THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

MEETING AGENDA
of the Metuchen Board of Education
Mildred B. Moss School
16 Simpson Place
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, The Star Ledger, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

4. **Roll Call**

Dr. Al-Sweel		Mr. Glassberg	
Mr. Bhatt		Dr. Johnson-Marcus	
Ms. Branch		Ms. Killean	
Mr. Casey		Mr. Suss	
Ms. Cheatham		Ms. Zimmerman	
Mr. Derflinger			

5. **Showcase of Success**

6. **Meeting Open to the Public** *(for any topic)*

7. **Presentations**
   - Highlight on Moss - Jen Asprocolas
   - NJGPA Results Presentation

8. **Reports**
   - President's Report
   - Superintendent's Report
   - Committee Reports
   - Student Board Members Report

9. **Old Business**

10. New Business

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

September 22, 2026	Special Business Meeting (1)
September 22, 2026	Special Business Meeting (2)
September 22, 2026	Board Meeting

12. Meeting Open to the Public *(for any topic)*

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. Mentor Make Up Training
Move to approve the following mentors to attend mentor training for 1 hour, at the rate of $52/hour:

Christina Theiss	Lisa Granados	William Schlavis
Ann Burnett	Joe Fitzgibbon	Kristina Santos
Amanda Rossmeissl	Suzy Palmer	Emily Sanchez

2. Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional
Move to approve the leave of absence of Nidhi Maurya, Paraprofessional at Moss School, effective October 1, 2026 through approximately October 30, 2026.

3. Leave of Absence - Custodian
Move to approve the leave of absence of Jose Almeida, Custodian at Metuchen High School, effective approximately October 20, 2026 through approximately January 20, 2027.

4. Appointment of Substitutes
Move to approve the appointment of substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year as listed on the chart below, effective October 13, 2026, pending completion of substitute training and criminal history clearance:

2026-2027 Substitutes for Board Approval 10/13/2026
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	
Secretary sub - $17.19/hour	
Sub Name	**Certification/Sub Category**
Rhonda Dakelman	Substitute with teacher cert
Max Cohn	Substitute with college credits
Katherine McGrath	Substitute with college credits
Farrah Grubman	Substitute with college credits
Crystel Lubigan	Substitute nurse
Elizabeth Mellinger	Substitute with college credits

5. **Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff**
   Move to approve the leave of absence of John Flynn, Teacher at Campbell School and Metuchen High School, effective November 16, 2026 through approximately January 3, 2027.

6. **Leave of Absence - Paraprofessional**
   Move to approve the leave of absence of Mary Jo Paulmenn, Paraprofessional at Edgar School, effective approximately December 4, 2026 through approximately December 23, 2026.

7. **Non-Instructional Stipends - Revision**
   Move to rescind and approve the following non-instructional stipends for the 2026-2027 school year as listed (Agenda 8/25/2026, Section13, A2):

Name	**Assignment**	**2026-2027 Stipend**
Rescind:		
Emily Almeida	Moss- student supervision stipend	$7,534
Approve:		
Emily Almeida	Moss - student supervision stipend (0.6)	$4,520
Nick Tay	Edgar AM Student Supervision stipend (⅓)	$2,511
John Butler	Edgar AM Student Supervision stipend (⅓)	$2,511
Robyn Keyes	Edgar AM Student Supervision stipend (⅓)	$2,511

8. **Coaches Revision - Metuchen High School Winter 2026-2027**
   Move to rescind and approve the following Metuchen High School coaches for the Winter 2026-2027 school sports season as follows (Agenda 06/23/2026, Section 13, A5):

Name	**Assignment**	**Step**	**Stipend**
Rescind:			
Martin Holleran	Winter Track Assistant Coach (0.5)	3	$3,614.50
Jordan Leitner	Winter Track Assistant Coach (0.5)	3	$3,614.50
Approve:			
Martin Holleran	Winter Track Assistant Coach	3	$7,229.00

9. **Focus Grant Facilitators**
   Move to approve the following teacher to serve as facilitators of the 2026-2027 Focus Grant Data Analysis Team, at a rate of $52/hour:

Name	Hours
Kristina Santos	16 hours

10. Resignation - Transportation Coordinator

Move to accept the resignation of Marissa Plancher, Transportation Coordinator for the Metuchen School District, effective approximately December 8, 2026.

11. Focus Grant Participants

Move to approve the following teachers to participate in the 2026-2027 Focus Grant Data Analysis Team, at a rate of $52/hour:

Name	Hours
Francine Galassa	8 hours
Sarah Anderson	8 hours
Michelle Bethe	8 hours
Sarah Valovcin	8 hours
Emily Sanchez	4 hours
Janelle Fisher	8 hours
Adrianna Reyes	8 hours
Bailey Tocci	8 hours
Ryan Leigh	4 hours

12. New Teacher Academy

Move to approve the following teachers to facilitate sessions of the New Teacher Academy professional development series, at a rate of $52/hour:

Name	Session	Hours
Amanda Shorr	Co-Teaching (Year 1 Cohort and Year 2 Cohort)	5
Ann Burnett	Co-Teaching (Year 1 Cohort and Year 2 Cohort)	5
Panos Tzetzos	Wellness and Adult Self Care (Year 3 Cohort)	2
Beth McLaughlin	Navigating Challenging Behaviors (Year 3 Cohort)	2

----------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 #
9/19/2026	5/15/2027	Educators Neighborhood: Fred Rogers Institute (various dates of nights and weekends; not during school hours	Krombholz, Stefeny	MHS, Moss, EMS	$295	FFPI	27-055
9/21/2026	9/21/2026	Sustainable Schools NJ Awards Ceremony	Azevedo, Suzy	EMS	$40	Other	
10/6/2026	10/6/2026	New Jersey 2026 Collaborative Series: Back to School Kickoff	Valovcin, Sarah	Moss/ CES	$0	No cost	

10/12/2026	10/12/2026	AP Roundtable Workshop	Flores, Karin	MHS	$120	FFPI	27-054
10/13/2026	10/13/2026	The New Science of Rumination, Trauma, and Well-Being	Granados, Lisa	EMS/MHS	$45	FFPI	27-061
10/15/2026	10/16/2026	NJPSA Fall Conference	Tzetzos, Panayotis	CES	$840	FFPI	27-073
10/15/2026	10/16/2026	NJPSA Fall Conference	Costanza, Vincent	Central Office	$332	Other	
10/16/2026	10/16/2026	NJIDA Fall Conference 2026	Anderson, Julie	Moss	$370	FFPI	27-059
10/16/2026	10/17/2026	NJIDA Fall Conference 2026	Cadel, Ellissa	Moss	$370	FFPI	27-060
10/16/2026	10/16/2026	NJSIAA Golf Coaches Clinic	Taylor, Carolyn	Central Office	$0	No cost	
10/19/2026	10/19/2026	Monmouth University Counselor Visit Day	Hanbridge, Leigh	MHS	$0	No cost	
10/21/2026	10/21/2026	ID 120: Small Group Best Practices for Advanced & Gifted Learners	Vorensky, Sandy	CES	$163	FFPI	27-079
10/21/2026	10/21/2026	ID 120: Small Group Best Practices for Advanced & Gifted Learners	Valovcin, Sarah	Moss/CES	$163	FFPI	27-078
10/21/2026	10/21/2026	New Jersey School Boards Association's signature event, Workshop 2026	Costanza, Vincent	Central Office	$550	Other	
10/21/2026	10/21/2026	Sustainable Schools NJ Awards Ceremony	Robbins, Melissa	EMS	$40	FFPI	27-058
10/27/2026	10/27/2026	Rethinking Executive Function Through Whole-Class Design	Siesputowski, Tara	EMS	$85	FFPI	27-070
10/30/2026	10/30/2026	TCNJ Distinguishing Language Acquisition from Disabilities	Eriksson, Jan	CES	$274.61	FFPI	27-071
11/19/2026	11/19/2026	Building Thinking Classrooms with Peter Liljedahl Session 2	Kremer, Christine	EMS	$435	FFPI	27-063
11/19/2026	11/19/2026	Lifelines Trilogy Training	Corrigan, Ryan	EMS/MHS	$75	FFPI	27-066
11/20/2026	11/20/2026	HESAA's School Counselor Workshop	Hanbridge, Leigh	MHS	$0	No cost	
11/20/2026	11/20/2026	The Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey (AMTNJ) Fall Conference	Corrigan, Lauren	CES	$245	FFPI	27-057
11/20/2026	11/20/2026	Leading for Engagement: Supporting High-Impact Instructional Strategies	Asprocolas, Jennifer	Central Office	$170	Other	
12/4/2026	12/4/2026	NJCHE Annual Conference	Butler, Michael	EMS	$212.82	FFPI	27-062
12/8/2026	12/8/2026	De-escalation: Response to Behavior	MacMenamie, Shannon	Moss	$129	FFPI	27-074
12/8/2026	12/8/2026	Trauma Savvy School Culture	Nalepa, Lindsay	MHS	$0	No cost	
12/8/2026	12/10/2026	The Writing Revolution - Hochman Method K-2	Sanchez, Emily	Moss	$1,050	FFPI	27-067

12/8/2026	12/10/2026	The Writing Revolution - Hochman Method K-2	Leigh, Ryan	Moss	$1,050	FFPI	27-068
12/8/2026	12/10/2026	The Writing Revolution Hochman Method K-2	Pallotta, Danielle	Moss	$1,050	FFPI	27-069
1/14/2027	1/14/2027	Reframing Behavior and Teaching Replacement Skills	Pasquale, Jennifer	CES	$0	No cost	
1/14/2027	1/14/2027	Using Data to Drive IEP Goals & Progress Monitoring	MacMenamie, Shannon	Moss	$149	FFPI	27-075
1/19/2027	1/19/2027	Developing Language & Communication Practices in Early Childhood	MacMenamie, Shannon	Moss	$149	FFPI	27-076
1/20/2027	1/20/2027	NJSTA Sensemaking	Wang, Jingjing	MHS	$90	FFPI	27-072
2/3/2027	2/3/2027	W4: Using Explanation and Argument to Assess Student Learning	Jaworski, Trey	MHS	$13	FFPI	27-056
3/11/2027	3/11/2027	Building Thinking Classrooms with Peter Liljedahl Session 3	Kremer, Christine	EMS	$435	FFPI	27-064
5/4/2027	5/4/2027	How Early Childhood Educators Embrace the Skills of Young Learners with Exceptionalities	MacMenamie, Shannon	Moss	$129	FFPI	27-077

2. Nonpublic Security Aid

Move to approve the following nonpublic security aid for the 2026-2027 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	1	1	Fire Alarm System	$119,090.18	$119,090.18
St. Joseph High School	Open Systems	1	1	Additional Speakers and Horn for PA System	$3,956.57	$3,956.57

3. Change Order M&M Construction

Move to approve the change orders as listed below:

Change Order #	Description	Amount
38	PCO # 144 Dated 3/18/2026 Millwork Changes – MHS ADD $17,743.64	$17, 743.54
40	PCO #69AR1 Dated 3/17/25 MHS -Roof Drains Cafeteria Addition & Existing Building, Add $82,498.41 PCO #69B Dated 3/12/25 MHS – Roof Drains Cafeteria 171, 172, & 173 Only. Add $22, 344.77	$104,843.18

4. Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Move to approve the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. **Independent BCBA Services**
   Move to approve The Special Education Teacher a franchisee of Hi5ABA -as a provider of independent BCBA services at a rate of $117.50/hour for the 2026-2027 school year (Agenda 06/23/2026, Section 13, B22).

6. **BCBA Services**
   Move to approve Brett Di Novi and Associates to provide BCBA services at Campbell Elementary School for the 2026-2027 school year at the rate of $140.00/hour not to exceed $120,000.

7. **Resolution**

   WHEREAS, on October 1, 2026, the Metuchen Board of Education ("Board") held a public bid opening for the ECM-5, ECM-8, and ECM-14 ESIP Building Envelope and Insulation Upgrades at Multiple
   Schools; and

   WHEREAS, the Board received 4 at the public bid opening; and

   WHEREAS, the Board has determined to substantially revise the bid specifications for the Project; and

   WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board may reject all bids when it wants to substantially revise the bid specifications for the goods or services.

   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board rejects all bids for the Project on the basis that it wants to substantially revise the bid specifications for the Project.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to return the bid securities to the bidders.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator shall work with the Board's Design Professionals in revising the bid specifications and re-procuring the Project.

8. **Resolution**

   WHEREAS, on September 2, 2026, the Metuchen Board of Education ("Board") held a public bid opening for the ECM-1 and ECM-9 ESIP Lighting and Electrical Upgrades at Multiple Schools; and

   WHEREAS, the Board received 4 at the public bid opening; and

   WHEREAS, the Board has determined to substantially revise the bid specifications for the Project; and

   WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board may reject all bids when it wants to substantially revise the bid specifications for the goods or services.

   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, the Board rejects all bids for the Project on the basis that it wants to substantially revise the bid specifications for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator is authorized to return the bid securities to the bidders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator shall work with the Board's Design Professionals in revising the bid specifications and re-procuring the Project.

9. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Grant 2026-2027
Move to approve the district's ESSA grant for 2026-2027 school year to accept the allocations and intended use as per the approved application.

Title	Total Allocation	Public Allocation	Non Public Allocation
Title IA	$64,917	$64,917	$0
Title IIA	$32,137	$26,561	$5,576
Title III	$12,838	$12,838	$0
Title IVA	$10,000	$8,265	$1,735

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

C. POLICY
Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Suspensions
The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report for September 21, 2026 - October 9, 2026.

2. District Calendar
Move to approve the district calendar for the 2027-2028 school year.

----------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.
Moss	Von Thun Farms	First Grade students will understand that living things grow and change over time SW understand what living things need to survive SW understand that baby animals have similar traits to their parents SW observe plants at different stages of their life cycle SW read Spookley the Square Pumpkin throughout a corn maze and develop an understand and awareness of bullying and its effects	Tara Palmieri, Rupel Conzo, Candace Evans, Ellissa Cadel, Nicole Hanson, Bailey Tocci, Jeremy Barnes, Emily Vanderhoff, Megan Shapiro, Emily Almeida, Julie Anderson, Jessica Sorrenti	10/22/2026	170	$0	3 subs needed

CES	Giamarese Farm	Moss and Campbell Community Based Instruction Program will attend Giamarese Farm to generalize social emotional goals, engage with peers, and build awareness in the community, addressing related communication and expression standards.	Brian Jeney, Michella Maldonado, Lori-Anne DiSerio, Suzette Brown, Michelle Duggan, Patcharapan Erdem, Gunisha Chadha, Gianna Vega, Sharon Mok, Lynn Audet	10/20/2026	13	$60	no subs needed
Moss	Giamarese Farm	Moss Community Based Instruction Program will attend Giamarese Farm to generalize social emotional goals, engage with peers, and build awareness in the community, addressing related communication and expression standards.	Shannon MacMenamie, Neha Jansari, Nicole Lewis, Nidhi Maurya, Casady Hand, Sandy Iacona, Emily Almeida, Laura Hermans, Rose DiLeonardo, Pradepa Mani, Srividya Venkatesh, Lori-Anne DiSerio, Karen Calantoni, Dana Donatelli, Emily Peluso, Caroline Mandel, Vanessa Beibide, Tara Tay	10/27/2026	15	$120 for 2 Passenger Vans	no subs needed
EMS	Campbell Elementary School	Our DAWGS leaders will be going to Campbell to conduct lessons with the 5th grade students.	Karen Logan, Beth McLaughlin, Caroline Forde, Douglas Carter, Todd Gural, James Borg, Suzy Azevedo	10/27/2026	48	$50	2 subs needed
Moss	Metuchen Borough Hall	2nd Grade students will explore the idea of communities and learn why they are important. They will examine what makes our own community special. Additionally, students will learn about community government and how it helps organize and support the people living in a community.	Jennifer Doherty, Christina Spring, Melissa Gallo, Sarah Anderson	10/28 2026	85	$100 (2 busses)	no subs needed

Moss	Metuchen Borough Hall	2nd Grade students will explore the idea of communities and learn why they are important. They will examine what makes our own community special. Additionally, students will learn about community government and how it helps organize and support the people living in a community.	Jennifer, Doherty,Scott Delaney, Amanda Ludwig, Brown	10/29/2026	75	$100 (2 busses)	no subs needed
MHS	Woodbridge Community Center	Metuchen Athletes	Julie Yougman, Cara McNulty and John Cathcart	11/10/2026	40	$0	2 subs needed
EMS	Storm King Art Center	Art 2, Ceramics and Photography Grades 9-12 students will visit the Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky.	Margo Banner, Amy Dees, Sarah Karger and Liz Demott	11/13/2026	40	$0	3 subs needed
MHS	9/11 Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Broadway show	AP Government and Euro class will attend the 9/11 Museum.	Evan Robbins, Beth Abbott, Julie Youngman and Chris Giddes	11/20/2026	40	$0	4 subs needed
MHS	Menlo Park Mall	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, Joseph DiMeglio, Joelle Williams, Julie Youngman,Beth Abbott, Janine Haulenbeek	12/11/2026	25	$100	3 subs needed
MHS	Moss Elementary School	Safety Ambassadors will teach safety lessons to first graders in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson Safety Ambassador Program	Danielle Cermak	1/14/2027	8	$50	1 sub needed
MHS	Moss Elementary School	Safety Ambassadors will teach safety lessons to first graders in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson Safety Ambassador Program	Danielle Cermak and Karin Flores	2/18/2027	8	$50	1 sub needed
MHS	Moss Elementary School	Safety Ambassadors will teach safety lessons to first graders in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson Safety Ambassador Program	Danielle Cermak and Karin Flores	3/11/2027	8	$50	1 sub needed
MHS	Moss Elementary School	Safety Ambassadors will teach safety lessons to first graders in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson Safety Ambassador Program	Danielle Cermak and Sarah Karger	4/15/2027	8	$50	1 sub needed

MHS	David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center	MHS Orchestra students will see the New York Philharmonic perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto and Dvorak's Seventh Symphony.	John Messenger, Ashley Bosgra, Jordyn Gallagher	4/15/2027	36	$0	no subs needed
EMS	Medieval Times	7th Grade Social Studies Students will be able to interpret different perspectives and their implications.	Ed Albanese, Michael Butler, Shannon Connors, Andrea Elton, Robin Gil, Christine Kremer, Rebecca Rivera, Melissa Robbins	6/8/2027	200 (approximately)	$0	no subs needed
CES	NJ State House & NJ State Museum	NJ State Government, History & Civics	Alexandra Gonzalez, Molly Larkin, Kelli Holleran and Tom Yakowenko	6/8/2027	90	$0	no subs needed
CES	NJ State House & NJ State Museum	NJ State Government, History & Civics	Bianca Rodriguez-James, Gina Kish, Nicole Valera, Melissa Fiore, Rebecca Porretto	6/9/2027	121	$0	no subs needed

2. Student Observer

Move to approve the placement of the following student observer from Princeton University in the Metuchen Public School District during the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	**School**	**Supervisor**
Adham Ibrahim	MHS	Jonathan Stevens

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

14. Meeting Open to Public (*for any topic*)

15. 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

Vincent Caputo
Vincent Caputo (Oct 14, 2026 13:02:50 EDT)

20261013 Board Agenda

Final Audit Report 2026-10-14

Created:	2026-10-14
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