

**Magnolia School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 18, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Mr. Nick D’Amico opened the regular meeting at 6:30 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	Present
	Mr. Dale Martin	Present
	Mrs. Jennifer Jackson	Present
Other Attendees	Mrs. Karen Macpherson, Superintendent	
	Mr. Greg Gontowski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary	
	Mrs. Emily Strawbridge, Solicitor	
Mission Statement	Mission Statement was read by Nick D’Amico.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting held on January 2, 2025	
	Motioned by Dale Martin, Second by Rebecca Ammen	
	Vote: To approve Minutes	
	Voice Vote. All in favor	
	Motion Approved	
Audit Presentation	Presentation of Audit – June 30, 2024	
	<u>BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS</u>	
Audience Participation I	Open Audience Participation I – <u>AGENDA ITEMS ONLY</u> - None	
Unfinished Business	Nick D’Amico – School Resource Officer Update	
New Business	None	
State and Local School Boards Association	None	

**Superintendent's
Report**

Presentation

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sorrentino discussed the School Safety Data Submission along with Magnolia's Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) trends for the 2023-2024 school year.

Information Items:

1. Board 2025 Committee List is (**Attached**)

A. Curriculum/Programs

1. Exploring new Benchmark tools

B. Interdistrict

1. Feasibility study **attachments** (Superintendent to discussed)
1. Steering Committee minutes from January 21, 2025 meeting (**Attached**)
2. Magnolia's Regionalization Recap Notes (**Attached**)
3. Stratford's Feasibility report Notes (**Attached**)

C. Public Relations/Liaison - None

D. Student/Parental Issue and Concerns

1. Policy #5111 (**Attached**) Superintendent to discussed

E. Buildings and Grounds

1. A lockdown was conducted on December 11, 2024
2. A fire drill was conducted on December 18, 2024
3. A shelter in place was conducted on January 8, 2025
4. A fire drill was conducted on January 28, 2025

F. Negotiations/Contractual (Executive Session) – None

G. Misc – none

H. HIB

1. No HIB to report at this time

I. Principal's Report

1. Mr. Sorrentino's report for December and January (**Attached**)
2. Mrs. Marlys' nurses report for December and January (**Attached**)

Personnel

Motion to Approve Personnel Items 1 through 10

**Accept with regret the
Resignation of G.
Samuels 2/28/25**

**Kelly Devlin – Special
Education Teacher
4/10/25**

**J. Pontarelli, L.
Hallahan and A. Gilley
– Workshop 3/27/25**

**J. Laracuate –
Spanish Translation
Stipend**

**L. Rutherford –
Medical Leave 2/27/25-
5/27/25**

**J. Kemble – Maternity
Leave and Envoke
FMLA 4/13/25-9/1/25**

**Alexandra Muller –
Observe Elisa
Rutherford – February
and March**

**Teachers Reimbursed
for Professional
Development Outside
of their Contracted
Hours**

**Teaching Assistants to
be Paid for
Professional
Development
Completed After
Their Contracted
Hours**

1. The resignation of G. Samuels as ABA effective February 28, 2025 (**Attached**).
2. Kelly Devlin as special education teacher to start April 10, 2025 at a starting salary of a MA step 1 \$61,526.
3. Jennifer Pontarelli, Leah Hallahan, and Ali Gilley to attend a workshop on March 27, 2025 entitled Coaching that Counts grades 3-5 Standards Summit at a cost of \$247.00 per person. (to be taken out of Title II).
4. Jose Laracuate to receive a \$300.00 stipend for spanish translation to support students and families for the remainder of the 24-25 school year.
5. Linda Rutherford to take medical leave effective February 27, 2025 with a return date of May 27, 2025
6. Julie Kemble to take maternity leave and invoke FMLA with an effective date of April 13, 2025 with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2025.
7. Alexandra Muller, a student from Camden County College to observe Elisa Rutherford in a classroom setting for a total of 15 hours during the months of February, March, and April.
8. Teachers to be reimbursed \$20.00 an hour for professional development completed outside of their contracted hours not to exceed 10 hours for the remainder of the 24-25 school year.
9. Teaching assistants to be paid their hourly rate for professional development completed after their contracted hours not to exceed 10 hours for the remainder of the 24-25 school year.

**E. Hubbs & Jose
Laracurente – Paid
Safety Care Training
3/18/25**

10. The following teaching assistants/aides to be paid their hourly rate to attend Safety Care Training on March 18, 2025 from 9:00am - 3:00pm
Erin Hobbs – trainer Jose Laracurente

Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve Personal Items 1 through 10

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon, Mr. D’Amico and Mrs. Jackson (7-0-0)**

Motion Approved

**Motion to Approve Trips/Event Item, Workshops Items 1 through 4, Calendar
Item 1 and Tuition Item 1**

Trips/Events

**8th Grade Trip
American Dream
Mall 5/9/25**

1. The 8th grade class trip to American Dream Mall in East Rutherford NJ on Friday, May 9th with a return time of 8:00pm.

Workshops

**K. Sorbello – Attend
the Women’s
Leadership Conference
3/21/25**

**Z. Camerieri and E.
Rutherford –
Workshop 3/3/25**

**R. Clement – Attend
Conference 3/23/25-
3/26/25**

**Susan Ortiz – Attend
Conference 4/10/25**

1. Karen Sorbello to attend the Women’s leadership Conference on March 21, 2025 at Mercer County College at a cost of \$119.00.
2. Zachary Camerieri and Elisa Rutherford to attend a workshop on March 3, 2025 at Camden County College entitled Write More, Grade Less at a cost of \$149.00 each (to be taken out of Title II).
3. Rich Clement to attend the NJ School Building and Grounds Expo Conference in Atlantic City from March 23 -26 (board to pay for three nights at a cost of \$100.00 a night for a total cost of \$300.00)
4. Susan Ortiz to attend the NJ Preschool Inclusion Conference at Mercer County Community College on April 10, 2025 at a cost of \$45.00 (to be taken out of Title II).

Calendar

**School Calendar 25-
26**

1. The 2025-2026 Magnolia Public School Calendar (**Attached**)

**Tuition Rate for
Student**

Tuition

1. Ratification of an establishment of a tuition rate for students of staff members of the Magnolia School District at \$18,000 per year.

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve Trips/Event Item, Workshops Items 2 through 4, Calendar Item 1 and Tuition Item 1

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon, Mr. D'Amico and Mrs. Jackson (7-0-0)**

Motion Approved

Vote: To Approve Workshop Item 1

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, **Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon, Mr. D'Amico and Mrs. Jackson (6-0-1) **
Karen Sorbello – Abstained**

Motion Approved

Motion to Approve Policies Items 1 and 2

**First Reading of
Policy 9163**

1. First reading of policy #9163 Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (**Attached**)

Revised Policies

2. Revised policies # 5111,5512,5533,7441,8500,9320
Revised regulations: 7441, 9320

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, second by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon

Vote: To Approve Policies Items 1 and 2

Voice Vote. All in favor

Motion Approved

**Board Secretary
Report**

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Informational Items:

- Governance Training
- Financial Disclosures – Due April 30, 2025

Board Actions

Board Actions:

Motion to Approve Items A and F

Bill List

A. Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- February 2025 Bill List (**Attachment A1**)

▪ Payroll (**Attachment A2**)

SEMI Waiver

B. SEMI Waiver

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2025-2026 year, and

Whereas, The Magnolia Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 41 Medicaid eligible classified students.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Magnolia Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Camden an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Audit & Corrective Action Plan

C. Audit & Corrective Action Plan

Whereas, the Magnolia Board of Education in accordance with NJSA 18A:23-1 must have a certified External Audit of the district's account and financial transactions; and Whereas the Magnolia Board of Education received the audit performed by Bowman & Company, LLP and discussed said audit at its public meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, now BE IT RESOLVED that the Magnolia Board of Education accepts the audit for the 2023-2024 school year, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and approves the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) as attached. (**Attachment C1**)

Joint Transportation Agreement

D. Joint Transportation Agreement

To approve a Joint Transportation Agreement between Winslow Board of Education and Magnolia Board of Education for student #4918188708 in the amount of \$1,479.06 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Shared Service Agreement – Magnolia Borough

E. Shared Service Agreement – Magnolia Borough

To approve the attached shared service agreement between Magnolia Board of Education and The Borough of Magnolia for the 2025 calendar year. (**Attachment E1**)

Tuition Contract – Magnolia BOE and Employee #611 for Student #9821805566

F. Tuition Contract

To approve a tuition contract between Magnolia Board of Education and Employee #611 for student #9821805566 in the amount of \$18,000.00 per year (to be prorated to the effective start date of February 12, 2025) for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve Item A

Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello

Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon, Mr. D'Amico and Mrs. Jackson (6-0-1) **Mr.

D'Amico – Abstained to ESS

Vote: To approve Items B through F

**Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Sorbello
Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vazquez-Colon, Mr. D'Amico and Mrs. Jackson (7-0-0)**

Motion Approved

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:55 pm by Karen Sorbello, Second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To Adjourn meeting

Voice Vote. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

**Greg Gontowski
Board Secretary**

