

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 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	P	Dr. Spigner	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Ms. Zimmerman	P

**5. Showcase of Success**

❖ Edgar Spring Musical Edgar

Edgar Middle School Drama Club proudly presents Moana Junior, which takes place Friday April 10th, Saturday April 11th, and Sunday April 12th at Metuchen High School. Based on the 2016 Disney film, this thrilling and heartwarming coming-of-age story follows the strong-willed Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village of Motunui and discover the truth about her heritage. Moana and the legendary demigod Maui embark on an epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie as both learn to harness the power that lies within. Celebrating the rich history of Oceania and based on the beliefs and cultures of the people of the Pacific Islands, Moana Junior contains musical numbers sung in English, as well as the Polynesian languages of Samoan and Tokelauan. Tonight, Emory Gordon, as Maui, will preview our show with a performance of “You’re Welcome”.

- ❖ MEF Slide
- ❖ Edgar Middle School MEF Sponsored Science Fair 1st Place Winners
  - 5th grade - Fouzan Cluntun & Leo Silfen, *Can a Fifth Grader Shoot Like Steph Curry?*
  - 6th grade - Anaiya Bhatt & Sonam Vyas, *Don't Lose Your Cool*
  - 7th grade - Tia Park & Lyra Nechikat, *Protecting from Pollen*
  - 8th grade - Sharvin Kanaga Sundaram, *Dust vs Solar Panels: How Dust Storms Impact Rover Solar Energy*

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

**7. Presentations**

- ❖ Preliminary 2026-2027 Budget - Mr. Harvier presented. The Board had questions and made comments.

**8. Reports**

- ❖ President's Report - Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a report.
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - Dr. Caputo commented on Dr. Johnson-Marcus's report.
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Glassberg gave an update on construction.

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

**9. Old Business** - None

**10. New Business** - None

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

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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1. Ms. Killean 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. MHS 2026 Footlighters Spring Stipend**

Move to approve the following staff members for the below assignments related to the Footlighters Production, Shrek. All payments will be reimbursed from the MHS Footlighters account:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
John Messenger	Conductor	\$400
John Flynn	Musician	\$200
Christopher McEwan	Musician	\$200
Amanda Shorr	Choreographer	\$1,000

**2. Title I Rtl Tutoring**

Move to approve the following staff to provide math intervention services at a rate of \$51/hour, funded by Title I grant for the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Amy Dees	MHS
Michael Warnock	MHS
Emily Caponigro	MHS
Stephanie Tortolani	MHS
Richard Cundai	MHS

**3. Appointment-Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of Robin Gill, Leave Replacement for Lindsay Kaye, Teacher at Edgar School, at a rate of \$329.73/day, effective April 16, 2026 through June 24, 2026.

**4. Appointment - Leave Replacement**

Move to approve the appointment of Cal Harkness, Leave Replacement for Lauren Campbell, School Counselor at Edgar School, at a rate of \$329.73/day, effective March 26, 2026 through June 24, 2026.

**5. Stipend**

Move to approve the stipend of \$978 for the 2025-2026 school year for Kelda Asiain-Arvizu, Custodian, as a result of having her Black Seal Boiler Operator's License, effective November 25, 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 March 24, 2026, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

<b>2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 3/10/26</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>
Allison Brennan	Substitute with college degree
Pradepa Mani	Substitute with college degree
Gabrielle Korngut	Substitute with teacher cert
Enayet Rasul	Substitute with college degree
Sophia Su	Substitute with college credits
Vincenza Eccleston	Substitute with <b>college degree</b>

Dr. Johnson- Marcus motioned to make a change to the sub list. Mr. Derflinger seconded. All in favor.

**7. Instructional Stipend**

Move to approve the following Edgar Middle School instructional stipend for the 2025-2026 school year, effective April 6, 2026 through approximately June 24, 2026:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Instructional Stipend</b>
Rebecca Dwyer	6th period ELA	\$9,050 prorated

**8. Instructional Stipend**

Move to approve the following Edgar Middle School instructional stipend for the 2025-2026 school year, retroactive to March 17, 2026 through approximately June 24, 2026:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Instructional Stipend</b>
Jen Muller	6th period RTI	\$9,050 prorated

**9. Paraprofessional as Substitute**

Move to approve the following paraprofessional to serve as a substitute, as needed and assigned, for an additional stipend of \$50/day:

Deborah Lee
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**10. Retirement - Certificated Staff**

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

**11. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional**

Move to approve the leave of absence of Janine Haulenbeek, Paraprofessional at Metuchen High School, effective March 6, 2026 through June 24, 2026.

Dr. Johnson- Marcus motioned. Dr. Spigner seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Dr. Caputo wished Roseanna Misuraca a happy and healthy 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 January 31, 2026.

**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 March 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 #
3/25/2026	3/25/2026	Standards-Based Grading-Assessment in the K-12 Classroom	Haller, Alicia	Edgar	\$219.73	FFPI	26-139
3/25/2026	3/25/2026	Standards-Based Grading-Assessment in the K-12 Classroom	Thompson, Lauren	Edgar	\$199	FFPI	26-132
4/14/2026	4/14/2026	Restorative Justice in Schools	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/17/2026	4/17/2026	NJSCA Spring Professional Development Day	Chango, Lisa	Edgar	\$91	FFPI	26-133
4/17/2026	4/17/2026	Using AI Tools to Increase Student Learning and Reduce Teacher Workload in SPECIAL EDUCATION (Grades K-12)	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$295	FFPI	26-134
4/17/2026	4/17/2026	Using AI Tools to Increase Student Learning and Reduce Teacher Workload in SPECIAL EDUCATION (Grades K-12)	Thompson, Lauren	Edgar	\$295	FFPI	26-138
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative	Omark, Lindsey	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Fitzgibbon, David	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Gouveia, Michele	Edgar	\$0	No cost	

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4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Upshaw, Katherine	Moss	\$0	No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Tzetzos, Panayotis	Campbell	\$0	Other	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Calantoni, Karen	Moss	\$0	No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	16th Inter-District NJ Public School Collaborative Network Conference	Agnone, Andrea	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
5/15/2026	5/15/2026	2026 Sustainability Summit	Omark, Lindsey	Central Office	\$45	Other	
5/15/2026	5/15/2026	2026 Sustainability Summit	Upshaw, Katherine	Moss	\$45	FFPI	26-137
5/19/2026	5/20/2026	2026 NJTESOL/NJBE SPRING CONFERENCE	Reyes, Adrianna	Campbell	\$428	FFPI	26-136
5/20/2026	5/20/2026	NJTESOL/NJBE Conference	Bethe, Michelle	Campbell	\$289	FFPI	26-135
6/3/2026	6/3/2026	Math Matters 2.0:MTSS	Vorensky, Sandra	Edgar	\$0	No cost	
6/5/2026	6/5/2026	NJASBO Annual Conference	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	\$119.64	Other	

**4. IDEA Grant**

Move to approve the following district’s IDEA Grant carryover and revised allocations for the 2025-2026 school year:

IDEA Grant	Initial Total Allocation	Total Carry over	Public Carry Over	Non-Public Carry Over	Adjusted total
<b>Basic allocation</b>	\$697,155	\$47,756	\$6,322	\$41,434	\$74,4911
<b>Preschool allocation total</b>	\$19,505	\$6	\$6	\$0	\$19,511
<b>Total allocation</b>	\$716,660	\$47,762	\$6,328	\$41,434	\$764,422

**5. Student Agreement**

Move to approve the settlement agreement for student # 2026127.

**6. ESEA Grant**

Move to approve the district’s ESEA grant carryover and revised allocations for 2025-2026 school year:

Title	Initial Allocation	Public Carryover	Non Public Carryover	New Total Allocation
<b>Title IA</b>	\$63,648	\$673	\$2,177	\$66,498
<b>Title IIA</b>	\$31,034	\$1,962	\$429	\$33,425
<b>Title III</b>	\$12,590	\$660	\$0	\$13,250
<b>Title III Immigrant</b>	\$5,631	\$105	\$0	\$5,736
<b>Title IVA</b>	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000

**7. Resolution – Food Service**

Be It Resolved that the Metuchen Board of Education “SFA” approves the renewal of the Food Service Management contract with The Pomptonian, Inc. “FSMC” for the food service operation for 2026-2027:

1. FSMC Fee:  
The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$34,742.00 to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be included as a cost of operation and billed in 10 monthly installments of \$3,474.20 per month. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC.
2. There is no guaranteed financial performance
3. Total Estimated Cost of Contract:  
Total estimated expenses (cost) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses, and FSMC management fee.

The Total Estimated Cost of Contract is \$1,011,149.43.

**8. Donation**

Move to accept the donation of 86 STEM-related games, manipulatives, and activities, valued at approximately \$4,500, from Genus Boni, a toy shop in downtown Metuchen, for use in K–12 science, mathematics, and 21st century courses to enrich instruction, support teacher modeling and small-group learning, and provide engaging center-based opportunities for students throughout the district.

**9. Adoption of the 2026 – 2027 Tentative School District Budget**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education must adopt and submit a tentative 2026-2027 school district budget to the New Jersey Department of Education.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Metuchen Board of Education adopt the 2026-2027 tentative school district budget as follows:

	<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>Local Tax Levy</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$53,535,072	\$47,169,004
<b>Total Special Revenue Fund</b>	\$1,511,199	
<b>Total Debt Service Fund</b>	\$5,983,350	\$4,309,092

The supporting documentation of the budget included an itemization of certain expenditures required under administrative regulations. Maximum travel budget is established at \$90,000. Travel includes professional development that takes place outside the District.

The Board of Education is requesting authority to utilize \$670,956 in health care allowance and this allowance will be utilized by the end of the budget year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

The Board of Education is also requesting \$12,652 in enrollment adjustment.

The Board of Education includes in the budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$554,743 for repayment of debt.

**10. Technology Equipment Disposal**

Move to approve the disposal of the obsolete equipment on the attached manifest.

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

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

**C. POLICY**

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

**1. Suspensions**

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for March 9, 2026 - March 20, 2026.

**2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- CES020526001
- CES020526002
- EMS021926001
- METHS021926001
- EMS022326001
- EMS030226001

**3. School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports**

Move to accept the following reports on the completion of the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill:

- 3/9/2026 8:12 – 8:30 AM, Campbell Elementary School, Location for the drill was Durham Ave bus drop off lane. C4, C2, C7, C1, C8, C5, C3, C9, and C6 participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Kathy Keers, Panos Tzetzos, and Joe Fitzgibbon.
- 3/11/2026 8:20 AM, Campbell Elementary School, Location for the drill was the staff parking lot curb on Talmadge Ave. Van 20 and Van 24 participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Vincent Costanza.
- 3/11/2026 9:40 – 10:30 AM, Moss School, Location for the drill was on Hunt Place. Bus 23 was used for all Preschool and Kindergarten classes. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Jen Asprocolas, and Billy Ortman.
- 3/13/2026 7:37 – 7:47 AM, Edgar School, back bus circle for all big busses and front school loop for Special Education Van. E4, E1, E2, E5, E7, E6, E3, E8, and Van 12 all participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Neyda Evans and Billy Ortman.
- 3/13/2025 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM, Metuchen High School, back of building. Full School Evacuation Practice during Physical Education or Health Classes, Bus 21 was used for all. Supervised by Brian Stike and Marissa Plancher / Teachers Leading the drill were Bob Ulmer, Nick Zaneto, Mark Mooney, Beth Abbott, and Julie Youngman.

Dr. Spigner motioned. Ms. Cheatham seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

-----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
CES	Middlesex County College	Mr. Yakowenko and Mrs. Holleran's 4th grade class; Students will participate in a higher education and college immersion program at the county college. Students will hear from different department leaders and representatives at the college to engage the students in life on a college campus and expectations. The program is designed to get the students planning for higher education and programs available to them in high school. This is a program the county college does with 4th and 8th grade students.	Thomas Yakowenko, Kelli Holleran, Stephanie Angus	4/29/ 2026	49	\$0	no subs needed
MHS	Moss School	The Math Honor Society officers will go to Moss to teach a mini math lesson involving gardening and making math arrays with "planting a garden" followed by a field trip to the donation garden behind the First Presbyterian Church and the food pantry to see where the food is distributed	Amy Dees	5/19/ 2026	10	\$70	1 sub needed

MHS	Six Flags Great Adventure	The class of 2026 has been fundraising for this trip for the past four years. This will serve as a culminating event to bring the seniors together to celebrate their upcoming graduation.	Sean Rappleyea, Julie Youngman, Emily Caponigro, Danielle Cermak, Ryan Clapp, Christopher Giddes and Mark Mooney	6/2/2026	175	\$0	7 subs needed
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**2. Work Based Learning**

Move to approve the following work based learning and community based instruction for the 2025-2026 school year:

Restaurant Depot

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Ms. Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried 9-0-0.

-----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. Glaassberg seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment at 8:50 pm.

Vincent Caputo  
Vincent Caputo (Apr 15, 2026 13:42:18 EDT)

# 20260324 Board Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-04-15

Created:	2026-04-15
By:	Jennifer Alijewicz (jalijewicz@metuchenschools.org)
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 Signer vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us entered name at signing as Vincent Caputo

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 Document e-signed by Vincent Caputo (vcaputo@metboe.k12.nj.us)

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