MINUTES
MOUNT ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PRESENT: Rachel Byrne, President
Edwin Botero
Al Decena
Melissa Eckert
Erika Puskas
Karl Svenningsen

ABSENT: Sheila Studint, Vice President

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Mullins Jameson, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Robin C. Tedesco, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
1 Guest

ABSENT: Joseph Coladarci, Principal
Jennifer Ochoa, Supervisor of Special Services

Board of Education President, Rachel Byrne, called the in-person meeting to order at 7:01 P.M., declared a quorum present, and read the following notices:

> The Mount Arlington Board of Education is meeting for action and discussion about business before the Board of Education today.
>
> The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this Act, the Board of Education has sent notice of today's meetings and copies of the agenda to the:
>
> Roxbury Register
> Daily Record
> Star Ledger
> Municipal Clerk
> Board of Education Members
>
> Notice of today's meeting and copies of the agenda have been posted on the Mount Arlington Public Schools Website: www.mtarlingtonk8.org

All Board of Education members present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. None

MINUTES:

A motion was presented by Mr. Decena and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, to approve:

1. Regular Meeting & Executive – July 16, 2025

Voice Vote:
Yes: 4
No: 0
Abstain: 2
Absent: 1
Motion Passed

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Mrs. Tedesco reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

BUSINESS - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE - FINANCE:

A motion was presented by Mr. Decena, and seconded by Mr. Svenningsen, to approve Finance Agenda Items 082725-B-1 through 082725-B-32.

082725-B-1 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Agency Account check register of payments dated from July 1, 2025 through August 27, 2025 in the amount of $0.00

082725-B-2 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Art Ondish Scholarship Account check register payments dated July 1, 2025 through August 27, 2025 in the amount of $1,000.00.

082824-B-3 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Cafeteria Account check register of payments dated July 1, 2025 through August 27, 2025 in the amount of $10.70.

082725-B-4 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Flex Spending check register of payments dated July 1, 2025 through August 27, 2025 in the amount of $500.00.

082824-B-5 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the

General Account check register of payments dated from July 17, 2025 through August 27, 2025, in the amount of $ 834,067.99 as presented to the Board.

082725-B-6 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Student Activities Account check register of payments dated July 1, 2025 August 27, 2025 in the amount of $0.00.

082725-B-7 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Unemployment Account payments dated July 1, 2025 through August 27, 2025, in the amount of $184.50.

082725-B-8 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the list of line item transfers for the month of July 2025.

082725-B-9 RESOLVED, that the report of the Secretary and the related statement of cash balances for the month of July 2025 be approved by the Mount Arlington Board of Education and ordered filed, and further that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the certification of the Board Secretary for the month of July 2025 that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line appropriation of the adopted 2025-2026 budget, as revised, in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:17-9 and further certifies that no major account or fund has been expended in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8 or N.J.S.A.18A:19.

082725-B-10 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade	Date	Location
Kindergarten Orientation	8/28/25	Decker/MAPS Loop

082725-B-11 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education awards Kaitlyn Garcia with $1,000.00 from the Arthur Ondish Memorial Scholarship.

082725-B-12 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve payment to Burton Agency, for the public official bond policy, for School Business Administrator, for the period of 7/1/25-6/30/26 in the amount of $840.00.

082725-B-13 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following resolution to increase the Bid Threshold.

WHEREAS, Robin C. Tedesco, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, possesses a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certificate;

WHEREAS, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (b), has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts with a Qualified Purchasing Agent, from $44,000 to **$53,000**, effective July 1, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt Arlington Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of **$53,000** for the school district, and further authorizes the Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Qualified Purchasing Agent, to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount.

FURTHERMORE, for contracts in the aggregate that are less than the bid threshold but fifteen (15%) or more of the amount, the Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall award contracts after soliciting at least two competitive quotations.

The Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (c), is authorized to award contracts that are in the aggregate less than fifteen (15%) percent of the bid threshold without soliciting competitive quotations.

082725-B-14 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve an agreement for Landscaping and mowing for Mt. Arlington School and Edith M. Decker School, for an amount not to exceed $7,200.00.

082725-B-15 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of the Education approve the allocation and submission of the ESEA Consolidated Grant application for FY26 to the New Jersey Department of Education:

The amounts for each grant are as follows:

Title I-A	$65,202
Title II-A	$11,936
Title III	$ 4,784
Title III Immigrant	$ 1,421
Title IV Part A	$10,000

082725-B-16 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves a Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 in the amount of $22,192.23 for the following purposes:

- Edith M. Decker Elementary School - HVAC Repairs
- Mt Arlington Public School - HVAC Repairs

082725-B-17 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approves the establishment of a 457 (b) tax shelter plan through Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America.

082725-B-18 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following Routes and cost for ESY Transportation between Roxbury Board of Education and Mount Arlington Board of Education totaling $14,790.05, plus a 3% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Roxbury Route	SQ-101	$1,992.00 $59.76
ECLC/Chatham	SR-23038	$2,684.80 $80.54
Cornerstone	SR-24033	$1,366.06 $40.98
Cornerstone	SR-34033	$1,738.62 $52.16
Craig School	SR-2286	$2,096.07 $62.88
Celebrate The Children	SR-25025	$4,912.50 $147.38

082725-B-19 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve tuition contract with the Morris County Vocational School District to provide Educational Services for (22) students at an annual cost of $10,175.00 per student for the 2025-2026 school year.

082725-B-20 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following tuition contract with Sussex County Technical School for the 2025-2026 school year.

ID Number	Grade	Contract	Dates	Cost (annual)
11166	12	Tuition	9/1/25-6/30/26	$11,795.00

082725-B-21 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following transportation Route and Cost for the 2025-2026 school year with Sussex County Regional Co-op plus a 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Sussex Tech	R-29	$1,872.00 $74.88

082725-B-22 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following Special Education transportation Routes and costs for the 2026-2027 school year with Roxbury Board of Education plus a 3% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
ECLC-Chatham	E-0013	$28,913.40 $867.40
Celebrate The Children	E-26029	$22,365.00 $670.95
Craig School	E-26043	$18,000.00 $540.00
Cornerstone Day	E-25023	$22,370.40 $671.12

082725-B-23 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following transportation route and cost for the 2025-2026 school year with Sussex County Regional Co-op plus 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
P.G. Chambers	E-26104	$71,640.00 $2,865.00
P.G. Chambers	E-24058	$29,521.18 $1,180.87
Calais School	E-24013	$13,865.40 $554.61
Celebrate The Children	E-26029	$22,365.00 $894.60

082725-B-24 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the following routes and cost for the 2025-2026 school year with Educational Services Commission of Morris County plus 4% administrative fee.

Route	Route Number	Cost
Academy Route-Choice	MKV11	$1,224.08 $49.12
Academy Route	AJHS1	$15,295.10 $611.80
McKinney Vento	CS282	$45,113.40 $1,804.53

082725-B-25 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract Agreement with the Roxbury Board of Education, 42 N. Hillside Avenue, Succasunna, NJ. The Roxbury Public School District will provide educational services in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education for Mt. Arlington students in grades 9 through 12. This agreement shall be in effect for the 2024-2025 school year. The education services shall commence on August 27, 2025 and terminate on June 30, 2026. Total tuition charges for 135.5 pupils at $20,264.00 each shall be $2,745,772.00.

082725-B-26 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve payment to the MCAEMSA for 2025-2026 membership dues in the amount of $150.00.

082725-B-27 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the payment to NJ Principals & Supervisor Association for 2025-2026 membership dues in the amount of $905.00.

082725-B-28 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve payment to Morris County Administrators of Special Education for 2025-2026 membership dues in the amount of $375.00.

082725-B-29 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Alarm & Communication Technologies, Inc. Contract for our annual Fire Alarm Inspections and monitoring at the Mount Arlington & Edith Decker Schools, beginning on July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

082725-B-30 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve PDM Group, Contract for our annual ATC PM Control Contract at the Mount Arlington and Edith Decker Schools, beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

082725-B-31 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education enter into a parental contract for student transportation with the parents of student ID#11531. Provision of transportation services to and from Mendham Township Elementary School, Brookside, NJ at a per diem rate of $0.47 per/mile beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, not to exceed $4,627.24 subject to the submission of all documentation and County approval.

082725-B-32 RESOLVED, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve the Time & Materials Bid Package Enrollment through Educational Data Services in the amount pro-rated amount of $875.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. Decena	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Absent*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Yes*

Motion Passes

PERSONNEL:

A motion was presented by Mr. Svenningsen, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Personnel Agenda Items 082725-S-1 through 082725-S-9 and 082725-S-15 through 082725-S-20.

082725-S-1 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to revise motion 061125-S-21 to add the approval of Danielle Gieger to teach an extended school year for students requiring special education and related services July 7, 2025 through August 1, 2025, Monday through Thursday for 3 hours per day at a rate of $44.04 per hour.

082725-S-2 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve up to 50 additional hours for Marie van Rossen for work done to help all offices between July 1, 2025-August 31, 2025 during this transition period.

082725-S-3 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to accept the resignation of Crystal Aquino, Instructional Aide effective September 1, 2025.

082725-S-4 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to rescind the appointment of Valerie Gideon, part-time instructional aide who was recently approved in motion 071625-S-4.

082725-S-5 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the following part-time Instructional Aides for the 2025-2026 school year effective September 2, 2025-June 30, 2026 (Note: Appointments are based upon receipt of State approved background checks).

Instructional Aide	25-26 rate of pay
Jamie Sprague	$16.00 per hour
Joan Sabilia	$16.00 per hour

082725-S-6 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve Cortney Polania to prepare documents for the Child Study Team in August and translate during a bilingual Child Study Team meeting at a rate of $44.04 per hour, not to exceed $154.14 (This will be paid out of Title III funds).

082725-S-7 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to add up to 5 additional hours during the summer for Laurie Dachowski to perform CST duties.

082725-S-8 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to amend motion 061125-S-9 to revise the 25-26 annual salary for Justin Pickens to $97,395.00.

082725-S-9 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to add Carol Curry to our list of substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. (Note: Approval is based upon receipt of State approved background check as required by law)

082725-S-15 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to approve the appointment of Pasquale (Pat) Spezza, Facilities Manager for the 2025-2026 school year effective 9/1/25 at an annual salary of $72,405. All Terms and Conditions of the contract on file in the Board of Education Office. (Note: Approval based upon receipt of State approved background check as required by law).

082725-S-16 RESOLVED to approve the revision of Mrs. Robin Tedesco, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary's contract for the 2025-2026 school year.

082725-S-17 RESOLVED to approve the revision of Dr. Jane Jameson, Interim Superintendent's contract through September 5, 2025.

082725-S-18 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to adjust longevity for the following teachers for the 2025-2026 school year:

	From	To	As of
Michael Aberback	1,000	1,250	9/1/2025
Lauren Alexander	1,000	1,250	9/1/2025

082725-S-19 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to extend maternity leave for Employee# 10298 in approved motion 011525-S-1 from returning January 5, 2026 to return September 1, 2026.

082725-S-20 Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent resolved to extend the position from motion 051425-S-3 appointing Jenna Shapiro maternity leave replacement teacher through June 30, 2026.

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. Decena	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Absent*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Yes*

Motion Passes

CURRICULUM/POLICY

A motion was presented by Mrs. Eckert, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Curriculum/Policy Agenda Items 082725-S-10 through 082725-S-14.

082725-S-10 Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent resolved to approve the following faculty advisors for the 2025-2026 school year with stipends being paid according to the rates listed on Schedule B (25-26) of the approved 2024-2028 Mount Arlington Education Association Contract.

Eighth Grade Advisors	Lisa Huber
Student Council Advisors	Christina Buckley
Athletic Coordinator	Megan Hahn
Boys' Soccer Advisor	Christopher Merker
Asst. Boys' Soccer Advisor	Hailey Aquino
Girls' Soccer Advisor	Danielle Gieger
Asst. Girls' Soccer Advisor	Megan Hahn

Boys' Basketball	Christopher Merker
Assist. Boys' Basketball	TBD
Girls' Basketball Advisor	Karenine Joubert
Asst. Girls' Basketball Adv.	TBD
Softball Advisor	Tanya Occhiuzzo
Asst. Softball Advisor	Caitlyn Errichiello
Cross Country Advisor	Danielle Brinkofski
Asst. Cross Country Adv.	Laura Westervelt
Baseball Advisor	Christopher Merker
Asst. Baseball Adv.	Karenine Joubert
Yearbook Advisor	Jill Bacinsky
Before School Band	Michael Aberback
Before School Choir	Diane Van Dongen
Student Council Advisor	Christina Buckley
Art Club Advisor	Elizabeth Wassel

082725-S-11 RESOLVED, to approve the first reading of the following Policies(P), Bylaws(B), and/or Regulations(R), Mandatory(M) as follows:

- P0173 Duties of Public School Accountant (Revised)
- P0174 Legal Services (M)(Revised)
- P0177 Professional Services (M)(Revised)
- P & R 1570 Internal Controls (M)(Revised)
- P1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M)(Revised)
- P & R 6111 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M)(Revised)
- P6220 Budget Preparation (M)(Revised)
- R6220 Budget Preparation (Revised)
- P0143 Board Member Election and Appointment (Revised)
- P1636.01 Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities (New)
- P1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Screenings In School Buildings Covid-19 (M) (Abolished)
- P2422 Statutory Curricular Requirements (M)(Revised)
- P & R 5117Interdistrict Public School Choice (Revised)
- P5339.01 Student Sun Protection (M)(New)

082725-S-12 RESOLVED that the Mount Arlington Board of Education approve all current curricula for the 2025-2026 school year.

082725-S-13 RESOLVED to approve the 2025 District Mentoring Plan as on file in the Principal's office.

082725-S-14 RESOLVED to approve the Mount Arlington School District's 2025-2026 School Nursing Plan and Standing Orders, as on file in the School Nurses' offices and the

Superintendent's Office. (Please note these orders were reviewed and signed by the school physician).

- All Fire/Emergency Drills (conducted with the Mount Arlington Police Department) were done for the Month of July 2025 (Note: No instruction at Decker or MAPS Schools in August):

Roll Call:

Mr. Botero	*Yes*
Mrs. Byrne	*Yes*
Mr. Decena	*Yes*
Mrs. Eckert	*Yes*
Mrs. Puskas	*Yes*
Mrs. Studint	*Absent*
Mr. Svenningsen	*Yes*

Motion Passes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance:
- No Report

B. Personnel:
- Mr. Svenningsen reviewed the contracts on the agenda for approval.

C. Building and Grounds:
- Mr. Decena spoke about the work that was done in the summer. He stated that the schools' HVAC systems were worked on, the parking lots were repaired, and the field at MAPS was refurbished. Mr. Decena also said the buildings were ready for school to start.

D. Curriculum and Policy:
- Mrs. Eckert stated that a committee meeting should be set up to review the policies on the agenda. It is the first reading for the policies on the agenda.

E. Negotiations:
- No Report.

F. Town Council:

Mrs. Eckert gave the following report:

- A newsletter from the Mount Olive Department of Health was sent to the Board. (Our Department of Health shared service) The Mount Arlington Board of Health requested that the district send the following information along to the community:

  Dear School & Community Members,
  As we gear up for a new school year, let's help our kids start strong—mind, body, and spirit! The attached flyer offers quick, practical tips for healthy sleep, nutrition, activity, and routines, as well as the benefits of a good breakfast to boost focus and learning. Feel free to share with families and staff to help keep our students healthy and thriving throughout the year. Thank you for helping us support our community's well-being!

- Summer Concert Series:
  August 28, 2025, is the next concert at Memorial Beach. Paddy Kaye will perform. There will be food trucks.

- Annual Halloween Bash
  Vendors are needed for the Annual Halloween Bash. It is free to register. Register here at: **https://forms.gle/FsCDgsfR2tWp887B6**; October 18, 2025 from 3-5; vendors setup 1-1:45

G. Parent Teachers Organization:

Mrs. Eckert gave the following report:

- Kindergarten Orientation- PTO members will be there with goodie bags for the students and to welcome the parents.
- The first PTO meeting will be on September 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the MAPS Media Center. The agenda will include meeting the board:
  Brooke Ortiz- President
  Randi Cirelli- Vice President
  Laura D'Amico- Secretary
  Joelle Sutera- Treasurer
- Visit mta.ptboard.com to sign up for PT Board and use code 93KANX to join our school.
- The PTO is bringing back Theatre Week for the first time in 10 years
- The PTO is planning to host their first ever outdoor movie.

OTHER REPORTS:

Roxbury BOE

Mr. Botero gave the following report:

- Roxbury could not bring in the Pre-K program they were applying for.
- The new Assistant Business Administrator started today.
- The Superintendent spoke about the district's goals.

- The next Roxbury Board of Education meeting is tonight, September 15, 2025.

Delegate to NJ School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Morris County School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Educational Service Commission of Morris County:

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dr. Jameson spoke about the district offering a referendum to aid in future school funding. It will be imperative to obtain community support.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Byrne thanked Dr. Jameson for her dedication and work in the Mt Arlington School District over the past two months.
- Dr. Jameson spoke about the police department's involvement in the schools and how they helped with alarm issues that occurred.
- Mrs. Puskas stated schedules went out to the students.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. A member of the public spoke about getting the word out about the upcoming referendum.

CLOSED SESSION I:

A motion was presented by Mr. Decena, and seconded by Mr. Svenningsen, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:40 P.M., to address Personnel and Financial issues. Action will follow.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passes

WHEREAS the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal matters, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with a related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated personnel matters are concluded, or upon conclusion of any negotiations or discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mr. Svenningsen, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the meeting returned to Open Session at 8:04 P.M.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Regular meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously carried at 8:04 P.M.

Voice Vote:
Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin C Tedesco

Mrs. Robin C. Tedesco
Interim School Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary
Approved: