



## MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

**Richard DeSilva, Jr.**  
1st Vice President

**Brett Coplin**  
**John Dinice**  
**Trista Daveniero**

**Prema C. Moorthy, PhD**  
President

**Benjamin A. Kezmarsky**  
2nd Vice President

**Michael Galow**  
**Christopher L. Hughes**  
**Janine Jansen**

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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORK SESSION/ACTION MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, New Jersey.

*PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Mahwah Board of Education is open to members of the public to be physically present. Members of the public that attend will be asked to follow the same procedures as all other visitors to our schools. Those procedures can be found on the agenda page of our website. Additionally, the Board meeting will be live streamed for viewing purposes only. Anyone wishing to view the meeting, may do so via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>).*

1. Call to Order

Dr. Moorthy called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Ms., Daveniero, Jansen, and Moorthy  
Mr. Coplin, Dinice, Galow, Hughes, and DeSilva

ABSENT: *Mr. Kezmarsky*

ALSO PRESENT: Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Dennis M. Fare, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator, Board Secretary  
Linda A. Bovino-Romeo, Ph.D., Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Lisa Rizzo, Director of Special Services  
Ella Selfon, Student Representative  
One-hundred and fifteen (115) members of the public attended the work session in-person, and about  
Zero (0) members of the public attended via zoom

3. President's Announcement

Adequate notice of the agenda of this meeting has been provided to *The Ridgewood News and The Record* specifying that the Mahwah Board of Education will meet on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, New Jersey. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

4. Salute to the Flag

5. Agenda Questions

*No agenda questions*

6. Motion to open meeting to the public for comments  
**Motion by Mr. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Galow, to open the meeting to the public for comments at 7:04 pm. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.**
7. Motion to close meeting to the public for comments  
**Motion by Mr. Galow, seconded by Mr. Coplin, to close the meeting to the public for comments at 7:04 pm. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.**
8. Mahwah Student Representative Report
- *Drama Club hosted Broadway Comes to Mahwah*
  - *The Senior Movie night is tonight.*
  - *Girls Tennis, Girls Lacrosse, and Baseball are moving onto States competitions, good luck!*
  - *The Art Club is hosting their annual Art & Design Exhibit: May 30<sup>th</sup> 6-9 PM and May 31<sup>st</sup> 12-2 PM located at the T3 Building.*
  - *Zach O'Connell for "Outstanding Performance"; George Puchalski for "Graphic Design"; Evelyn Kroczynski for "Outstanding Achievement by a Stage Manager".*
9. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Michael DeTuro
- *Dr. DeTuro and Dr. Fare introduced the Bergen County Teacher of the Year Award recipients. Current and former students and parents provided testimonials filled with gratitude.*
    - *Heather Tirino- Mahwah High School*
    - *Donna Conrad- Ramapo Ridge Middle School*
    - *Brian Donovan- Joyce Kilmer Elementary School*
    - *Kristen Pacelli- Lenape Meadows Elementary School*
    - *Nancy Mertz- George Washington Elementary School*
    - *Mary Pestreich- Betsy Ross Elementary School*
  - *Dr. DeTuro presented "Strategic Planning 2025-2030- In Year Five: Work to Date". This presentation encompassed curriculum and instruction, community connections, social emotional learning, and facilities.*
  - *Dr. DeTuro explained the need and intent of the district's vote to begin the process of a Bond Referendum (the last one was over 20 years ago) intended to make long term investments that will enhance the district from educational needs to facility maintenance and longevity. The upcoming board vote is expected to take place at the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 board meeting, and public vote will be held in March 2026.*
10. Motion to Recess to Executive Session  
**Motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Jansen to recess to executive session at 9:21 pm. Motion carried 8 ayes, 0 nays.**
11. Motion to Reconvene to Public Action Meeting  
**Motion by Mr. Dinice, seconded by Ms. Jansen to reconvene to the public action meeting at 9:44 pm. Motion carried 8 ayes, 0 nays.**
12. Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Report – Mr. Thomas Lambe
- *Mr. Lambe updated the public that the air conditioning at George Washington Elementary School is fully functioning.*

13. Assistant Superintendent's Report – Dr. Dennis M. Fare

- *The Bergen County Job Fair (hosted by Mahwah) was a success – all teaching and administrative positions have been filled for 2025-2026 school year. We are still interviewing for our remaining supervisory position for secondary special education program.*
- *Congratulated Harley Taylor for winning gold at the Big North Patriot League Championships for the 100- and 200-meter race; Taylor broke the school record for the 100 meters, timed at 12.83 seconds.*
- *Congratulated and named all the high school athletes who were celebrated at their College Signing Day Ceremony.*
- *The Adventures of Bergen the Bear was featured on Mahwah Patch online and on the radio.*
- *Congratulated the Mahwah Drama Club's award recipients on receiving three nominations for this year's Metropolitan School Theater Awards.*
- *Highlighted Rita Marcelo's retirement after her 12 years of dedicated service to our district as a paraprofessional at Lenape Meadows.*
- *On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the board meeting will honor all retirees; all have been formally invited.*

14. President's Report

- *Dr. Moorthy congratulated the board for becoming a Certified School Board, recognized by the NJ School Board Association.*
- *Congratulated the April recipients of the T-Bird awards:*
  - *Mahwah High School Junior Sarhad Melkonian recognized for "Inspired and Determined".*
  - *Mahwah High School Science Teacher Jennifer Osenni recognized for "Trust".*
- *Christian Meturi is the first Mahwah Diver to win the Record Athlete of the Week, as well as the NJ State Diving Championship.*

15. Board Committee Reports

Instructional & Curriculum/Special Education – P. Moorthy (Chair), T. Daveniero, M. Galow, B. Coplin  
 Finance & Facilities – M. Galow (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky, J. Jansen  
 Policy – J. Dinice (Chair), R. DeSilva, C. Hughes, J. Jansen  
 Community Relations – B. Coplin (Chair), B. Kezmarsky, C. Hughes, T. Daveniero  
 Executive/Planning Committee – P. Moorthy (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky  
 Negotiations – J. Jansen (Chair), M. Galow, J. Dinice, B. Coplin  
 Bergen County School Boards Liaison – J. Dinice, P. Moorthy, C. Hughes (2-Alt.)  
 New Jersey School Boards Legislative Liaison – P. Moorthy  
 Mahwah Schools Foundation Liaison – J. Jansen, B. Coplin (Alt.)  
 Mahwah Access for All Liaison – M. Galow, T. Daveniero (Alt.)  
 Transportation Committee Ad Hoc – B. Coplin (Chair) J. Dinice, C. Hughes, M. Galow  
 Board of Education Liaison to Town Council - B. Kezmarsky, B. Coplin (Alt.)

16. Board Member Remarks/Additional Comments on Reports or Other Non-Agenda Items

- *Finance & Facilities – M. Galow (Chair)*
  - *The Finance Committee has met once since the last board meeting, and for the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting they will have a resolution regarding an upcoming transfer of money into the capital maintenance reserves.*
  - *Preparatory steps have been taken for the upcoming Referendum vote.*
  - *Mr. Galow looks forward to developing a partnership with Mahwah's Access for All initiative, who excel in serving their clientele (many of whom are Mahwah students).*
- *Mr. DeSilva highlighted the tremendous amount of work that it takes to make all these plans and execute them, and that the work is never really done. Mr. DeSilva sees the goals as inspiration and not tasks to be completed, because as we grow, we continue to build upon established goals and continue growing.*

17. Old Business**Resolution 17a- 17b was moved by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Galow.**a. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 30, 2025, Public Work Session/Action Meeting.

b. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 30, 2025, Executive Session Meeting.

**Motion for resolutions 17a- 17b was approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**18. New Business – Other**Resolutions 18a – 18s were moved by Ms. Jansen and seconded by Mr. Coplin.**a. Financial Report

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the period of April 26, 2025 to May 16, 2025.

|                            |         |                |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| General Current Expense    | Fund 11 | \$5,418,325.98 |
| Special Revenue Funds      | Fund 20 | \$31,975.87    |
| Region I                   | Fund 20 | \$28,597.38    |
| Region I-Contracted Trans. | Fund 53 | \$1,562,978.43 |
| Region I-Summer School     | Fund 54 | \$72.82        |
| Total of All Checks        |         | \$7,041,950.48 |

b. Financial Report – Cafeteria

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of Cafeteria checks (2949-2959) for a total of \$338,462.68.

c. Budget Transfers

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves budgetary transfers for March 2025 and April 2025, as per attached.

d. Certification

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, as per New Jersey Administrative Code and New Jersey Statutes Annotated legislation and requirements, the following statement is approved:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), I certify that as of February 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 and 18A:22-8.1, and

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c), I certify that as of February 2025 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(a).

Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

e. Cooperative Contract Bid Award – Lenape Meadow Roofing Repair

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education awards a contract to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. (WTI) in the amount of \$71,970.20 pursuant to a bid awarded by the ESCNJ to conduct roofing repairs at Lenape Meadows School, in accordance with ESCNJ Bid Contract # Roofing & Envelope Services Bid #ESCNJ 23/24-30, Co-op # 65MCESCCPS, with \$48,498.34 of the cost funded by a reimbursement from an insurance claim.

f. Renewal of Food Services Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the renewal of the Food Service Management contract with The Pomptonian, Inc. "FSMC" for the food service operation for 2025-2026. The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$63,387.00 to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be included as a cost of operation and billed in 10 monthly installments of \$6,338.70 per month. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC. There is no guaranteed financial performance. Total estimated expenses (cost) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses, and FSMC management fee. The Total Estimated Cost of Contract is \$1,333,620.72.

g. Approval of Meal Prices for the 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves meal prices for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Paid Breakfast:

Elementary \$3.00

Middle School \$3.50

High School \$3.75

Paid Lunch:

Elementary and Middle School \$4.15

High School:

Regular \$4.25

Featured Favorite \$5.00

Premium \$5.25

h. Grant Application – Trees for Schools

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the submission of a grant application for Tree for Schools as follows:

WHEREAS, planting trees on school grounds will bring many benefits to our students, staff, and the wider community, including providing cooling shade, habitat, beauty, air and water filtration, stormwater runoff reduction, energy savings, climate change mitigation, and educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the Mahwah Board of Education seeks to support and work with school administrators, staff, students, and community partners to create a safe and healthy environment for students now and into the future by planting and maintaining trees at appropriate locations;

THEREFORE, the Mahwah Board of Education has determined that Mahwah School District should apply for a grant from the Trees for Schools: Tree-planting Grants for New Jersey Public Schools,

Colleges, and Universities Program. The Grant will be used for a tree planting initiative at schools in the district.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education, State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of the aforementioned grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Mahwah Board of Education, is awarded this grant, the District commits to protecting and maintaining the trees planted with grant funds.

i. Transportation Reimbursement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the parent of student with local identification number 36700 be reimbursed for transportation of school to home and home to school at a rate of \$80.00 per day for the period July 1, 2025 – August 30, 2025.

j. Transportation Contract

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the contract with Hunterdon County ESC to provide hosting and support for their Magic transportation application for the period July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, at the annual cost of \$5,300.00.

k. Transportation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education awards the following special education transportation routes for the 2024-2025 school year as per quote:

| Route | Contractor             | Per diem | Inc/Dec | Aide    |
|-------|------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Q639  | D&M Tours              | \$434.00 | \$3.50  | \$90.00 |
| Q649  | R&May Transportation   | \$327.00 | \$1.00  | \$50.00 |
| Q650  | Horizon Transportation | \$294.00 | \$3.99  | \$50.00 |
| Q651  | Scholastic Bus Co.     | \$330.00 | \$2.00  | \$90.00 |
| Q652  | Shaddai Transportation | \$160.00 | \$0.89  | \$45.00 |
| Q653  | Shaddai Transportation | \$190.00 | \$0.83  | \$45.00 |
| Q654  | Shaddai Transportation | \$179.00 | \$0.83  | \$35.00 |

l. Conferences/Workshops

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves attendance at the following conferences/workshops that are deemed to be educationally appropriate and for the benefit of the school district including conference/workshop fees and necessary travel expenses:

| First   | Last     | Conference/Workshop  | Date            | Amount   |
|---------|----------|--|-----------------|----------|
| Craig   | Jandoli  | Advanced K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training (In-person) - Bergen County | 5/14/2025       | N/A      |
| Heather | Tirino   | AP Reading for Macroeconomics  | 06/02-06/06/25  | N/A      |
| Carolyn | Ferguson | Future Problem Solving International Conference/Competition                                    | 06/04 -06/07/25 | \$103.50 |
| Justin  | Saputski | Future Problem Solving International Conference/Competition                                    | 06/04 -06/07/25 | \$103.50 |

| First      | Last               | Conference/Workshop  | Date            | Amount     |
|------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|------------|
| Christine  | Hartigan<br>Miller | Future Problem Solving International<br>Conference/Competition                                       | 06/04 -06/07/25 | \$110.00   |
| Christiane | Lange              | i-Ready Celebration of Achievement:<br>Elevating Educators Voices, Shaping<br>the Future             | 6/4/2025        | N/A        |
| Alison     | Malone             | i-Ready Celebration of Achievement:<br>Elevating Educators Voices, Shaping<br>the Future             | 6/4/2025        | N/A        |
| Danielle   | Dworak             | i-Ready Celebration of Achievement:<br>Elevating Educators Voices, Shaping<br>the Future             | 6/4/2025        | \$11.56    |
| Dianna     | Burkel             | i-Ready Celebration of Achievement:<br>Elevating Educators Voices, Shaping<br>the Future             | 6/4/2025        | \$36.13    |
| Alyssa     | Cipriano           | Autism Virtual Summit- Pearson   | 6/17/2025       | \$50.00    |
| Andy       | Beutel             | University of Florida - Teachers,<br>Schools, and Society EdD Program<br>(Cohort 8) Summer Institute | 06/23-06/25/25  | \$1,000.00 |

m. Field Trips

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following field trips:

| Group/Destination  | Date(s) | School        | # of Students |
|--|---------|---------------|---------------|
| Cheerleaders (Grade 12) to Children's Hospital,<br>Philadelphia, PA & Orlando's Café, Hopewell, NJ | 5/28/25 | MHS           | 9             |
| Grade 6-8 Concert Dress Rehearsal, Mahwah High School<br>Mahwah, NJ                                | 5/28/25 | RR            | 80            |
| Special Ed (Grade 3) to George Washington School,<br>Mahwah, NJ                                    | 5/30/25 | LM            | 9             |
| Habitat for Humanity (Grade 9-12) to 480 Reis Av,<br>Oradell, NJ                                   | 6/2/25  | MHS           | 10            |
| Drama Club (9-12) to Purchase College, Purchase, NY  | 6/2/25  | MHS           | 9             |
| Special Ed to Hacienda Don Manuel, Suffern, NY   | 6/3/25  | MHS           | 9             |
| Special Ed (Grade 3) to Joyce Kilmer School, Mahwah, NJ  | 6/4/25  | LM/BR<br>& GW | 6             |
| Young Politicians Club to various Mahwah polling<br>locations, Mahwah, NJ                          | 6/10/25 | MHS           | 20            |
| Actions Thru Athletics Club to Ramapo Ridge Field Day,<br>Mahwah, NJ                               | 6/11/25 | MHS           | 14            |
| Life Skills to Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY   | 6/12/25 | MHS           | 10            |
| Multilingual Learners to Mahwah Public Library,<br>Mahwah, NJ                                      | 6/18/25 | MHS           | 12            |
| Grade 12 to Mahwah Pool, Mahwah, NJ  | 6/23/25 | MHS           | 206           |

- n. Second Reading and Adoption of Policies & Regulations  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the following:  
 R7420 Handling and Disposal of Body Wastes and Fluids  
 P7435 Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises  
 P7436 Drug Free Workplace  
 P7440 School District Security  
 P7446 School Security Program  
 P7460 Energy Conservation  
 P7481 Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
 P7490 Animals on School Property  
 R7510 Use of School Facilities  
 P7520 Loan of School Equipment  
 P7522 School District Provide Technology Devices to Staff Members  
 P7523 School District Provided Technology to Students  
 R7610 Vandalism  
 P7650 School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting
- o. Out of District Placement  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a newly enrolled student with local identification number 40305 attend Windsor Prep High School retroactive to May 5, 2025. The prorated tuition cost of \$10,175.68.
- p. Contract - F. Jones Consulting/Magnolia Consulting Group  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a contract with F. Jones Consulting/Magnolia Consulting Group, to provide consulting services, at a cost of \$14,000.00, utilizing Title II funding for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
- q. Donation  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the donation of two wooden picnic tables built and designed Lukas Hart, grade 12 student, and his family to be used by the Mahwah staff during lunch.
- r. Eagle Scout Candidate Project – Mahwah High School Digital Sign  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education authorizes Eagle Scout candidate, Ishan Prabhu, to beautify the area surrounding the digital sign at the entrance of Mahwah High School to create a clean and presentable look.
- s. Bus Evacuation Drills – Mahwah  
 RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves Spring 2025 bus evacuation drills, with the report on file in the Transportation office, and per the attached.

Betsy Ross Elementary School Thursday, March 27 @ 8:25am  
 George Washington Elementary School Tuesday, April 29 @ 8:30am  
 Lenape Meadows Elementary School Thursday, April 10 @ 8:30am  
 Joyce Kilmer Elementary School Wednesday, March 19 @ 8:30am  
 Ramapo Ridge Middle School Thursday, April 3 @ 7:30am  
 Mahwah High School Thursday, April 3 @ 7:00am

**Motion for resolutions 18a – 18s was approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Galow abstained from check #119587, #119641, #119572 on item 18a.**

19. New Business – Personnel

**Resolution 19a was moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Hughes.**

a. Increment Withholding

RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14, that the Board hereby withholds the increment of Employee ID #8603, if renewed for the 2025-2026 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employee's increment will not be restored in future years unless and until formal action is taken by the Board; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that within ten (10) days, the Superintendent shall notify the employee of this action and the reasons for same.

**Motion for items 19a were approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

**Resolution 19b was moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Hughes.**

b. Retirement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Rita Marsillo, instructional paraprofessional, at Lenape Meadows School, for the purpose of retirement; with a final date of employment June 30, 2025.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for her 12 years of dedication and service to the Mahwah Public Schools.

**Motion for items 19b were approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

**Resolution 19c- 19nn were moved by Mr. Dinice and seconded by Ms. Jansen.**

c. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Joseph Cozine, Supervisor of Special Education, Grades 6-12, for Mahwah Township Public Schools; effective June 30, 2025.

d. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Christian Acosta, teacher of Spanish, at Mahwah High School; effective June 30, 2025.

e. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Connor O'Brien, teacher of English language arts, at Ramapo Ridge Middle School; effective June 30, 2025.

- f. Resignation  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Amanda Orlandino, school psychologist, at Mahwah High School; effective June 30, 2025.
- g. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Kate Storms, as certificated school nurse, at Mahwah High School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column F, Step 14, \$90,306; pending certification and employment verification.
- h. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Rebecca Horowitz, as teacher of English language arts, at Ramapo Ridge Middle School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 6, \$67,736; pending employment verification.
- i. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Mia Farinella, as teacher of grade 2, at Lenape Meadows School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column A, Step 5, \$60,891; pending certification and employment verification.
- j. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Emma Palamidis, as teacher of grade 3, at Lenape Meadows School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 3, \$65,736; pending employment verification.
- k. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Bora Xhidra, as teacher of special education, science, at Mahwah High School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 3, \$65,736; pending certification and employment verification.
- l. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Christine Llewellyn, as speech-language specialist, at George Washington School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 4, \$65,736; pending employment verification.
- m. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Veronica King, as teacher of Spanish, at Mahwah High School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column A, Step 13, \$77,936; pending employment verification.

- n. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Meaghan Tibus, as school psychologist, at Mahwah High School, from September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column E, Step 1, \$66,351; pending certification and employment verification.
- o. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Jaqueline Santos, as 12-month administrative assistant to the facilities and technology departments, at Central Office, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Step 4, \$55,005.
- p. Appointment  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Nicole Cedeno, as administrative assistant, to the district's transportation department and Region 1, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be \$54,000; pending employment verification.
- q. Appointment – Camp Invention and Kindergarten Kickstart School Nurse  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Kelly Duffield, as summer school nurse for the 2025 Camp Invention and Kindergarten Kickstart programs, to be held August 4, 2025 – August 8, 2025; at the stipend rate of \$2,750.
- r. Appointment – Mahwah Extended School Year (ESY)/Self-Contained Summer Program:  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of the following paraprofessionals for the 2025 Mahwah Extended School Year (ESY) program, to be held from June 30, 2025 – July 24, 2025; from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and all Thursdays except Thursday, July 24, 2025, and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on all Tuesdays and Thursday, July 24, 2025, **with no school on Friday, July 4, 2025**; stipend to be \$2,393. Additional staff members may need to be added, based on student need and enrollment, to be addressed on a future Board of Education agenda:

**Paraprofessional Staff**

| <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Leroy             | Burns            |
| Vyonna            | De Freese        |
| Tara              | Quigley          |

- s. Appointment - Out-of-District Extended School Year (ESY)  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Debra Patterson, as instructional paraprofessional, for an out-of-district ESY program, providing support for student ID #39510, effective June 30, 2025 – August 6, 2025; to be paid her hourly rate for hours worked via a submitted voucher.
- t. Appointment – Leave Replacement  
RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Sophie Stoft, as leave replacement for Employee #7190, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from May 28, 2025 – June 26, 2025; salary to be Column A, Step 1, \$55,873, pro-rated; pending certification and employment verification.

u. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Amanda Bonilla, as leave replacement for Employee #9936, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from May 28, 2025 – June 4, 2025; at a \$20.56 hourly rate; to be paid via submitted voucher.

v. Change in Assignment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a transfer and change in assignment for Courtney Neglia, teacher of grade 3, from Lenape Meadows School to the role of technology coach, for Mahwah Township Public Schools, in order to fill a vacant position; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

w. New Hire Orientation – Presentations

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following hours for the following participants in our New Hire Orientation, presenting on a range of topics; with great appreciation for sharing their insights with our new incoming employees; to be paid at the Thunderbird Academy rate:

| <b>Staff Member</b>  | <b>Presentation Topic</b>                              | <b>Hours</b> |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Ofeer Kearns         | Responsive Classroom                                   | 1.5 hours    |
| Ofeer Kearns         | Instructional Coaching Model                           | 2.0 hours    |
| TBD                  | iReady Introduction Training (PreK-8)                  | 1.5 hours    |
| Brian Donovan        | iReady Introduction Training (PreK-8)                  | 1.5 hours    |
| Jennifer Hogan       | Instructional Coaching Model                           | 2.0 hours    |
| Talysa Cole          | Instructional Coaching Model                           | 2.0 hours    |
| Christine Piotrowski | Social-Emotional Learning Introduction<br>(Elementary) | 2.0 hours    |
| Kristen Cavallo      | Social-Emotional Learning Introduction<br>(Elementary) | 2.0 hours    |
| Morgan Ridgway       | Social-Emotional Learning Introduction<br>(Secondary)  | 1.5 hours    |
| TBD                  | Social-Emotional Learning Introduction<br>(Secondary)  | 1.5 hours    |
| Christiane Lange     | Small-Group Instruction (Secondary)                    | 2.0 hours    |
| Julie Henehan        | Small-Group Instruction (Secondary)                    | 2.0 hours    |
| Dawn Savastano       | Elementary Special Education                           | 1.5 hours    |

x. Appointment – Summer Hours

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Estania Noel, to conduct preparation for Mahwah High School's Structured Learning Experience program from August 2, 2025 – August 31, 2025, not to exceed 35 hours; salary to be her hourly rate, to be paid via a submitted voucher.

y. Appointment – Summer Hours

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Kate Storms, to review health forms and protocols for Mahwah High School students participating in sports from July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025, not to exceed 60 hours; salary to be based on her hourly rate; to be paid via a submitted voucher.

z. Appointment – Proctors

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following individuals to serve as AP Proctors from May 5, 2025 to May 29, 2025, at the AP proctor rate of \$125.00 per day, which is based on seven (7) hours or an hourly rate of \$17.86

| First Name | Last Name   |
|------------|-------------|
| Ben        | Calvez      |
| Michael    | Ciongoli    |
| Axxiom     | Ezra        |
| Molly      | Fear        |
| Keshav     | Goel        |
| Charlotte  | Kava        |
| Garine     | Koushagjian |
| Kathy      | Montana     |
| Nisha      | Narayanan   |
| John       | Simpson     |
| Chloe      | Tirino      |

aa. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Sarah Costigliola, as leave replacement for Employee #4487, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from September 1, 2025 – December 23, 2025; salary to be Column D, Step 8, \$71,281, pro-rated.

bb. Change in Assignment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a transfer and change in assignment for Kelly Zaky, teacher of grade 5, from Joyce Kilmer School to the role of teacher of reading, at Ramapo Ridge Middle School, in order to fill a vacant position; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

cc. Change in Assignment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a transfer and change in assignment for Jessica McClain, teacher of English language arts, from Ramapo Ridge Middle School to the role of teacher of grade 5, at Joyce Kilmer School, in order to fill a vacant position; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

dd. Change in Assignment: 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the revised change in assignment for Kirsteen Diaz-Pinto, from non-certificated school nurse to certificated school nurse, at Lenape Meadows School, effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 10, \$75,281.

ee. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #7190, effective retroactive on May 1, 2025 – June 26, 2025, using 39 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from May 1, 2025 – June 26, 2025.

ff. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #9936, effective on May 28, 2025 – June 4, 2025, using 6 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from May 28, 2025 – June 4, 2025.

gg. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #4367, effective retroactive on April 24, 2025 – May 12, 2025, using 13 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from April 24, 2025 – May 12, 2025.

hh. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #8595, effective on June 18, 2025 – July 7, 2025, using 13 sick days, 1 holiday, and FMLA concurrently, from June 18, 2025 – July 7, 2025.

ii. NJFLA Intermittent Leave of Absence – Update

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an intermittent leave of absence update for Employee #5396, effective retroactive and during the following dates: October 23, 2024 – October 25, 2024; November 4, 2024; November 6, 2024; January 17, 2025; January 22, 2025 – January 24, 2025; February 19, 2025 – February 21, 2025; March 5, 2025; March 10, 2025; March 14, 2025; March 18, 2025; March 26, 2025 – March 27, 2025; March 31, 2025; April 28, 2025; May 2, 2025; May 14, 2025 – May 15, 2025; May 28, 2025 – May 30, 2025; June 3, 2025.

jj. NJFLA Intermittent Leave of Absence – Update

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an intermittent leave of absence update for Employee #9776, effective retroactive and during the following dates: January 22, 2025 – January 23, 2025; January 27, 2025 – January 28, 2025; February 10, 2025; March 24, 2025 – March 25, 2025; April 8, 2025; April 21, 2025 (0.5) - April 22, 2025 (0.5); April 28, 2025; May 5, 2025; May 12, 2025.

kk. Rescission – Mahwah Extended School Year (ESY)/Self-Contained Summer Program:

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Michelle Mariani, paraprofessionals for the 2025 Mahwah Extended School Year (ESY) program, to be held from June 30, 2025 – July 24, 2025; from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and all Thursdays except Thursday, July 24, 2025, and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on all Tuesdays and Thursday, July 24, 2025, **with no school on Friday, July 4, 2025.**

ll. Creation of Position - School Security Officer (SSO)

RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Township of Mahwah for one School Security Officer at each of the school district's elementary schools, inclusive of Betsy Ross School, George Washington School, Lenape Meadows School, and Joyce Kilmer School; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

mm. Rescission - Extra Service Positions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Courtney Dodd, advisor of creative problem solving at Joyce Kilmer School, for the 2024-2025 school year.

nn. Rescission - Practicum/Clinical Internship Placement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the following fieldwork/practicum/clinical internship placement for the 2025 fall semester, for the following student(s), attending the following colleges/universities:

| <b>Student Name</b> | <b>College/University</b>   | <b>Supervising Staff Member</b>              |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Miranda Borgos      | Montclair State University<br>College for Community Health: Communication<br>Sciences and Disorders | Nicole Kuhrt<br>(Speech-Language Specialist) |

**Motion for items 19c- 19nn were approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

20. Motion to open meeting to the public

**Motion by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Galow to open the meeting for public comments at 9:58 pm. Motion approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

21. Public Questions or Comment

*No questions or comments made.*

22. Motion to close meeting to the public

**Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Coplin to close the meeting for public comments at 9:58 pm. Motion approved with 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

23. Motion to Recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations, and legal matters.

**Motion by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Dinice to recess to executive session at 9:59 pm. Motion carried 8 ayes, 0 nays**

24. Motion to Reconvene to Public Action Meeting

**Motion by Ms. Jansen and seconded Mr. Hughes to reconvene to the public action meeting at 10:22 pm. Motion carried 8 ayes, 0 nays**

25. Motion to Adjourn

**Motion by Ms. Jansen and seconded Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. Motion carried 8 ayes, 0 nays.**

Upcoming Events

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 5/22 | Lenape Meadows Field Day                                      |
| 5/29 | Joyce Kilmer Field Day  |
| 6/6  | Betsy Ross Field Day  |
| 6/6  | George Washington Field Day                                   |
| 6/11 | Mahwah Board of Education meeting at Lenape Meadows 7:00 p.m. |
| 6/11 | George Washington HSO meeting 6:00 p.m.                       |
| 6/11 | Lenape Meadows HSO meeting 2:30 p.m.                          |
| 6/12 | Ramapo Ridge HSO Zoom meeting 9:00 a.m.                       |
| 6/17 | Joyce Kilmer HSO Zoom meeting 12:00 p.m.                      |
| 6/17 | Betsy Ross HSO meeting 9:00 a.m.                              |
| 7/9  | Mahwah Board of Education meeting (Personnel Only 9:00 a.m.)  |
| 7/23 | Mahwah Board of Education meeting 7:00 p.m.                   |
| 8/6  | Mahwah Board of Education meeting (Personnel Only 9:00 a.m.)  |
| 8/27 | Mahwah Board of Education meeting 7:00 p.m.                   |

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Lambe

Business Administrator/Board Secretary