

MAYWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Maywood Board of Education was held on March 18, 2025. President Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cilento, Ms. Kiely, Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Soriano and Mr. Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Velez

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Michael Jordan, Superintendent and Ms. Jennifer Pfohl, Business Administrator

FLAG SALUTE

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 7, 2025 in accordance with the New Jersey Statutes 10:4-8 as follows: Posted by the Board Secretary in the Board of Education Office, 452 Maywood Avenue, e-mailed to Our Town and the Record newspapers, e-mailed to Municipal Building for posting on the Municipal Bulletin Board in the Borough Clerk's Office, 15 Park Avenue.

All staff motions have been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Education, Chapter 116, PL 1986, Provisional Employment, pending criminal history background check.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Jordan reported on the following:

- All non-tenured and tenured second/third round observations have been completed.
- Our next early dismissal for staff PD is Wednesday, March 19. Please see the doc below for the tentative schedule.
- Please see the doc below for a "Homestretch Update" that is being sent to the community. Homestretch District Update March 2025 Beacon Go/Guardian Alerts Change - We are happy to report that we will formally roll this enhancement out to our parent community effective on Monday, March 24th. As noted, the enhancement focuses on the monitoring of student use of their district-issued Chromebooks after school hours (4:30 pm - 8:00 am). The rules that trigger warnings for student use of the Chromebooks remain the same 24/7. Searches that are flagged as inappropriate during school hours are also inappropriate (monitored) on the district's domain after the school day ends. However, any such searches for illicit, inappropriate, and/or illegal topics are prohibited in school and outside of school.
- The enhancement will become live as of March 24th and will be active after school hours and weekends. The GoGuardian-Beacon program will now notify parents directly between the hours of 4:30 pm and 8:00 am and weekends as issues occur in real time. This will provide the parent with email/text notifications of any such searches that the child is conducting of an inappropriate nature. More importantly, it also would provide the parent with notifications of searches of a very serious and immediate nature, including searches of self-harm and/or harm to others and related threats after the school day has ended. This will allow parents to pay immediate attention to and/or provide immediate help to the child during after school hours. Through this enhancement, an immediate notification may be sent to law enforcement for those determined to be an immediate danger to themselves or those around them.

Suicide/Self Harm Alerts – Suicide Research - Looking up statistics and information about suicide, for a class assignment versus exhibiting signs of suicide ideation

Help & Support - Generated by a student behavior looking for help and support resources for themselves or a peer such as hotline numbers, or support forums. Etc.

Self Harm - Online behavior and/or content visited or generated by a student that may demonstrate a desire to harm themselves without trying to end their life

Suicide Ideation - Online behavior could indicate that a student is forming or expressing thoughts about suicide, including thoughts about their suicide.

Active Planning - Online behavior could indicate that a student is actively planning their suicide, such as looking up methodologies, suicide notes, etc.

Suicide/Self Harm Alerts - Guns & Bombs Online searches for guns and bombs, inquiring about how to acquire, build, use, conceal, or transport the gun or bomb. Examples include "How to buy a gun" but not "Water gun"

Violent Acts - Online searches inquiring about how to commit a violent act, how to obtain the means to commit a violent act, or expressing a desire to commit a violent act. Examples include "How to kill my dad" but not any search text including "lyric"

Bullying Online searches indicating that the user may be a victim of bullying, harassment, or threats or is seeking help to stop bullying, harassment, or threats. Examples include "How to stop my bully" but not "bullying statistics"

Historical Acts Online searches directly referencing specific school shootings or attacks, or specific perpetrators of those attacks. The name of a school or perpetrator must be included in the text. Examples include the "Columbine shooting" but not "Zodiac Killer"

- Memorial Classroom Addition Project - Please see attached for a tentative Memorial School building map, taking into consideration the construction of the six additional classrooms and the juggling of a variety of rooms for efficiency purposes. I would like to thank the subcommittee who has worked hard on this and for everyone's patience. The rooms are on schedule for a September 2025 opening and therefore this new map has the potential to be implemented at that time. As you will note upon reviewing the changes, this will free up classroom space at MAS with the shift of the primary students to Memorial. The next phase of this planning is to analyze a needs assessment at MAS and link that to a decision on usage of the newly freed up MAS rooms. Stay tuned.
- Unused Emergency (Snow) Days - Barring any unforeseen emergencies or sneaky blizzards, the three unused days will be returned on Tuesday, May 27th, Monday, June 16, and Tuesday, June 17th. The thoughts that went into this decision are as follows: With a construction project of this magnitude, we are reserving the unused days for as long as possible if we need to use an emergency day in March or April because of a construction-related closure necessity. The HVAC installation project at Memorial begins in the next few months, with the summer being a critical stretch for uninterrupted heavy classroom work. Making the last full day of school Friday, June 13th, instead of June 17th, will allow the crews to start a full week earlier than anticipated, and hence provide a cushion to avoid issues for the school opening in September. With expected delays because of supply chain and elongated lead-time supply availability, this added time will assist with the work in the classrooms pertaining to the univents, in a more timely manner.

Therefore, the tentative calendar revisions are outlined below.

May 27 - Changed to SCHOOLS CLOSED

June 12 - Changed to EARLY DISMISSAL

June 13 - Remains an EARLY DISMISSAL

June 16 - Changed to SCHOOLS CLOSED

June 17 - Changed to SCHOOLS CLOSED

- Thank you to the Teacher of the Year subcommittee for their work on this review as well. Below is the new configuration of awards. Stay tuned for eligibility standards and nomination timeframes.
 - One District Governor's Teacher of the Year - to be eligible for County & State Teacher of the Year
 - Two (one at each school) School level Teachers of the Year
 - Two (one at each school) School level ESPs of the Year (Educational Support Person)
- We thank one and all for their attendance and involvement at Read Across America Day/Week, including Maywood students in the Becton National Honor Society, MAS 4th graders, and community guests.

- Congratulations to the Hawks on their Maywood Tournament championship, the Ladyhawks on their second place finish and the cheerleaders for always being a huge part of the success of the tournament. We thank the many teams who attended and the community of supporters who helped raise over \$10,000 for the grade 8 end of year activities.
- Many thanks to the PTOs for their help with a number of events since we last met.
- The Maywood/Becton/ER/Carlstadt Youth Art Show takes place this Thursday at 6 pm in the MAS large gym.
- Families have been notified of the upcoming NJSLs assessment schedule, which begins in late April.
- World Down Syndrome Day - Friday, March 2. Maywood will honor this day of recognition by joining in the national ROCK YOUR SOCKS initiative in both schools.
- Friday & Saturday, March 21 & 22 at 7:30 pm and 2 pm respectively. Come see The Addams Family!

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Pfohl reported on the following:

- Hopefully approving the tentative Budget. Budget can be changed before our final adoption, which is scheduled for 5/14/25.
- There is an addendum to the agenda for furniture purchase for the Memorial addition.
- We will be visiting the construction site with the insurance rep tomorrow.
- Thank you to all who have sent their ethics disclosure to me. I will be catching up now that the budget is done.

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Finance – No report

Curriculum – No report

Policy – Update on Comprehensive Equity Plan policy from Straus Esmay and we will be revising our CEP.

Personnel – No report

Safety/OEM – Will be doing a walk through with police of new buildings and existing buildings for police.

Technology – No report

Community Relations – No report

Negotiations – No report

Legislation – No report

Mayor and Council – No report

MAS PTO – \$11,400 raised by Hawk tournament

MEM PTO – Glow dance, this week is theater week

Becton BOE – No report

Seniors – No report

Library – No report

Office of Emergency Management – No report

PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS;

- n/a

BREAK

- n/a

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- C. Padovano asked about air conditioning at both schools
- Inquiry about lighted sidewalks
- A parent asked about the school opening date for September 2025

BOARD COMMENTS

- n/a

OLD BUSINESS

- n/a

NEW BUSINESS

BL.11 Meeting Block Motion/Approval to Vote on Monthly Motions as a Group

Any board member who takes exception to any of the following listed actions may so indicate now and a separate motion for each of the excepted motions will be entertained:

RECOMMENDED ACTION - "move that the following actions of the Maywood Board of Education numbered: A.173, A.174 A.175, A.176, A.177, A.178, A.179, A.180, A.181, P.125, P.126, P.127, P.129, P.130, F.98, F.99, F.100, F.101, F.102, F.103, F.104, F.105, F.106, F.107, F.108, F.109, R.30, R.31, R.32, R.33 and R.34, to be approved as shown on the agenda dated, 3/18/2025."

Moved by: Mr. Taylor

Seconded by:

Vote:

Abstentions:

A.173 Acceptance of Minutes – “that the Board accept the following minutes of the Board of Education meetings.”

2/19/25 Work Session, Regular Meeting, Closed

A.174 Acceptance of Recorded Fire/Security Drills - "that the Board accept the following recorded Fire/Security Drills for February 2025:

MEM:

2/26/25 Fire Drill

2/27/25 Lock down

MAS:

2/26/25 Fire Drill

2/27/25 Lock Down

A.175 Approval of SEMI Corrective Action Plan – “that the Board approve the SEMI Corrective Action Plan, as submitted.

A.176 Approval of Use of Facilities – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS large gymnasium by the *Bulls Basketball Club*, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-10pm from 3/13/25-6/07/25.”

A.177 Approval of Use of Facilities – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS large gymnasium by the *MYAA Cheer* for a cheer and tumbling clinic, on April 14th & 15th, from 9am-2pm.”

A.178 Approval of Class Trips – “that the Board approve the following class trips for the 2024-2025 school year;

Art Club – 8 th grade	5/15/25	Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
Music & Art dept. – 6, 7 & 8 th graders	5/16/25	Bergen Teen Arts, Paramus, NJ
7 th grade	6/4/25	Liberty Hall, union, NJ

A.179 Approval of Conference/Workshop Attendance – “that the Board approve the following individual’s attendance at the specified conferences/workshops:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Approx. Cost</u>
B. Smith	Challenging Behavior in the School Setting	3/21/25	mileage
K. Brickett	Challenging Behavior in the School Setting	3/21/25	mileage
D. Zuccaro	Keys to Enhancing Your Effectiveness	4/09/25	\$295+mileage
J. Helfricht	2025 NJTESOL Spring Conference	5/20-521/25	\$515+mileage

A.180 Approval of New Placements – “that the Board approve the placements for students listed for the 2024-2025 school year;

<u>Students:</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>1:1 Aide</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC (PreK/OOD)	South Bergen Jointure Commission Felician Annex, Lodi	\$47,725 (to be prorated)	N/A	N/A	Region V	3/3/25 - 6/24/25
CL (1/OOD)	Hopestone Academy (Region V) Cresskill	\$74,559 (to be prorated)	\$22,069	\$2,250	Region V (Start 2/28/25)	2/27/25 – 6/20/25

A.181 Approval of Evaluation – “that the Board approve the following evaluation for student **AA (Gr. 1 MEM)** for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

Evaluation:	Pediatric Neurological Evaluation
Provider:	Dr. Batul Ladak, Saddle Brook
Dates:	To be completed by 4/30/25
Rate per evaluation:	\$750

P.125 Appointment of a Leave Replacement - “that the Board appoint Danielle Cironi as a leave replacement teacher at MEM, from 3/06/25 through 6/13/25. She will be placed on BA, Step 1 and receive a prorated salary of \$53,137.00.”

P.126 Approval of a Maternity Leave Replacement Extension - “that the Board approve Kristen Badowski continue as a maternity leave replacement until Ms. Zavodsky returns on May 1, 2025.”

P.127 Approval of Sub List – “that the Board approve the following individuals be added to the substitute list for the 2024-2025 school year (*pending clearance*).”

Sub-Teacher & Para

S. Kirk – NJ Sub-Certificate

Sub-Para

A. Khan

P.129 Approval of Additional Payment – “that the Board approve additional payment to the lunch aides, paraprofessionals and teachers on the attached spreadsheet, as per timesheets submitted through March 15, 2025.”

P.130 Appointment of a Leave Replacement - “that the Board appoint Sarah Ally as a leave replacement paraprofessional, NC, Step 1 from March 19, 2025 through the end of the school year.

F.98 Approval of the Budget - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Maywood Board of Education approve a school district preliminary budget for the FY2025/2026 School Year for submission to the Executive County Superintendent’s Office as follows:

Fund	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund (10)	\$28,213,195	\$22,430,204
Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$311,547	
Debt Service Fund (40)	\$2,275,775	\$1,444,102
Total	\$30,800,517	\$23,874,306

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 school year budget includes the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$211,684. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 school year budget includes the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$410,563. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$410,563 for the purpose of increased tuition costs. The district intends to complete said purpose by June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 general fund appropriations include a \$410,563 withdrawal from the Capital Reserve Account to be transferred to the debt service fund to aid with payment of debt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 general fund appropriations include a \$75,000 withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26- 20.5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Maywood Avenue School, located at 452 Maywood Avenue on April 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 School Year.

F.99 Approval of Maximum Travel Expense - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Maywood 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 Maywood Board of Education established \$15,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$ 214.00 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 \$15,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

- F.100 Approval of Check Run** - “that the Board approve a check run for *March* in the amount of: **\$ 1,064,056.72.**”
- F.101 Approval of Check Run for Cafeteria Bills** - “that the Board approve a check run for cafeteria bills in *March* in the amount of: **\$ 49,143.34.**”
- F.102 Approval of Board Reports** - “that the Board approve the Board Secretary’s Report, Treasurer’s Report and Report of Transfers for **February 28, 2025.**”
- F.103 Approval of Board Secretary’s Report** - “that the Board approve the Board Secretary Report, as submitted, for **February 28, 2025.**”
- F.104 Approval of Treasurer’s Report** - “that the Board approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report, for **February 28, 2025.**”
- F.105 Approval of Transfer of Funds** - "that the Board approve the report of transfer of funds for **February 28, 2025.**"
- F.106 Approval of Board Secretary's Monthly Certification** - "that the Board accept the preliminary Board Secretary's monthly certification on budget line status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d), I certify that as of **February 28, 2025** no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:22-8.1."
- F.107 Approval of Board's Monthly Certification** - "that the Board approve the preliminary Board's monthly certification Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, we certify that as of **February 28, 2025** after review of the secretary's monthly report (statement of expenditures) and upon consultation with violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year."
- F.108 Approval of Payroll** - “that the Board approve the payroll for *February* as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	
10	1,130,622.17
20	5,573.20
Total:	\$ 1,136,195.37
Board Share FICA/Medicare	25,075.60
State Share FICA Medicare	57,055.33
Board DCRP	3,647.45
Total Payroll Expense:	1,221,973.75

F.109 Approval of Disposal of Equipment - "that the Board approve of the disposal of computer equipment as submitted. These assets have no fair book market value."

R.30 Approval of Payment from Referendum Account - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC was awarded the contract for the addition at Memorial School and

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC has submitted Payment Application #13 in the amount of \$124,352.20 and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates has verified a review of the application and finds it in conformance with the level of work completed to date.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve this payment application in the amount of \$124,352.20.

R.31 Approval of a Change Order - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. was awarded the contract for the Addition at Memorial School; and

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. has submitted the following Change Order proposal, which has been approved by the architect:

Change Order (CO #4) in the amount of \$6,459.87 for six additional fire alarm devices and two duct detectors.

The new contract sum including this Change Order is amount is \$3,889,316.62; and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates has verified that these changes are necessary based upon the revised project scope;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves this Change Order and the contract amount is revised to reflect this change."

R.32 Approval of a Change Order - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. was awarded the contract for the Addition at Memorial School; and

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. has submitted the following Change Order proposal, which has been approved by the architect:

Change Order (CO #5) in the amount of \$4,012.43 for a change to canopy lights to fit framing

The new contract sum including this Change Order is amount is \$3,893,329.05; and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates has verified that these changes are necessary based upon the revised project scope;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves this Change Order and the contract amount is revised to reflect this change."

R.33 Approval of a Change Order - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. was awarded the contract for the Addition at Memorial School; and

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. has submitted the following Change Order proposal, which has been approved by the architect:

Change Order (CO #6) in the amount of \$2,000.00 to provide and install a new hot air curtain (+\$30,000) as well as deduct for AME per Deduct Alternate #3 (at bid-deduct \$28,000)

The new contract sum including this Change Order is amount is \$3,895,329.05; and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates has verified that these changes are necessary based upon the revised project scope;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves this Change Order and the contract amount is revised to reflect this change.”

R.34 Approval of a Change Order - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. was awarded the contract for the Addition at Memorial School; and

WHEREAS, Daskall LLC. has submitted the following Change Order proposal, which has been approved by the architect:

Change Order (CO #7) in the amount of \$11,931.71 to provide and install room signs on existing building

The new contract sum including this Change Order is amount is \$3,907,260.76; and

WHEREAS, LAN Associates has verified that these changes are necessary based upon the revised project scope;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves this Change Order and the contract amount is revised to reflect this change.”

EXCEPTED MOTIONS VOTED ON SERPARATELY

- *n/a*

TABLED MOTIONS

- *n/a*

BOARD COMMENTS

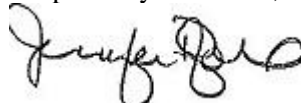
- *n/a*

CLOSED SESSION 7:56PM

- *Closed to discuss security*

MEETING ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:56PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Pfohl, Board Secretary