

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 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	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Ms. Zimmerman	P

5. Showcase of Success

❖ MHS Spring Musical

The MHS Footlighters will present the musical Shrek on Friday, March 13th, Saturday March 14th, and Sunday, March 15th. Tickets are available at MHSFootlighters.org, or at the door of the performances. In Shrek, a group of unlikely heroes discover what it means to be authentically themselves. Tonight, seniors Ryan Stein, who plays Shrek, Miles Gordon who plays Donkey, & Manali Weller, who plays Fiona, will sing an excerpt from the show, performing the song: *Who I'd Be*.

❖ Winter Sports Champions

MHS Girls Track Team
Sectional Champions

Ella Andersen
Kadijata Bah
Jocelyn Branch
Makenna Bruns
Maria DiFino
Olivia Irving

Sabrina Kandel
Julia Kelly
Amber Murray
Lucy Ongteco
Lola Petro
Ella Regan

Madeline Sinclair
Rose Surgan
Jordana Woods
Taylor Zaneto

Sectional Champion
State Group I
Champion
400m

Makenna Bruns

Sectional Champion
800m

Rose Surgan

Sectional Champion
55m Hurdles

Julia Kelly

GMC Champions
Sectional Champions
State Group I
Champions
4x400m Relay

Kadijata Bah
Makenna Bruns
Sabrina Kandel
Rose Surgan

MHS Boys Basketball Team
White Division Champions

Brandon Arthur
Drew Chonka
Colin Gawronski
Cameron Hayes-Durina
Bravian Jung

Ian Jung
Peter Khain
Ellis Kirin
Kyle McPartlan
Benjamin Oakes

Reece Osborn-Jones
Alexander Perez
Matthew Smith
Layne Taylor
Luis Vigo

MHS Girls Swim Team
White Division Champions

Karen Blevins
Lily Bohra
Ashley Chen
Isabella Cosenza
Evalyn Deng
Maya Girin

Callie Hanbridge
Emma Hogan
Mirabella Hom
Mira Karwowski
Eloise Koscs
Elizabeth Lau

Chelsea Lu
Lucy Magee
Janhavi Malik
Lia Petersen
Janice Yip

GMC Champion
500m Freestyle

Lily Bohra

MHS Wrestling

GMC Champion
Celeste Falkovich

District Champion
Daniel Montemurno

Edgar Swim Team

Undefeated

Emma Begarney
Nolan Begarney
Levi Bohra
Katherine Cosenza
Cal Crawford
Joseph Cuomo
Lucas Dascalu
Christina Donohue
Jonah Dreyfus

Calvin Dupuis
Courtney Farrell
Alexandra Gumbrecht
Olivia Lazar-Galoiu
Sebastian Lazar-Galoiu
Daniel Ma
Zoe Mojica
Kayla Nalepa
Robert North

Ashley Ouyang
Olivia Palmer
William Petersen
Shane Soe
John Styner
Sofia Vega Sanchez
Thomas Whittington
Jayden Yip
Bryan Zheng

Edgar Wrestling Team

Undefeated

Anushervon Bahridinov
Alexander Boudouvas
Evan De La Garza
Jacob Feldmann
Christian Guiendon
Jack Hale

Jackson Hassett
Gabriel Kaiser
Cameron Lamela
Alister Liu
Declan Logan
Jeven Londono
Chace Lynch

Justin Montemurno
Michael Mudalel
Noah Mikholus Sanchez
Bezhan Tabarov
Matteo Yannaccone
Jackson Zazzi

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

7. Presentations

- ❖ School Based, Athletics and Special Education Budget Presentations - Mr. Porowski, Ms. Azevedo, Dr. Costanza and Ms. Asprocolas presented their school based budgets. Mr. Cathcart presented for Athletics. Dr. Bonassisa presented for special services.
- ❖ Solar and ESIP Presentation - Spiegle and DCO Energy presented.

8. Reports

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

Mr. Glassberg gave an update on construction.

- ❖ Student Board Member Report - None

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

February 24, 2026	Special Business Meeting (1)
February 24, 2026	Special Business Meeting (2)
February 24, 2026	Board Meeting

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 6-2-0. Mr. Derflinger and 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. Retirement - Certificated Staff

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

2. Retirement - Custodian

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mulyanti Uhrlass, Custodian at Campbell School, effective June 30, 2026.

3. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Stephanie Kandel, Teacher at Moss School, effective approximately April 20, 2026 through approximately June 18, 2026.

4. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Cindy Fedun, Leave Replacement for Stephanie Kandel, Teacher at Moss School, effective approximately April 17, 2026 through approximately June 18, 2026.

5. Appointment of Substitutes

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

2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 3/10/26	
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

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Chioma Ossai	Substitute with teacher cert
Kailani Urena	Substitute with college credits
Suguna Jetti	Substitute with college degree
Kiley Thomas	Substitute with college credits
Christina Vicencio	Substitute nurse

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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 #
2/26/2026	2/26/2026	Cracking the Code: Practical Strategies for Supporting Students with Dyscalculia	Vorensky, Sandy	Campbell	\$179	FFPI	26-131
3/4/2026	3/4/2026	Reading Across America at Moss	Zaneto, Nicholas	MHS	\$0	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids Hearts	Connors, Shannon	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids Hearts	Dybas, Christina	MHS	\$0	No cost	
3/10/2026	3/11/2026	Capturing Kids Hearts	Kirschner, Brooke	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
3/13/2026	3/13/2026	Investigating Climate Change through Dance: How to leverage climate change standards in your content's curriculum.	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	\$0	No cost	
3/18/2026	3/18/2026	How to Meet the Challenges of K-2 & High School Gifted & Talented	Asprocolas, Jennifer	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
3/25/2026	3/25/2026	Standard - Based Graded - Assessment in the K-12 Classroom	Mertz, Emily	Edgar	\$199	FFPI	26-127
3/25/2026	3/25/2026	Standards-Based Grading- Assessment in the K-12 Classroom	Cecchine, Jennifer	Edgar	\$214.40	Other	
3/25/2026	3/25/2026	Standards-Based Grading- Assessment in the K-12 Classroom	Muller, Jennifer	Edgar	\$199	FFPI	26-126
4/17/2026	4/17/2026	Writing Legally Defensible IEPs & Emerging Trends in Special Education: A Focus for LDTCs	Siesputowski, Tara	Edgar	\$267.30	FFPI	26-125

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4/17/ 2026	4/17/ 2026	9th Annual Special Education Summit-Capacity Catalysts-Tools, Teams and Tactics for Enhancing Student Success	Bonassisa, Deneane	Central Office	\$195	Other	
4/21/ 2026	4/21/ 2026	SUNY Albany School Counselor Visit	Hanbridge, Leigh	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/24/ 2026	4/24/ 2026	Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Forde, Caroline	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
4/24/ 2026	4/24/ 2026	Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Paredes, Susan	Edgar/M HS	\$0	No cost	
4/24/ 2026	4/24/ 2026	Interdistrict NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Azevedo, Suzy	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
4/24/ 2026	4/24/ 2026	Interdistrict NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Asprocolas, Jennifer	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/28/ 2026	4/28/ 2026	Using AI tools to increase the success of ELLs and enhance teacher productivity	Park, Ellen	MHS	\$295	FFPI	26-129
5/8/ 2026	5/8/ 2026	Climate Change and Data Literacy	Korellis, Lauren	MHS	\$200	FFPI	26-130
5/8/ 2026	5/8/ 2026	Climate Change and Data Literacy	Nalepa, Lindsay	MHS	\$230	FFPI	26-128
5/15/ 2026	5/15/ 2026	Sustainability Summit	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	\$62.39	Other	
5/20/ 2026	5/20/ 2026	2026 Spring Conference	Omark, Lindsey	Central Office	\$390	Other	

2. 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	MISC	Miscellaneous Hardware, Materials and Supplies	\$125.27	\$125.27
St. Joseph High School	Open Systems Integrators	2	PM	Project Management	\$167.07	334.14
St. Joseph High School	Open Systems Integrators	4	INST-E-F-1	Installation - Foreman Electrician - 1st Shift	\$170.99	\$683.96
St. Joseph High School	Open Systems Integrators	4	INST-E-J-1	Installation - Journeyman Electrician - 1st Shift	\$146.15	\$584.60

St. Joseph High School	Open Systems Integrators	2	TECH	Technician - 1st Shift	\$161.95	\$323.90
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3. In-District Transportation Routes

Move to approve the following daily routes for in-district transportation routes for Edgar Middle School and Campbell School with George Dapper Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year and do not exceed \$520,693.56:

C1	\$239.73	E1	\$239.73
C2	\$239.73	E2	\$239.73
C3	\$239.73	E3	\$239.73
C4	\$239.73	E4	\$239.73
C5	\$239.73	E5	\$239.73
C6	\$239.73	E6	\$239.73

4. Athletic Transportation Routes

Move to approve the following rates for athletic transportation routes with George Dapper Inc. for the 2026-2027 school year and do not exceed \$15,000:

Vehicle	Hours	Amount
54 passenger w/seatbelts	3	\$272.28
	4	\$350.06
	5	\$427.85
Additional hourly amount after 5 hours		\$84.21
One way in town shuttle		\$176.82

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 March 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.

Mr. Suss motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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 23, 2026 - March 6, 2026.

2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- EMS013026001
- EMS020426001

3. Second Reading of Policies and Regulations

Move to approve the second 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)

Dr. Spigner motioned. Mr. Bhatt seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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	Arizona Land and Strawberries	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	3/20/ 2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	NJ Forest Resources Education Center(FREC) Interpretive Center	Grades 9-12; This is a workshop to train students participating in the NJ Envirothon.	Yoko Kato	3/26/ 2026	10	\$200	1 sub needed

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MHS	Downtown	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	4/10/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	New Brunswick for Train/Travel training	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	4/17/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	Majestic Lanes Bowling Alley	Unified PE; Students will work with their typically developing peers to learn how to bowl. Students will partner up and work together to problem solve and enjoy learning a new activity.	Christina Dybas, Dawn Valovcin and Beth Abbott	4/22/2026	38	\$70	1 sub needed
MHS	Monmouth County Fire Academy	Entrepreneurship Program; Students will be competing against other counties in the consumer bowl round 2.	Elizabeth Dorsa	4/28/2026	5	\$120	1 sub needed
MHS	Hobby Lobby and Krispy Kreme	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	5/1/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	Amazon and Chipotle	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	5/8/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	Somerset Patriots	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	5/13/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed
MHS	Brunch and Karaoke	18-21 Program: This trip will give students the opportunity to practice social	Dawn Valovcin, Michelle	5/15/2026	6	\$70	no subs needed

		and communication goals, utilize problem solving strategies and apply academic and technical skills in authentic recreation and leisure settings.	Schutz, Joe DiMeglio, Marilyn Levine				
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2. ESSA Grant Carryover

Move to approve the district's ESSA Grant Carryover for the 2025-2026 school year:

Title	Initial Allocation	Public Carryover	Non Public Carryover	New Total Allocation
Title IA	\$63,648	\$2,850	\$0	\$66,498
Title IIA	\$31,034	\$1,962	\$429	\$33,425
Title III	\$12,590	\$660	\$0	\$13,250
Title III Immigrant	\$5,631	\$105	\$0	\$5,736
Title IVA	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----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. Bhatt seconded the motion. All in favor.

Adjournment at 9:55 pm.