

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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	P
Ms. Cheatham	P	Ms. Michaels-LaMorte	P
Mr. Derflinger	A	Dr. Spigner	A
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Ms. Zimmerman	P

**5. Showcase of Success**

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

**7. Presentations**

- ❖ Curriculum and Technology Budget Presentations - Dr. Tania Herzog and Mr. Christopher Thumann presented.
- ❖ HIB and SSDS Q1 September 2025- December 2025 - Dr. Caputo read the results.

**8. Reports**

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

Mr.Bhatt gave a report on the Equity Committee.

Mr. Glassberg gave a report on the Construction Committee.  
Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a report on the Curriculum Committee.  
Dr. Caputo gave a report on the Policy Committee.  
Ms. Killean gave a report on the Athletics/Extra-Curricular Committee.  
Mr. Suss gave a report on the Finance/Facilities Committee.

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

**9. Old Business** - None

**10. New Business** - None

**11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings**

February 10, 2026	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 10, 2026	Special Business Meeting (2)
February 10, 2026	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 5-0-2. Ms. Killean and Mr. Suss 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 - Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of Kathy Busch, Leave Replacement for Emily Presuto, Teacher at Edgar School, at a rate of \$150/day, effective February 18, 2026 through approximately March 27, 2026.

**2. Retirement - Certificated Staff**

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Kathleen Zaleck, Teacher at Campbell School, effective June 30, 2026.

**3. Revision - Administrative Leave**

Be It Resolved that the paid administrative leave for Employee #102412 be terminated as of March 1, 2026, subject to an agreement between the parties setting forth terms of the employee's reinstatement to active service.

**4. Resolution - Administrative Leave**

Be It Resolved, Employee #102225 is placed on administrative leave with pay, effective February 11, 2026 through February 24, 2026 (Agenda 2/10/26, Section 13 A6).

**5. Termination**

Be It Resolved, the employment of Employee #102225 is terminated as of February 25, 2026.

**6. Transfer - Paraprofessional**

Move to approve the transfer of Jordan Leitner, Paraprofessional, from Metuchen High School, to Edgar Middle School, effective February 23, 2026 through June 30, 2026, at a salary of \$26,685/year, prorated.

**7. Appointment of Substitutes**

Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the chart below, effective February 25, 2026, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

<b>2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 1/27/26</b>	
<b>Teacher sub with certification - \$125/day</b>	
<b>Teacher sub with bachelor's degree - \$120/day</b>	
<b>Teacher sub with 30+ credits - \$115/day</b>	
<b>Nurse sub - \$210/day</b>	
<b>Para sub - \$105/day</b>	
<b>Nurse 1:1 sub - \$280/day</b>	
<b>Sub Name</b>	<b>Certification/Sub Category</b>
Marcus Farris	Substitute with college credits
Reinaldo Rodriguez	Substitute with college credits
Tomas Kasza	Substitute with college degree
Matthew Rowe	Substitute with college degree
John Bruno	Substitute with college degree
Ryan Kalin	Substitute with college credits
Julia Ravenna	Substitute with college credits
Paige Liloia	Substitute with college credits
Kailani Urena	Substitute with college credits

**8. Rescind and Approve - Edgar Middle School Spring Coach**

Move to rescind and approve the appointments of the following coaches for the Spring 2025-2026 school sports season at Edgar Middle School (Agenda 5/27/2025, Section 13, A3):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
<b>Rescind:</b> Sydney Rudin	Middle School Track Coach	\$3,774

<b>Approve:</b> Morgan Schleuss	Middle School Track Coach	\$3,774
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**9. Rescind - Clubs and Co-Curricular Stipend**

Move to rescind and approve the following co-curricular stipend for the co-curricular activity as of February 1, 2026 as listed (Agenda 8/26/2025, Section 13, A2):

Name	Club	2025-2026 Stipend
<b>Edgar Middle School</b>		
<b>Rescind:</b> Andrew Southern	Dungeons and Dragons (B) 0.33	\$234
<b>Approve:</b> Brendan McCunney	Dungeons and Dragons (B) 0.33	\$234

**10. Appointment - Metuchen High School Volunteer Coach**

Move to approve the following Metuchen High School Volunteer Coach for the 2025-2026 school year as listed, pending criminal history clearance (Agenda 05/23/2025, Section 13, A1):

Name	Assignment
Joe Chonka	Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach

**11. Appointment - Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of James Borg, Leave Replacement at Edgar School, at a salary of \$150/day, pending criminal history clearance, and then \$329.73/day, once he obtains certifications, effective approximately February 25, 2026.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0 for items 2-11. Motion carried 6-0-1 for item 1. Ms. Zimmerman abstained.

Dr. Caputo read a few kind words about Ms. Kathleen Zaleck and wished her a happy retirement.

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

**B. FINANCE**

**Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call**

**1. Treasurer of School Monies and Board Secretary's Reports**

Move to approve the Treasurer of School Monies' Report, and Board Secretary's Report as of December 31, 2025.

**2. 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 24, 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.

**3. 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 #
2/19/2026	2/19/2026	Diagnosis and Treatment of CAS Using Dynamic Temporal and Tactile Cueing (DTTC)	Peluso, Emily	Moss	\$0	No cost	
2/24/2026	2/24/2026	ASCD Heart of the Matter Summit	Evans, Neyda	EMS	\$96.42	Other	
3/3/2026	3/3/2026	Expert Series: Using Data & Instructional Coherence to Inform NJTSS-ER LEARning about Literacy Series	Santasieri, Erin	CES	\$0	No cost	
3/4/2026	3/4/2026	How AI Is Reshaping Our World	Omark, Lindsey	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
3/9/2026	3/9/2026	NJASA Women in Leadership conference	Bonassisa, Deneane	Central Office	\$295	Other	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids' Hearts	Evans, Neyda	Edgar	\$51.14	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids' Hearts	Brooke Kirschner	CES	\$0	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids' Hearts	Christina Dybas	MHS	\$0	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids' Hearts	Shannon Connors	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
3/12/2026	3/12/2026	5th Grade NJSLA- S Science Assessment Training Session	Nolde, Jonathan	CES	\$0	No cost	
3/18/2026	3/18/2026	How to Meet the Challenges of K-2 and High School Gifted and Talented Identification and Programming; Gifted and Talented Education Institute	Fitzgibbon, Joe	CES	\$125	FFPI	26-121
3/18/2026	3/18/2026	How to Meet the Challenges of K-2 and High School Gifted and Talented Identification and Programming; Gifted and Talented Education Institute Day	Bormann, Kristina	CES	\$150	FFPI	26-122
3/22/2026	3/25/2026	NJ Schools Building & Grounds Assoc. Annual Expo/Conference	Colegrove, Darren	District	Not to exceed \$975,	Other	

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					including conference, hotel, mileage, tolls, parking		
3/22/2026	3/25/2026	NJ Schools Building & Grounds Assoc. Annual Expo/Conference	Shanley, Brian	Central Office	Not to exceed \$800, including hotel, mileage, tolls, parking	Other	
3/24/2026	3/24/2026	Project Lift Up: Young People Supporting Peers for Suicide Prevention	Coursey, Nicole	MHS	\$0	No cost	
3/28/2026	3/29/2026	Northeastern Woodworkers Association Showcase 2026	Tay, Nicholas	EMS	\$480.52	FFPI	26-123
4/17/2026	4/17/2026	NJSCA Spring PD Day 2026	Kurtin, Ilana	Central Office	\$0	Other	
5/6/2026	5/6/2026	Teaching Media Literacy Skills in a Fake News World	Sutin, Matt	MHS	\$295	FFPI	26-124

**4. Change Order M&M Construction**

Move to approve the change orders as listed below:

Change Order #	Description	Amount
35	PCO # 140 Dated 1/23/2026 MHS -PR#35 Damper Power Add \$18,264.70	\$18,264.70

**5. 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	Hogan Security Group, LLC	2		Polycarbonate Glass 1/4" -NGP Impact rated	\$392.00	\$784.00
St Francis Cathedral School	Hogan Security Group, LLC	5		L-GT-118_NGP Glazing Tape	\$70.40	\$352.00

**6. Nonpublic Technology Aid**

Move to approve the following nonpublic technology 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	CDW-G	16	6403806	Dell Pro Wireless Keyboard & Mouse – KM5221W MFG Part #KM5221WBKB-US	\$44.05	\$704.80
Metuchen Christian Academy	CDW-G	5	8513699	Dell pro 14 essential PV14255 14” – AMD RYZEN 5-220-16 GB RAM	\$751.79	\$3,758.95
Metuchen Christian Academy	CDW-G	1	8573096	Dell Chromebook II CC11260-Intell N Series N1508GB	\$523.23	\$523.23

**7. First Reading of Policies and Regulations**

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

- ❖ P142.1 Nepotism (M)
- ❖ P1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)
- ❖ P 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M)
- ❖ R 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M)
- ❖ P 3362 Sexual Harassment (Abolished)
- ❖ R 3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
- ❖ P 4352 Sexual Harassment (Abolished)
- ❖ R 4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)

**8. Furniture Disposal Business Office**

Move to approve the disposal of the following furniture from the Business Office:

Number of Items	Description
18	Office Desks
2	Credenzas
10	File Cabinets
9	File Drawers
5	Bookcases
5	Tables
3	Mail Slots

Mr. Suss motioned. Ms. Zimmerman 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 February 9, 2026 - February 20, 2026.

**2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- EMS011526001
- EMS010526002

**3. SEMI Action Plan**

Move to approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

**4. District Calendar**

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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus 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:

School	Destination	Class/Group/Purpose	Teachers/Advisors	Date(s)	No. Of Students	Board Cost-Transportation	Number of Subs Needed
MHS	Moss	Grades 9-12; Read Across America Wrestling team - community service	Joe Keagle and Nick Zaneto	3/4/2026	10	\$40	1 sub is needed
MHS	Campbell School	Grades 11-12; The Science National Honor Society travels every year to Campbell school to have high school students teach science lessons to 3rd and 4th graders in Jonathan Nolde's classes. These students have created their own lessons and activities to teach.	Ryan Clapp	3/5/2026	18	\$80	no subs needed
MHS	Menlo Park Mall	Robotics, Grades 9-12; Menlo Park Mashup is an	Kevin Smedley	5/16/2026 (Sat)	30	\$300	no subs needed

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		exhibition robotics competition					
MHS	Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education	Grades 9-12; Students will compete in the NJ Envirothon	Yoko Kato	5/8/2026 - 5/9/2026 (over-night trip)	10	\$300	no subs needed
MHS	Gettysburg College	MHS Soccer Team, Skilled development team bonding and high level coaching to elevate district athletes and enhance the athletic program	Joseph Migacz	7/26/2026 - 7/29/2026 (4 days/3 over-nights)	8-12	no cost	no subs needed
MHS	Wrestling Summer Camp at TCNJ	Empower high school wrestlers with clinics by experienced college coaches to promote learning of technical skills developing a competitive mindset and overall performance enhancement.	Joseph Keagle	6/25/2026 - 6/28/2026 (3 days/2 over-nights)	12	no cost	no subs needed
MHS	Band Camp: Camp Wayne for Boys	Marching Band Grades 8-12; Students are refining their musical skills while also building relationships with one another, an important aspect of being a successful team. The academic and social and emotional student growth achieved at band camp is paramount to our success.	John Messenger and John Flynn	8/16/2026 - 8/20/2026 (Sun-Thurs)	100	\$0	no subs needed

**2. Student Observers**

Move to approve the placement of the following student observers from Princeton University in the Metuchen Public School District during the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
Zoe Nadal	Edgar	Karen Logan
Brian Seo	MHS	Emily Caponigro
Timothy Seiferth	MHS	Amy Dees

**3. Professional Services**

Move to approve Charlene R. Williams to provide professional services for Genesis report card revisions for Metuchen School District for the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed \$1,950.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus 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. Ms. Killean seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment at 9:00 pm.