

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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	A	Ms. Killean	P
Ms. Cheatham	P	Ms. Michaels-LaMorte	A
Mr. Derflinger	P	Dr. Spigner	A
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	A
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P	Ms. Zimmerman	P

5. Showcase of Success

- ❖ Student Advisory Board

Students Lila Weissblum, Eashaan Bhattacharyya, and Crew Pagel came from the student advisory board. They spoke about their experiences.

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

7. Presentations - None

8. Reports

- ❖ President's Report - None
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - Dr. Caputo gave short remarks.
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Glassberg announced updates to construction.

❖ Student Board Member Report - None

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business - None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

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

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Glassberg seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

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. Salary Adjustment – Custodial Longevity

Move to approve a change in total salary for Lorenzo Asiain, Custodian, from \$52,121/year to \$53,039/year as a result of completing 10 years of service, effective April 1, 2026.

2. Leave of Absence - Extension

Move to approve the extension of the leave of absence of Emily Presuto, Teacher at Edgar School, through approximately April 17, 2026 (Agenda 2/10/26, Section 13, A14).

3. Leave Replacement Extension

Move to approve the leave replacement extension of Kathy Busch, Leave Replacement for Emily Presuto, Teacher at Edgar School, at a rate of \$150/day, through approximately April 24, 2026 (Agenda 2/24/26, Agenda 13, A1).

4. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Elizabeth Rentenberg, Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately August 26, 2026 through approximately December 4, 2026.

5. Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Ashley Pietrowski, Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately May 6, 2026 through approximately June 3, 2026.

6. Leave of Absence – Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Andrew Southern, Teacher at Edgar School, effective January 27, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

7. Leave of Absence – Certificated Staff

Move to approve the leave of absence of Nadia Salzer, Teacher at Campbell School, effective April 6, 2026 through approximately April 17, 2026.

8. Leave of Absence - Revision

Move to revise the leave dates of Samantha Murphy, Teacher at Campbell School, effective approximately April 27, 2026 through approximately October 18, 2026 (Agenda 1/27/26, Section 13, A12).

9. Appointment of Substitutes

Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on the chart below, effective April 15, 2026, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

2025-2026 Substitutes for Board Approval 4/14/26	
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
Aaron Puerzer	Substitute with college degree
Benjamin Mills	Substitute with college credits
Hope Serratelli	Substitute with college credits
Tyler Brown	Substitute with college credits
Josephine Gray	Substitute with college credits
Sarah Lifton	Substitute with college credits
Sophie Cohn	Substitute with college credits

10. 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 six hours:

Teacher	School	Mentor
Cal Harkness	Edgar	Samantha Palermo
Jayne Bruinooge	Edgar	Veronica Araneo

11. Formal Mentor Teacher

Move to approve the following formal mentor teacher to work with the following mentee teacher for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

New Teacher/Leave Replacement	School	Mentor	Payment Traditional Route \$550.00 Alternate Route \$1,000.00
James Borg	Edgar	Melissa Robbins	\$1,000 (prorated)

12. Mentor Training

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

Samantha Palermo	Melissa Robbins
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14. Appointment - Edgar Middle School Volunteer Coach

Move to approve the following Edgar Middle School Volunteer Coach for the 2025-2026 school year as listed:

Name	Assignment
James Borg	Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach

15. Instructional Stipend

Move to approve the following Edgar Middle School instructional stipend for the 2025-2026 school year, effective April 7, 2026 through approximately June 24, 2026:

Name	Assignment	Instructional Stipend
Alicia Haller	ICR Science	\$9,050 prorated

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

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

B. FINANCE

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Change Order M&M Construction

Move to approve the change orders as listed below:

Change Order #	Description	Amount
36	PCO # 146 3/24/2026 Subgrade Repairs-If a curb is damaged while performing this work it must be repaired by the contractor: ADD: \$12,741.44	\$12,741.44
37	PCO # 66I dated 3/24/2026 Musco Lighting Changes – MHS ADD \$9,423.36	\$9,423.36

2. 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 #
4/21/2026	4/23/2026	5th Grade NJSLA- S Science Assessment Item Review Committee	Nolde, Jonathan	Campbell		\$0 No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics	Meyer, Lori	Edgar		\$0 No cost	
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	Rutgers Labor Collaborative Interdistrict Conference	Herzog, Tania	Central Office		\$0 No cost	
4/30/2026	4/30/2026	All Voices, One Vision: Partnering with Students, Families, and Communities for School Mental Health	Herzog, Tania	Central Office		\$0 Other	
5/1/2026	5/1/2026	NJ Joint ELA and SS Supervisor Meeting	Manziano, Louis	Central Office		\$11.70 Other	
5/5/2026	5/5/2026	Melting, Moving, Missing: Making Climate Change Visible in Nature-Based Education	Wang, Jingjing	MHS		\$0 No cost	
5/6/2026	5/6/2026	Literacy Development for your Multilingual Learners	Gallo, Melissa	Campbell		\$45 FFPI	
5/8/2026	5/8/2026	Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science:	Meyer, Lori	Edgar		\$0 No cost	

		Making Sense of Phenomena					
6/9/2026	6/11/2026	5th Grade NJSLA- S Science Assessment Operational Test Range Finding	Nolde, Jonathan	Campbell	\$0	No cost	
6/29/2026	7/2/2026	ISTELive + ASCD Annual Conference 2026	Lemerich, Kathryn	Central Office	\$967.30	Other	
6/8/2026	6/10/2026	2026 AP Spanish and Literature Reading; Tampa FL	Flores, Karin	MHS	\$0	no cost	

3. 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
Friends of the Family	CDW	2	9060809	Lenovo Tab K11 Gen 2 ZAFS- Tablet – Android 15 or Later – 128 GB-11”	250.58	501.16
Friends of the Family	CDW	2	8049855	Lenovo Folio Case for M11 Tablet	27.18	54.36

4. Non Public Student Programs and Professional Development

Move to approve MSquared Books to provide an Antibullying presentation for students and staff at Metuchen Christian Academy not to exceed \$500 funded by Title IV and Title II during the 2025-2026 school year.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Ms. Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

-----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 23, 2026 - April 10, 2026.

2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case.

- CES021926001
- EMS030626001
- EMS030626002
- METHS031626001

Dr. Johnson-Marcus motioned. Ms. Cheatham seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

-----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	No. of Subs needed
MHS	High Note Festivals- Calvary Temple/ Dorney Park Previously approved on 10/28/25	7th and 8th Grade Orchestra and Chorus Students will perform at an adjudicated festival, receive feedback from judges, and hear performances by other groups.	Stefeny Krombholz, Christopher McEwan, Robyn Keyes, Jordyn Gallagher, Raquel Williams	5/8/2026	150	\$0	4 subs needed
MHS	New Jersey City University	Metuchen High School Jazz Ensemble will participate in the authentic, collegiate-level performance experience through a collaborative concert with the NJCU Jazz Ensemble. By performing in a university setting, students gained valuable insight into the expectations, standards, and opportunities associated with higher-level	John Messenger	4/27/2026	22	\$0	no subs needed

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		music study. A key instructional component of the experience was direct engagement with internationally acclaimed artist Camille Thurman.					
MHS	Pines Manor	Safety Ambassadors will attend a recognition luncheon to accept certificates of participation and listen to congratulatory messages from RWJ medical staff and SA coordinators for their dedication and commitment to the safety presentations they delivered through the school year.	Karin Flores and Sarah Karger	4/30/2026	8	\$80	1 sub needed
Edgar	Downtown Metuchen	Community Based Instruction students will be completing a scavenger hunt with a self-contained middle school classroom from Highland Park. We will act as their "tour guides" and walk around downtown with them. Students will meet our new friends for Pizza and practice socializing and meeting new friends who are similar age peers and use AAC devices	Alexis Wolford and Brendan McCunney	5/1/2026	2	\$60	1 sub needed

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		like my students					
MHS	Grounds For Sculpture	English and History Resource Classes Community Based Instruction: At Grounds for Sculpture students will experience contemporary art as accessible, engaging through art, nature and wellness.	Sarah Karger, Steve Cicchetti and Marilyn Levine	5/6/2026	30	\$0	2 subs needed
CES	Merrill Park	Community-based instruction to Merrill Park to generalize social-emotional/behavioral goals, engage socially with peers, gain awareness within the community, and communication goals	Brian Jeney, LoriAnne DiSerio, Emily Bianchi, Michelle Duggan, Joyee Mondal, Dee Parker	5/15/2026	6	\$40	no subs needed

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MHS	Palisades Interstate Park in New Jersey, Alpine to Huyler's Landing Hike	Outdoor Wellness Club: Students will hike through the Palisades Interstate Park along the clifftop and shoreline trails, offering sweeping views of the Hudson River and the dramatic basalt cliffs of the Palisades. The route includes varied terrain-from wooded paths to rocky sections and a steep descent to Huyler's Landing-helping students develop physical endurance and an understanding of trail safety and navigation.	Anna Girin and Danielle Cermak	5/16/2026	30 Students	\$0	no subs needed
MHS	Campbell Elementary School	Future Educators Club students will participate in varied teaching experiences at Campbell School. The students will be able to conduct structured observations of lessons and lead an instructional activity if they are interested.	Lindsey Nalepa and Ann Lezama	5/27/2026	22	\$60	2 subs needed

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Ms. Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

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

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

Ms. Cheatham praised the Edgar Middle School Play.

15. Announcements - Ms. Zimmerman made the 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. Mr. Derflinger seconded. All in favor. Adjournment at 8:28 pm.

Vincent Caputo

Vincent Caputo (Apr 29, 2026 13:24:09 EDT)







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Final Audit Report

2026-04-29

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