

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

**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	Ms. Michaels-LaMorte	A
Mr. Derflinger	P	Dr. Spigner	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	A
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Ms. Zimmerman	P

5. Showcase of Success

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

7. Presentations

❖ Review of Baseline Data, Maintenance and Custodial, Transportation - Mr. Harvier gave his report.

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 - None

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

January 27, 2026	Special Business Meeting (1)
January 27, 2026	Special Business Meeting (2)
January 27, 2026	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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. Retirement - Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Vivian Petrakakos, Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective June 30, 2026.

2. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the leave of absence of Tina Huber, Paraprofessional at Moss School, effective approximately February 13, 2026 through approximately March 3, 2026.

3. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the leave of absence of Joyee Mondal, Paraprofessional at Campbell School, effective February 23, 2026 through approximately March 13, 2026.

4. Instructional Stipends

Move to approve the following Edgar Middle School instructional stipends for the 2025-2026 school year, effective February 11, 2026 through approximately March 27, 2026:

Name	Assignment	Instructional Stipend
Chrissy Kremer	7th Grade Science	\$9,050 prorated

Laura Vergara	Pre-Algebra Class	\$9,050 prorated
Alicia Haller	7th Grade Science	\$9,050 prorated
Julia Sudol	8th Grade Science	\$9,050 prorated
Melissa Robbins	8th Grade Science	\$9,050 prorated

5. Retirement - Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Linda Donohue, Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective June 30, 2026.

6. Revision – Administrative Leave

Be it resolved to end the administrative leave with pay for Employee #102225, effective February 11, 2026 (Agenda 1/27/26, Section 20, A6).

7. Retirement - Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Pam Stead, Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective June 5, 2026.

8. Extension – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the extended appointment of Bruce Peragallo, Leave Replacement for Michelle Huff, Teacher at Edgar Middle School and Metuchen High School, three days per week, at a salary of \$329.73/day, effective approximately February 17, 2026 through approximately June 22, 2026 (Agenda 1/27/26, Section 20, A4).

9. Appointment Revision – Certificated Staff

Move to approve the revision of the appointment of Jennifer Korpon, 0.6 Teacher at Moss School, to full time Teacher at Moss School, Edgar Middle School and Metuchen High School, for the 2025-2026 school year, at a salary of \$65,625/year, Step 3E, prorated, effective February 19, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (Agenda 5/13/26, Section 13, A6).

10. Resignation – Leave Replacement

Move to approve the adjusted end date of Madeline DeBaro, Leave Replacement for Lauren Campbell, Edgar Middle School, through approximately March 27, 2026, or earlier if a replacement is hired (Agenda 11/18/25, Section 13, A2).

11. Appointment of Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the chart below, effective February 11, 2026, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 1/27/26	
Teacher sub with certification - \$125/day	
Teacher sub with bachelor’s degree - \$120/day	
Teacher sub with 30+ credits - \$115/day	
Nurse sub - \$210/day	
Para sub - \$105/day	
Nurse 1:1 sub - \$280/day	
Sub Name	Certification/Sub Category
Catherine LaMoreaux	Substitute with teacher cert

12. Retirement – Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Virginia Wetzel, Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective June 30, 2026.

13. Appointment – Per Diem ICR Substitute Teacher

Move to approve the appointment of Lisa Lombardi, 0.6 Substitute Teacher, to provide ICR instruction at Metuchen High School, at the rate of \$329.73/day, prorated for 0.6 instruction, effective February 11, 2026 through approximately March 27, 2026.

14. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Emily Presuto, Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective January 20, 2026 through approximately March 6, 2026.

15. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Christine Piovoso, Leave Replacement for Samantha Murphy, Teacher at Campbell School, at a salary of \$329.73/day, effective approximately April 20, 2026 to approximately June 22, 2026.

16. Presenters Integrated Preschool Orientation

Move to approve the following teachers as presenters at the Integrated Preschool Orientation on February 12, 2026 at the rate of \$51/hour Jessica Kovacs and Michele Herold not to exceed 2 hours.

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

Dr. Caputo wished all the retirees a happy and healthy retirement after reading a short anecdote about each.

-----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 #
12/17/2025	6/10/2026	Middlesex County ASAP-NJ monthly meetings	Palermo, Samantha	MHS	\$50	Other	
2/3/2026	6/2/2026	Child Fatality and Near-Fatality Board Suicide Subcommittee	Paredes, Susan	EMS/MHS	\$0	No cost	
2/24/2026	2/24/2026	NJASCD Heart of the Matter Summit	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$105	Other	
2/25/2026	2/25/2026	Impact of Social Media and Technology on Children's Behavioral Health.	Palermo, Samantha	MHS	\$0	No cost	
2/26/	2/26/	Cracking the Code:	Rodriguez,	Campbell	\$182	FFPI	26-120

Board Minutes - February 10, 2026

2026	2026	Practical Strategies for Supporting Students with Dyscalculia (3-8)	Bianca				
3/2/2026	3/2/2026	505: Effective IEPs in Action: Practical Tools for Writing and Data Collection	Corrigan, Lauren	Campbell	\$200	FFPI	26-119
3/6/2026	3/6/2026	Insight 2026: Navigating the Now	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
3/6/2026	3/6/2026	Insight 2026: Navigating the Now	Upshaw, Katherine	Moss	\$0	No cost	
5/20/2026	5/20/2026	Unlock your potential: Be Bilingual	Park, Ellen	EMS/MHS	\$335	FFPI	26-118
2/24/2026	2/24/2026	NJASCD Heart of the Matter Summit	Evans, Neyda	EMS	\$97	Other	
2/25/2026	2/25/2026	Impact of Social Media and Technology on Children's Behavioral Health	Kurtin, Ilana	Central Office	\$0	No cost	

2. Change Order Epic Management Inc.

Move to approve the change order as listed below:

Change Order #	Description	Amount
18	PCO#1124R1 Dated 7/21/2025 MES Steel Post Timber Guide Rail Add: \$28,247.20	\$28,247.20
19	PCO#1125R2 Dated 9/17/2025-PR#21 -EMS Site Updates Add: \$44,916.30	\$44,916.30
20	PCO#1165 Dated 11/3/2025 MES ASI#81 Moss ES Bus Loop Add: \$5,037.41	\$5,037.41
21	PCO#1124R1 Dated 7/21/2025 MES Steel Post Timber Guide Rail Deduct (\$28, 247.20)	(\$28, 247.20)

Board Minutes - February 10, 2026

22	PCO#1148 Dated 10/20/2025 MES Toilet Change RFI 226 Add: \$29,706.93 PCO#1153R1 Dated 121/20/2025 Edgar PR#25 IT Receptacles Add: \$9,470.23 PCO#1156 Dated 11/26/2025 Repair 2" Water Main Add: \$10,691.86 PCO#1160 Dated 11/26/2025 Work Performed for Middlesex Water Add: \$15,667.92 PCO#1164R1 Dated 1/5/2026 MES ASI#80RTU-4A & B Hot Water Supply Add: \$20,164.27 PCO#1169 Dated 11/26/2025 ASI 78 Changing Stations Add: \$2,105.07	\$87,806.28
23	PCO#1040R1 Dated 1/7/2026 Moss Site Light Pole RFI#83 PR#5 Add: \$15,633.57 PCO#1100R1 Dated 1/7/2026 Moss Roof Stair Modifications ASI#50R1 Add: \$2,250.00 PCO#1104R1 Dated 1/7/2026 PR17 Courtyard Grading Railing & Turf Add \$ 15, 936.56	\$33,820.13
24	PCO#1128 Dated 7/28/2025-RFI#217 Moss Renovation Area Sprinkler Work Add: \$77, 093.71 PCO#1130 Dated 8/7/2025 -Edgar Renovation Area Sprinkler Work Add: \$27,181.57 PCO#1184 Dated 1/20/2026 -ASI#85 BMS Power Source Add: \$2,042.93	\$106,318.21

3. Change Order M&M Construction

Move to approve the change orders as listed below:

Change Order #	Description	Amount
34	PCO # 138 MHS ASI #62 Opening Size Change Add: \$2,502.83	\$2,502.83

4. Advancing Opportunity Services

Move to approve Advancing Opportunities to provide the following services at the listed rates:

Description	Amount
AAC Evaluations	\$1,450.00/evaluation
Assistive Technology Evaluations	\$1,250.00/evaluation
AAC Training	\$200/hour
AT Support and Training	\$180/hour

5. 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 February 10, 2026 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.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Ms. Cheatham 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 attached.

2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- EMS010526001

3. District Calendar

Move to approve the revised district calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

4. 2026-2027 School Times

Move to approve, per policy 8220, the following start and end times for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Moss = 9:05a.m. to 3:20p.m.
- Campbell = 8:30a.m. to 2:45p.m.
- Edgar = 7:48a.m. to 2:26p.m.
- MHS = 8:28a.m. to 2:54p.m.

Dr. Spigner motioned. Mr. Bhatt 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:

Board Minutes - February 10, 2026

School	Destination	Class/Group/ Purpose	Teachers/ Advisors	Date(s)	No. Of Student s	Board Cost- Transportation	Number of Subs Needed
MHS	Campbell Elementary School	Grades 9-12; Asian Heritage Club students have been asked to perform lion and dragon dance for lunar new year celebration for the Campbell School students	Yoko Kato	2/19/2026	20	\$50	1 sub needed
MHS	Moss School	Grades 9-12; Asian Heritage Club students have been asked to perform lion and dragon dance for lunar new year celebration for the Moss School students	Yoko Kato	2/26/2026	20	\$50	1 sub needed
MHS	Mercer Labs: Museum of Art & Technology	Grades 9-12 Video Photography and Art 2 Students; Conceived and directed by artist Roy Nachum. Maestros and the Machines invites visitors to turn their affinity into the extraordinary, as the historic works of Da Vinci, Mozart, Hokusai, Michelangelo and more are reimaged through the lens of futuristic, cutting-edge technology.	Margo Banner, Kelly Murphy and Chris McEwan	3/4/2026	30	\$0	2 subs needed
MHS	Somerville Craft Space	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, Christina Dybas, Michelle Schutz, Joe DiMeglio, Janine Haulenbeek	3/6/2026	7	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	Walmart and Smash Burger	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, Marilyn Levine	3/13/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed

Board Minutes - February 10, 2026

MHS	Seneca High School	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	3/14/2026	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	Seneca High School	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	3/15/2026	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	Rutgers Farm	Grades 11 and 12; Environmental Science Students will visit the farm on Rutgers campus and the oceanography institute to see the data that is collected and how it is collected. The students will be able to understand real data on climate change and what the university is doing to try and change it.	Ryan Clapp, Lauren Korellis and Yoko Kato	3/25/2026	51	\$690 for 2 buses (Rutgers University Climate Change Grant Re-Imbursement to District)	2 subs needed
MHS	Bensalem High School	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	3/28/2026	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	Bensalem High School	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	3/29/2026	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	Brooklyn Museum	Grades 10-12; Students in AP Art History and Advanced Art courses will be meeting with the Brooklyn Museum Deputy Director, Sharon Matt Atkins, for a private tour.	Kelly Murphy, Margo Banner, Ashley Bosgra	4/9/2026	30	\$0	2 subs needed
MHS	Stabler Arena - Lehigh University	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	4/16/2026 (only attending if we qualify)	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	Stabler Arena - Lehigh University	Grades 9-12; District championship for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	4/17/2026 (only attending if we qualify)	32	\$390	1 sub needed
MHS	Stabler Arena - Lehigh University	Grades 9-12; District competition for robotics team.	Kevin Smedley	4/18/2026 (only attending if we qualify)	32	\$390(bus) & \$300 (truck)	no subs needed
MHS	What a View Yoga	Grade 12 PE Students; This field trip will provide wellbeing and mental wellness, while providing increased mobility and cardiovascular fitness which will be a lifetime benefit and activity.	Bob Ulmer, Lauren Kourelis, Samantha Green	4/27/2026	15-20	\$0	3 subs needed
MHS	Functional Human	Grade 12 Honors Health Science Students; The	Bob Ulmer, Kate	5/14/2026	20	\$0	1 sub needed

Anatomy Lab Rutgers	professor of Human Anatomy at Rutgers will lead a tour of the Human anatomy lab and will offer an in-person dissection of a human cadaver.	Lemerich and Ryan Clapp				
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2. Student Observers

Move to approve the placement of the following student observers from Rutgers University Music Education in the Metuchen Public School District during the 2025-2026 school year.

Name	School	Supervisor
Clark Mitchell	MHS	John Messenger
Evan Gore	MHS	John Messenger

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

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

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

15. Announcements - Ms. Zimmerman 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 8:35 pm.

Vincent Caputo
Vincent Caputo (Feb 25, 2026 11:10:58 EST)

20260210 Board Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-02-25

Created:	2026-02-25
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