

**Magnolia School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 19, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Nick D’Amico opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Roll Call

Mrs. Rebecca Ammen	Present
Mr. Nick D’Amico	Present
Mr. Mark Godfrey	Present
Mrs. Karen Sorbello	Present
Mrs. Alyssa Vazquez-Colon	Call-In
Mr. Dale Martin	Present

Other Attendees

Mrs. Karen Macpherson, Superintendent
Mr. Greg Gontowski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Emily Strawbridge, Solicitor

Mission Statement

Mission Statement was read by Nick D’Amico.

**Approval of
Minutes**

1. Minutes of the Regular Session Board of Education meeting held on February 20, 2024

Motioned by Dale Martin, Second by Karen Sorbello

Vote: To approve Minutes

Voice Vote. All in favor

Motion Approved

**Audience
Participation I**

Open Audience Participation I – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, Seconded by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve opening of Audience Participation I

Voice Vote. All in favor

Close Audience Participation I

NONE

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, Seconded by Rebecca Ammen

**Vote: To approve closing of Audience Participation I
Voice vote. All in favor**

**Unfinished
Business**

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

New Business

None

Executive Session

None

Executive Session

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION at approximately 7:30 p.m.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately **8:15 p.m.** this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public

Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is Board Vacancy)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board

Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Seconded by Dale Martin

Vote: To Enter Executive Session
Voice Vote. All in favor (6-0-0)

Action will be taken after Executive Session

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING 8:07 pm

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen Seconded by Dale Martin

Vote: To approve Resumption of Public Portion of the Meeting
Voice vote. All in favor

**State and Local
School Board
Association**

None

**Superintendent's
Report**

Information Items:

1. Superintendent attended the 8th grade dialogue on March 14th and gave a brief update.
2. Strategic Plan meetings (Superintendent discussed)

A. Curriculum/Programs - None

1.

B. Interdistrict

1. Update on the Feasibility study

C. Public Relations/Liaison – None

D. Student/Parental Issue and Concerns – None

E. Buildings and Grounds.

1. A fire drill was conducted on February 8, 2024
2. A lockdown was conducted on February 20, 2024

3. Ratification of a bus evacuation drill which was held on September 12, 2023 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. All grade levels were scheduled accordingly

F. Negotiations/Contractual (Executive Session) -

1. Residency discussion for student #9091356607
2. Superintendent's contract
- 3.

G. Misc

1. Discussion of preschool expansion

H. HIB

1. No HIB to report at this time(unfounded)

Principal's Report

1. Mrs. Marly's report (**Attached**)
2. Mr. Sorrentino's report (**Attached**)

**Student
Disenrollment**

Motion to disenroll student #9091356607 do to lack of residency.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Second by Dale Martin

**Vote: To approve Minutes
Voice Vote. All in favor**

Motion Approved

Personnel

Motion to Approve Personnel Items 1 through 7, Trips Item 1 and Policies Item 1

**Nicole Clark –
Maternity Leave
9/1/24-9/1/25**

1. Nicole Clark to take maternity leave effective September 1, 2024 then invoke the family leave medical act until the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year with a return date of September 1, 2025 (**Attached**).

**Leigh Anne
Arkema – FMLA
4/8/24-6/20/24**

2. Leigh Anne Arkema to invoke FMLA effective April 8, 2024 through June 20, 2024 with a return date of September 1, 2024.

**David Rymer –
Special Education
Teacher 9/1/24**

3. David Rymer as special education teacher effective September 1, 2024 starting at a MA step 9 with a salary of 72,526.

**Elena DiBlasio –
Special Education
Teacher 9/1/24**

4. Elena DiBlasio as special education teacher effective September 1, 2024 starting at a BA step 3 with a salary of \$61,090.

**Patti Clark,
Heather Knapp-
McGuirl, Kelly
Livingston –
Google Trainer
Certification**

5. Patti Clark, Heather Knapp- McGuirl, Kelly Livingston to complete 30 hours of Google training to obtain her Google Trainer Certification at a rate of \$20.00 an hour to be paid a total of \$600.00 (to be taken out of title II).
6. The registration fee for Patti Clark, Kelly Livingston, and Heather Knapp-Mcguirl for the Google Training Certificate in the amount of \$225.00 each (to be taken out of Title II).

**Patti Clark, Kelly
Livingston,
Heather Knapp-
McGuirl –
Registration of
Google Training
Certification**

**Superintendent’s
Contract 7/1/24-
6/30/29 –
Submission to the
County Office**

7. Submission to the County Office the superintendent’s contract effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029.

**Great Adventure
Trip 6/4/24**

Trips

1. The Magnolia Performing Arts trip to Great Adventure on June 4, 2024 from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

Uniform Policy

Policies

1. The following revision to be added to our student school uniform policy:
Dress attire that portrays violent actions, weapons and drugs or drug usage will be considered a uniform infraction and can have disciplinary measures based on a perceived disruption to a safe and positive learning environment.

Motioned by Rebecca Alyssa Vazquez-Colon Second by Karen Sorbello

**Vote: To approve Personal Items 1 through 7, Trips Item 1 and Policies Item 1
Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon and Mr. D’Amico (6-0-0)**

Motion Approved

**Board Secretary
Report**

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Informational Items:

-Financial Disclosures – Due April 30, 2024 – will email pins and instructions

-Governance - TBD

Board Actions

Board Actions:

Bill List

Motion to Approve Items A and B

A. Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- March 2024 warrants (**Attachment A1**)

**GCSSSD –
Tuition & 1:1
Student
#2745009295**

B. GCSSSD - Tuition

To approve a tuition contract with Gloucester County Special Services School District for student #2745009295 in the amount of \$19,298.00 for tuition, \$1,536.00 for out of county fee, and \$19,173.00 for a 1:1 assistant for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen Second by Karen Sorbello

Vote: To approve Items A and B

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon and Mr. D’Amico (6-0-0)**

Motion Approved

**2024-2025
School Budget
and Resolution**

Motion to Approve Personnel Items C through E

C. 2024-2025 Budget and Resolution

It is recommended that the Magnolia Board of Education approve 2024-2025 School Year Budget, and Resolution, for submission to the Executive County Office of Education.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education has developed its 2024-2025 School Budget,

WHEREAS, NJAC 6:19-2.7 (a) requires Magnolia Board of Education to adopt and submit a formal Board resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2024-2025 school budget as presented by the administration which includes the following:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy

General Fund	\$11,926,180.00	\$4,753,588.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$910,548.00	-
Service Fund	\$257,500.00	\$204,117.00
Total Base Budget	\$13,094,228.00	\$4,957,705.00

Included in budget line 720, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – for Excess Cost & Other Capital Projects, is \$500,000.00 for other capital project costs of building renovations and repairs including but not limited to, interior and exterior renovations and trailer. The total costs of this project is \$500,000.00 which represent expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

Travel Budget

- D. Maximum Travel Budget** – It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following Resolution:

A travel event that exceeds \$5,000.00, regardless of the number of attendees, or where more than three (3) individuals from the district are to attend, must obtain prior approval from the Executive County Superintendent. Executive County Superintendent prior approval is not required for “regular school district business travel.”

Regular school district business travel is regular official business travel, including attendance at meetings. Regular school district business travel includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-state county meetings and DOE sponsored or association sponsored events provided free of charge. Regular school district business travel includes regularly scheduled in-state professional development activities with a registration fee that does not exceed \$100.00 per employee or board member. Regular school district business travel does not require prior Board approval but does require prior Superintendent approval.

The Magnolia Board of Education authorizes an annual not to exceed, maximum amount of \$2,000.00 per employee for regular school district business travel for which board approval is not required (6A:23A-7.3(b)). The maximum travel expenses for all staff for the 2024-2025 school year is limited to \$30,000.00.

Travel and attendance at in-state workshops, conferences, or professional development programs where the registration fee exceeds \$100.00 per employee or board member and is not regular school district business travel requires prior Board approval.

Mileage reimbursement for regular school business travel that is prior approved by

the Superintendent or any travel approved by the Board will be allowed at the rate authorized by the annual state appropriations act, which is \$.47/mile.

Travel and professional development shall be conducted in accordance with the State approved grant activities.

Lodging for out of state travel can only be provided if the event occurs on two or more consecutive days and where home to event commute exceeds 50 miles. All travel out of the country, regardless of cost or number of attendees, requires prior written approval of the Executive County Superintendent.

A written report or a standardized form for board members and employees must be completed for all Board approved training and seminars, conventions and conferences, and retreats.

All travel must be in compliance with State regulations N.J.A.C. 6A:23A.

The maximum travel expenses for all staff for the 2023-2024 school year is limited to \$30,000.00 and the amount spent year to date is \$3,627.69.

**Preschool
Education Aid**

E. Preschool Education Aid

To approve submission of the 2024-2025 Preschool Education Aid application and acceptance of the award in the amount of \$548,316.00.

Motioned by Karen Sorbello Second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve Items C through E

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon and Mr. D'Amico (6-0-0)**

**Audience
Participation II**

Motion Approved

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION II – PUBLIC COMMENT

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to open the meeting to the public regarding other items of interest.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammem Second by Karen Sorbello

None

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to close the Audience Participation II portion of the meeting.

Motioned by Mark Godfrey second by Rebecca Ammen

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Magnolia Board of Education Meeting held on March 19, 2024

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:23 pm by Rebecca Ammen Seconded by Karen Sorbello

Vote: To Adjourn meeting

Voice Vote. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

**Greg Gontowski
Board Secretary**

