

**Magnolia School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 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 February 18, 2025

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, Second by Mark Godfrey

Vote: To approve Minutes

Voice Vote. All in favor

Motion Approved

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

**Audience
Participation I**

Open Audience Participation I – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Motioned by Mark Godfrey Seconded by Karen Sorbello

Vote: To approve opening of Audience Participation I

Voice Vote. All in favor

None

Close Audience Participation I

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon

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

Presentation	Presentation: Preschool Lottery
Unfinished Business	None
New Business	Nick D’Amico – Discussed upcoming Superintendent Evaluation
State and Local School Boards Association	Karen Sorbello – Updated
Superintendent’s Report	SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Information Items:

A. Curriculum/Programs

1. Math Night in April
2. Full in-service day - Inspired Math and ELA consultant
3. STAR for universal benchmark testing and intervention

B. Interdistrict

1. Continue with ELL shared services

C. Public Relations/Liaison

D. Student/Parental Issue and Concerns

E. Buildings and Grounds

1. A fire drill was conducted on February 3, 2025
2. A lockdown was conducted on February 13, 2025

F. Negotiations/Contractual (Executive Session)

1. Discussion of 25-26 budget

G. Miscellaneous

H. HIB

1. No HIB to report

I. Principal's/ Nurse's Report

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

Personnel

Motion to Approve Personnel Items 1 and 2

**Accept with regret
the Retirement of
David Ledent 7/1/25**

1. The retirement of David Ledent effective July 1, 2025 after 39 years of service to the district.

**Accept with regret
the Resignation of
Tufeka Potts 3/4/25**

2. The resignation of Tufeka Potts, preschool teacher effective March 24, 2025 (**attached**).

**Motioned by Karen Sorbello, second by Mark Godfrey
Voice vote. All in favor**

Motion Approved

Motion to Approve Professional Development Items 1 through 8

Professional development

**O. Heyser and A.
Gilley – Workshop
4/11/25**

1. Olivia Heyser and Allison Gilley to attend a workshop at Rowan University entitled Debunking Common Messages about Math on April 11, 2025 at a cost of \$199.00 each (to be taken out of Title II).

**K, Macpherson –
Attend the NJASA
Spring conference
in Atlantic City
5/14 & 5/15**

2. Karen Macpherson to attend the NJASA spring conference in Atlantic City on May 14th and 15th at a cost of \$200.00.

**N.. Borgese, A.
Gilley and D. Smith
– Workshop
4/19/25**

3. Nick Borgese, Allison Gilley, and Dylan Smith to attend a workshop at Rowan University on April 19, 2025 entitled Artificial Intelligence in the Math Classroom at a cost of \$199.00 each (to be taken out of Title II).

**N, Borgese, L.
Hallahan and J
DeVecchis -
Workshop 5/23/25**

4. Nick Borgese, Leah Hallahan, and Jamie DeVecchis to attend a workshop at Rowan University entitled Thin-Slicing Lessons Building Thinking Classroom Style on May 23, 2025 at a cost of \$199.00 each (to be taken out of Title II).

**H. Eriksson –
Workshop 3/14/25**

5. Heather Eriksson to attend a workshop entitled A+ for Every Student's Success at Camden County college on March 14, 2025 at a cost of \$149.00 (to be taken out of Title II).

**D. Carson –
Workshop 3/28/25**

6. Dan Carson to attend a workshop entitled 54 Ways to Review at Camden county college on March 28, 2025 at a cost of \$149.00 (to be taken out of Title II).

**Z. Camerieri –
Workshop 5/2/25**

7. Zach Camerieri to attend a workshop entitled Making Co-teaching work at Camden County college on May 2, 2025 at a cost of \$149.00 (to be taken out of Title II).

**Ashton Whitaker –
Workshop 5/5/25**

8. Ashton Whitaker to attend a workshop entitled Differentiation, Multiple Intelligences, and Manipulatives: Perfect Together at Camden County College on May 5, 2025 (to be taken out of Title II).

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, Seconded by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon

**Vote: To approve Professional Development Items 1 through 8
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

**1st Reading of
Policy #2415**

Motion to Approve Policies Items 1 through 3

1. 1st reading of regulation #2415 Title 1 Services (**attached**).

**2nd Reading of
Policy #9163**

2. 2nd reading of policy #9163 Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (**attached**).

**Strauss and Esmay
Revisions of
Policies**

3. Strauss and Esmay revisions of the following policies and/or regulations 0155, 5841, 5842, 7102(R) 8110.

Motioned by Dale Martin, second by Mark Godfrey

**Vote: To Approve Policies Items 1 through 3
Voice Vote. All in favor ** Alyssa Vazquez-Colon – Abstained**

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 Through D

A Monthly Reports

The Budget Summary and Revenue Summary for the month of January 2025.
(Attachment A1 & A2)

Transfers

B Transfer of Funds

The attached transfer list, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, for the month of July 2024 through January 2025. **(Attachment B1)**

C Financial Reports

1. Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of July 2024 through January 2025. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **(Attachment C1).**
2. Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of July 2024 through January 2025. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's report are in agreement for the month of July 2024 through January 2025. **(Attachment C2).**
3. Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
4. Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 4 We certify that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Bill List

D Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- Warrants **(Attachment D1)**
- Payroll **(Attachment D2)**

Motioned by Karen Sorbello, second by Jennifer Jackson

Vote: To approve Items A through D

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

Motion to Approve Items E through I

Goffredo Plumbing– Non fair and Open

E. Non Fair and Open – Goffredo Plumbing

To award a non fair and open contract to Mike Goffredo Plumbing & Heating, LLC in an amount to exceed \$17,500.00 for hot water heater replacement and miscellaneous plumbing repairs for the 2024-2025 school year.

ESS Northeast – Non Fair and Open

F. Non Fair and Open - ESS Northeast, LLC

To award a non fair and open contract to ESS Northeast, LLC in an amount to exceed \$17,500.00 for substitute staffing services for the 2025-2026 School year.

Budget 25-26

G. 2025-2026 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2025-2026 School Year using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$11,224,461.00	\$5,003,323.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$1,216,081.00	-
Debt Service Fund	\$257,025.00	\$203,740.00
Total Base Budget	\$12,697,567.00	\$5,207,063.00

And to advertise said tentative budget in The Retrospect in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Magnolia Board of Education located at 420 N Warwick Road on May 6,

2025 at 6:30pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 School Year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Magnolia Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$154,663.00 for the purpose of additional PEA local contribution and increase in staff salaries to continue to meet Educational Standards. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$500,000.00 for other capital project costs of building renovations and repairs including but not limited to, exterior renovations and interior renovations including but not limited to, flooring, plumbing, HVAC, and asphalt repairs. The total cost of this project is \$500,000.00 which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

**Travel and Related
Expense
Reimbursement 25-
26**

H. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2025-2026

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education established \$30,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$6,465.64 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$30,000.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Preschool
Education Aid**

I. Preschool Education Aid

To approve submission of the 2025-2026 Preschool Education Aid application and acceptance of the award in the amount of \$757,200.00 less a carryover reduction in the amount of \$14,088.00.

Motioned by Dale Martin, second by Karen Sorbello

Vote: To approve Items E and G through I

**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)**

Vote: To approve Item F

**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**

Open Audience Participation II – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded by Dale Martin

Vote: To approve opening of Audience Participation I

Voice Vote. All

Brianna Sheahan 208 Brooke Ave. Magnolia – Asked about Free and reduced lunch for 25-26 due to potential government cuts.

Close Audience Participation II

Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded by Mark Godfrey

Vote: To approve closing of Audience Participation I

Voice vote. All in favor

Executive Session

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION at approximately 6:46 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 7:30 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 (Provision relied upon: 2025-2026 Budget and regionalization);

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 Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded Mark Godfrey

Vote: To Enter Executive Session
Voice Vote. All in favor (7-0-0)

**Resumption to
Public Portion of
the Meeting**

Action will not be taken after Executive Session

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING 7:57 pm

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Alyssa-Vazquez-Colon

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

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:57 pm by Mark Godfrey, Second by Dale Martin

Vote: To Adjourn meeting
Voice Vote. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Gontowski
Board Secretary

