

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

4. Roll Call

Mr. Bhatt	P	Ms. Killean	A
Ms. Cheatham	P	Mr. Lifton	P
Mr. Derflinger	A	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

Chioma Ossai, Music Teacher Leave Replacement for Jordyn Gallagher (EMS/Moss)
Julianne Ulmer, Social Worker Leave Replacement for Lisa Granados (EMS/MHS)

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

7. Presentations - None

8. Reports

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

Mr. Glassberg gave a report on the Construction Committee.

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

9. Old Business - Mr. Suss recognized Mr. Lifton's birthday.

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

September 30, 2025	Special Business Meeting (1)
September 30, 2025	Special Business Meeting (2)
September 30, 2025	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1. Ms. Cheatham 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. Supplemental Instruction

Move to approve the following certificated staff to provide supplemental instruction as needed for the 2025-2026 school year, at the rate of \$62/hour:

Rebecca Dwyer	Lauren Thompson	Veronica Araneo
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2. Volunteer Club - Edgar Middle School

Move to approve the following volunteer club at Edgar Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year:

Volunteer Club	School	Advisor
American Sign Language Club	EMS	Lauren Thompson

3. In Service Professional Development

Move to approve the following staff members for the planning of the following professional development, at a rate of \$51/ hour as indicated below:

Name	Workshop	Total # of Hours
Nga Fizur	Epi Pen	1
Sandy Vorensky	Think, Explore, and Discover in Math	3

Jennifer Cecchine	Think, Explore, and Discover in Math	3
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4. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Dana Donatelli, School Psychologist, Moss and Metuchen High Schools, effective approximately November 14, 2025 through approximately December 12, 2025.

5. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the leave of absence of Laurie Toth, Paraprofessional at Campbell Elementary School, effective September 25, 2025 through approximately October 31, 2025.

6. Appointment of Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the chart below, effective October 10, 2025, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 10/14/2025	
Teacher sub with College bachelors degree - \$120/day	
Teacher sub with certification - \$125/day	
Teacher sub with 30+ credits - \$115/day	
Nurse sub - \$210/day	
Nurse 1:1 sub - \$280/day	
Para sub - \$105/day	
Sub Name	Certification/Sub Category
Sean Thompson	Substitute with college degree
George Connors	Substitute with college degree
Ana Ayala	Substitute paraprofessional
Maria Pan	Substitute with college degree
Stephanie Cadima Panililo	Substitute with teacher cert
Angelique Dulin	Substitute with college degree

7. Informal Mentor Teachers

Move to approve the following staff to serve as an informal mentors for the 2025-2026 school year, to be paid at a rate of \$51/hour, not to exceed 6 hours:

Teacher	School	Mentor
Julianne Ulmer	MHS/EMS	Christina Theiss
Chioma Ossai	EMS/Moss	Robyn Keyes

8. Volunteer Robotics Coach - Metuchen High School

Move to approve the following volunteer coach for the Robotics Team at Metuchen High School for the 2025-2026 school year pending completion of criminal history clearance (Agenda 09/30/2025, Section 13, A3):

Wyatt Fry

9. Mentor Training

Move to approve the following mentors to attend mentor training for 1 hour, at the rate of \$51/hour:

Robyn Keyes	Christina Theiss
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10. Appointment – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Deborah Cordes, Leave Replacement for Dana Donatelli, School Psychologist at Moss and Metuchen High Schools, effective approximately November 12, 2025 through approximately December 12, 2025, at a rate of \$329.73/day.

11. Appointment – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Deborah Cordes, Leave Replacement for Kaitlyn Kordesha, School Social Worker at Campbell and Moss Schools, effective approximately December 23, 2025 through approximately June 24, 2026, at a rate of \$329.73/day.

12. Appointment – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Maria DiLorenzo, Leave Replacement for Jessica Lanigan, English Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective approximately November 24, 2025 through approximately April 6, 2026, at a rate of \$329.73/day.

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

-----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 #
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	"Creating Literate Learners: Linking Research to Support Reading and Writing Realities"	Angus, Stephanie	CES	\$250	FFPI	26-051
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	NJIDA Fall Conference 2025	Agnone, Andrea	EMS	\$250	FFPI	26-048
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	NJStride PD Day	Taylor, Carolyn	Central Office	not to exceed \$25 (mileage/tolls)	Other	
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	NJIDA Fall Conference 2025	Leghorn-Orapallo, Ann	EMS/MHS	\$250	FFPI	26-052
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	NJIDA Fall Conference 2025	Julie Anderson	CES	\$250	FFPI	26-053
10/17/2025	10/17/2025	NJPSA - Lead with Joy Conference 2025	Fitzgibbon, David	CES	\$168	Other	

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10/21/ 2025	10/21/ 2025	NJSBA - Sustainable Schools Award Ceremony	Calantoni, Karen Upshaw, Katie Robbins, Melissa Kato, Yoko Evans, Neyda Kirschner, Brooke	Moss, CES, EMS, MHS	Not to exceed \$125pp for mileage and tolls	FFPI	
10/21/ 2025	10/21/ 2025	NJIP PLAs: CST & Related Services- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) & the IEP Process	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	\$0	No cost	
10/23/ 2025	5/7/ 2026	18-21 NJDOE Community of Practice (4 dates)	Valovcin, Dawn	MHS	\$200	FFPI	26-047
10/28/ 2025	10/28/ 2025	2025 NJAHP EARD Health Education Conference	Fitzharris, Amy	EMS	\$175	Other	
10/29/ 2025	10/29/ 2025	Fall Conference for Case Managers: Central NJ- Cornerstone School	Bindra, Amrita	CES	\$0	No cost	
11/4/ 2025	11/4/ 2025	Build Thinking Classrooms: Increase Your Students' Math Success (Grades 1-5)	Spring, Christina	CES	\$295	FFPI	26-049
11/6/ 2025	11/7/ 2025	NJEA Teacher Convention	Ronk, Edward	EMS	\$0	No cost	
11/14/ 2025	11/14/ 2025	NJAJE Conference	Flynn, John	CES/ MHS	\$0	No cost	
11/19/ 2025	11/19/ 2025	GMC Sportsmanship Seminar	Mooney, Mark	MHS	\$0	No cost	
12/2/ 2025	12/2/ 2025	NJIP PLAs: CST & Related Services- IEP Writing & Progress Monitoring	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	\$0	No cost	
12/2/ 2025	12/2/ 2025	Transformational Learning Summit: Best Practices in Education	Asprocolas, Jennifer	Central Office	\$135	No cost	
12/11/ 2025	4/29/ 2026	Leadership in Science Facilitator at Administrator Workshop Day 1 and 2	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	\$20.77	No cost	
12/12/ 2025	12/12/ 2025	AP stem roundtable	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	\$64	FFPI	26-050
1/13/ 2026	1/13/ 2026	NJIP PLAs: CST & Related Services- Special Education & Specially Designed Instruction	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	\$0	No cost	
1/13/ 2026	1/13/ 2026	NJIP PLAs: Administrators- UDL & Differentiation Look Fors	Lewis, Patricia	Central Office	\$0	No cost	

2/3/2026	2/3/2026	NJIP PLAs: CST & Related Services-Family Partnerships	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	\$0	No cost	
2/5/2026	2/5/2026	NJIP PLAs: Teachers-Executive Functioning	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	\$0	No cost	

2. Transportation Agreement

Move to approve the transportation agreement for student #20341125.

3. 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. Francis Cathedral School	Open Systems Integrators	1		DESFire EV2 ISO PVC 2K 13.56MHz - pre-programmed with diversified key for BlueDiamond readers.	\$394.00	\$394.00

4. Payment of Billsa) Board Secretary's Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(d), the Board Secretary has certified that as of Oct 14, 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.

5. Rescind - Out of District Student Placement 2025-2026 School Year

Move to rescind and approve the following 2025-2026 school year out of district student placement (Agenda 9/30/2025, Section 13, B6):

ID#	School	Total
Rescind: 20341125	Calais School	\$69,769
Approve: 20341125	Calais School	\$108,269.60

6. Evaluations

Move to approve Dr. Kavita Sinha, to perform specialized neurodevelopmental evaluations for the 2025-2026 school year, at the rate of \$600/evaluation.

Mr. Suss motioned. Dr. Spigner 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 September 26, 2025 - October 10, 2025.

2. Second Readings of Policies and Regulations

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

- ❖ P 1570 Internal Controls (M)
- ❖ P 5339.01 Student Sun Protection (M)
- ❖ P 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M)
- ❖ P 2422 Statutory Curricular Requirements (M)
- ❖ R 1570 Internal Controls (M)

Dr. Spigner motioned. Ms. Cheatham 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	YuYee	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, Joe DiMeglio and Marilyn Levine	10/17/ 2025	6	\$60	no subs needed
MHS	TOB Competition	Chapter VII Championships: Toms River North MHS Marching Band	John Messenger, John Flynn, Dillon Fernandes	10/19/ 2025	86	\$4,310	no subs needed
MHS	Michaels	Grade 12,18-21 Program: This trip will allow students to buy supplies for our Thankful Feast invitations while practicing social,	Dawn Valovcin, Michelle Schutz, Joe DiMeglio and Marilyn Levine	10/24/ 2025	6	\$80	no subs needed

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		communication and problem solving skills.					
MHS	Robbinsville	Robbinsville High School Competition MHS Marching Band	John Messenger, John Flynn, Dillon Fernandes	10/25/ 2025	86	\$4,310	no subs needed
MHS	TOB Competition	Atlantic Coast Championships, Hershey Park MHS Marching Band	John Messenger, John Flynn, Dillon Fernandes	11/1/ 2025	86	\$8,538	no subs needed
MHS	USBANDS Competition	MetLife: USBANDS National Championships MHS Marching Band	John Messenger, John Flynn, Dillon Fernandes	11/8/ 2025	86	\$4,929.90	no subs needed
MHS	Rutgers Jersey Mike's Arena	Grades 7-12; Students will attend the Rutgers recess day for women's basketball	Kathy Glutz, Rebecca Dwyer, Drew Bandola and Panos Tzetzos	11/13/ 2025	40	\$0	3 subs needed
MHS	Wegmans	Grade 12,18-21 Program: This trip will allow students to purchase items for our Thankful Feast invitations while practicing social, communication and problem solving skills.	Dawn Valovcin, Michelle Schutz, Joe DiMeglio and Marilyn Levine	11/14/ 2025	6	\$80	no subs needed
MHS	Metropolitan Opera NY	Grades 9-12; Students will attend a professional final dress rehearsal of the opera Andrea Chenier. Students will learn about the history of the opera house and have a talk back with members of the chorus and orchestra	Stefeny Krombholz and Anna Girin	11/21/ 2025	32	\$0	2 subs needed
MHS	9/11 Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hells Kitchen	Grades 11-12; Connected to A.P. Government and A.P. European History Curriculum	Evan Robbins, Beth Abbott and Mark Mooney	12/12/ 2025	25	\$0	3 subs needed
MHS	Harvard Model Congress	Grades 11-12; Harvard Model Congress is a government simulation conference, run by Harvard University students, that is held annually in February.	Danielle Cermak, Alexa Baird and Chris Giddes	2/19/ 2026	32	\$0	3 subs needed

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CES	Yogi Berra Museum	Grade 3; SWL the values that made Yogi a national treasure - respect, excellence, perseverance and teamwork. The hands-on, interactive field trip for 3rd grade students weaves together Baseball and STEM with Overwhelming Underdogs focusing on facing and overcoming challenges.	Danielle Rubinowitsch, Lisa Levin, Jenn Spak, Vin Signorile, Danielle Rubinowitsch, Jeremy Barnes, Lauren Corrigan, Kevin LoPresti, Erin Santasieri, Kara Wong, Alyssa Zimmerman	3/23/2026, 3/24/2026, 3/25/2026 and 3/26/2026 (4 day trips for different classes)	46	\$0	no subs needed
CES	Turtle Back Zoo	Grade 2; The students will make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habits.	Amanda Ludwig, Ashley Pietrowski, Patricia Kobayashi, Lauren Hall, Kinjal Vakharia, Sarah Anderson, Kathleen Zaleck, Dee Parker, Donna McLaren, Willow Brown, Rebecca Smith, Anurima Bakshi, Azy Valanejad, Christina Spring, Samantha Murphy, Jennifer Doherty, Scott Delaney, Michella Maldonado, Gunisha Chadha, Melissa Gallo, Adrianna Reyes	5/15/2026	175	\$0	no subs needed

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

-----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. Lifton seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment at 8:41 pm.