2025	Where Creativity Meets Heart: Inspiring Educators, Igniting Souls 2025 AENJ Conference	Banner, Margaret	Edgar/MHS	\$345	FFPI	26-026

2. ESCNJ Dual Certification Pathway Grant

Move to participate in the ESCNJ Dual Certification Pathway Grant for tuition reimbursement to accept funds and reimburse staff accordingly, for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

3. 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 September 09, 2025 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.

4. Nonpublic Security Aid

Move to approve the following nonpublic security aid for the 2025-2026 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 Joseph High School	Open Systems Integrators	1	1	Public Address System	\$116,859.28	\$116,859.28

5. FY2026 Teach STEM Classes in Nonpublic Schools Grant

Move to accept the FY2026 Teach STEM in Nonpublic Schools Grant in the amount of \$18,434.03 for the partnership between the nonpublic school, Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion and the public school, Metuchen Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

6. AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

Move to approve the authorization, execution and delivery of the following grant agreements:

Metuchen Boro School District / Middlesex County
Campbell E.S.

Project Description: HVAC System Upgrades

DOE Project #: 3120-060-23-R502

SDA Project #: 3120-060-23-G5MK

Grant #: G5-6726

Total Project Costs: \$137,800

Grant Amount: \$55,120

7. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR SUPERVISION OF THE SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECTS

Move to approve the delegation of authority to school business administrator for supervision of the following school facilities projects:

Metuchen Boro School District / Middlesex County
Campbell E.S.

Project Description: HVAC System Upgrades

DOE Project #: 3120-060-23-R502

SDA Project #: 3120-060-23-G5MK

Grant #: G5-6726

Total Project Costs: \$137,800

Grant Amount: \$55,120

Mr. Suss motioned. Ms. Cheatham seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

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

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Appointment - Student Board of Education Member Representative

Move to approve Rose Michaels-LaMorte as the Metuchen High School Student Board of Education Representative for the 2025-2026 school year.

Dr. Spigner motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

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

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Work Based Learning

Move to approve the the following work based learning and community experiences for students in the Metuchen Internship Learning Experience classes at MHS for the 2025-2026 school year: Metuchen Boro Hall, Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, Sam's Club, ShopRite of Edison, ShopRite of Woodbridge, What's the Scoop, DSW and YMCA

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	Minigolf Hyatt Hills Golf Complex	Grade 12, 18-21 Program: This trip will give students the opportunity to practice social and communication goals, utilize problem solving strategies and apply academic and technical skills in authentic recreation and leisure settings.	Dawn Valovcin, Michelle Schutz and Joe DiMeglio	9/26/25	6	\$80	no subs needed
MHS	Costco	Grade 12; This is our annual trip to Costco to purchase papergoods for the Thankful Feast.	Dawn Valovcin, Michelle Schutz and Joe DiMeglio	10/3/25	6	\$80	no subs needed

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MHS	Pines Manor	Grade12; Senior safety ambassadors will attend annual Safety Summit Luncheon to gain valuable information about their role in the Safety Ambassador program.	Karin Flores	10/7/25	8	\$130	1 sub needed
MHS	Campbell Elementary School	Grades 9-12; Our annual winter band and jazz performance for elementary students	John Messenger and John Flynn	12/18/25	85	\$415	1 sub needed

3. Book Disposal Campbell School

Move to approve the disposal of the following curriculum resources from Campbell Elementary School:

SUBJECT	QTY	TITLE	©	PUBLISHER	ISBN
ELA	2	Developmental Language Stories	1980	Teaching Resources Corporation	
ELA	6	All in a Row	1976	Scott, Foresman Company	0-673-10607-1
ELA	24	Reading Milestones Placement Test and Test Booklets	1984	Edmark	0-86575-563-9
ELA	23	Reading Milestones Books	1991	Edmark	0-86575-722-4
ELA	1	Phonics Lessons, Grade 1	2003	First Hand: Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas	0-325-00408-0
ELA	1	Phonics Lessons, Grade 2	2003	First Hand: Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas	0-325-00409-9
ELA	7	Spelling Workout	1994	Modern Curriculum Press	0-8136-2815-6
ELA	17	Stevenson Language Skills Program	1978	Stevenson Learning Skills Inc.	0-941112-19-5
ELA	1	Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing - Lucy Calkins: Grade 3 Bundle	2013	Heinemann	978-0-325-04711-9
ELA	1	Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing - Lucy Calkins: Grade 4 Bundle	2013	Heinemann	978-0-325-04711-9
ELA	3	Spelling Connections: Grade 3	2012	Zner-Bloser, Inc.	978-0-7367-6874-0
ELA	3	Daily Language Instruction: Grade 2	2006	Hogback Press	N/S

ELA	2	Literacy By Design Grade 2 Benchmark Book Assessment Kit	2008	Harcourt Achieve	978-1-4189-3002-8
MATH	5	Ready Made Math Centers for Differentiated Instruction - Grade 4	2010	Pearson	978-0-328-71167-3
MATH	3	Ready Made Math Centers for Differentiated Instruction - Grade 2	2010	Pearson	978-0-328-71165-9
HEALTH	2	Health Promotion Wave: Grade 2	2006	Health Wave, Inc.	1-57239-180-4
SOCIAL STUDIES	16	The Nystrom Map Champ Atlas - grade 3	2005	NYSTROM Herff Jones Education Division	0-7825-1055-8
SOCIAL STUDIES	2	People and Places Everywhere Grade 3 Manuals	2005	NYSTROM Herff Jones Education Division	978-0-7825-1018-8
SCIENCE	1	Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: Earth and Space Teacher Guide	2019	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-1-4350-1849-5
SCIENCE	1	Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: Life Science Teacher Guide	2019	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-1-4350-1854-9
SCIENCE	1	Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: Engineering and Design Teacher Guide	2018	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-1-4350-1864-8
SCIENCE	5	Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: Engineering Design Student Activity Guide	2018	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-1-4350-1912-6
SCIENCE	12	Smithsonian Science Stories: Changing Habitats:	2018	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-0-9985286-4-9
SCIENCE	1	Smithsonian Institution: Changes Teacher Guide	2013	Carolina Biological Supply Company	978-1-4350-0885-4
SCIENCE	12	Smithsonian Institution: Unit Kits	2018	Carolina Biological Supply Company	N/A

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

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

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

15. Announcements - Ms. Cheatham 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. Bhatt seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment at 8:28 pm.

Vincent Caputo
Vincent Caputo (Oct 1, 2025 09:35:24 EDT)

20250909 Board Minutes

Final Audit Report

2025-10-01

Created:	2025-10-01
By:	Jennifer Alijewicz (jalijewicz@metuchenschools.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAbMfQEwyrRE20PK1QpMTcX6FZs4S5ibI9

"20250909 Board Minutes" History

-  Document created by Jennifer Alijewicz (jalijewicz@metuchenschools.org)
2025-10-01 - 12:58:08 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us for signature
2025-10-01 - 1:04:44 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us
2025-10-01 - 1:34:55 PM GMT
-  Signer vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us entered name at signing as Vincent Caputo
2025-10-01 - 1:35:22 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Vincent Caputo (vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us)
Signature Date: 2025-10-01 - 1:35:24 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-10-01 - 1:35:24 PM GMT