

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To foster a safe and equitable learning environment that celebrates our diverse learners, and provides the necessary resources and support to prioritize the social-emotional and academic development of all students.

**REGULAR ACTION MEETING** was held on September 29, 2025, Matawan Regional High School, 450 Atlantic Ave., Aberdeen, NJ.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President, Ms. Werneke called the Regular Action Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## **II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education advertised this meeting on June 18, 2025 in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Joint Free Public Library. The notice was also placed on the district’ website.

## **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **IV. ROLL CALL**

Present:	Ms. Werneke - President	Ms. Martinez - Vice President
	Ms. Ascoli	Ms. Feiles
	Mr. McGovern	Mr. Montone
	Ms. Pell	Ms. Skop
	Ms. Spruell	

Absent:

Also Present:	Ms. Perez, Superintendent of Schools
	Ms. Case, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
	Mr. Liebmann, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration PreK-12
	Dr. Rawls-Dill, Director of Personnel
	Mr. Rubin, Board Attorney

## **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION I**

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy, Personnel Matters and Legal Advice. The subject matter of these discussions will be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality subsides. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 30 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business if necessary. Action will not take place.

It was moved by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Martinez that the Board convene in Executive Session and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 6:32 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Pell that the Board return to Open Session at 7:00 pm.

**VI. MINUTES**

Motion by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Ascoli to approve the following minutes:

- Workshop Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2025
- Regular Action Meeting Minutes - August 25, 2025
- Executive I & II Meeting Minutes - August 25, 2025

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone	X				
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, zero (0) members were absent

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Motion by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Pell to approve the following correspondence:

- Email received Sep 15, 2025, brflanders@comcast.net, regarding “Other”
- Email received Sep 24, 2025, Marom1114@yahoo.com, regarding “Transportation”
- Email received Sep 29, 2025, trump@gmail.com, regarding “Other”

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Ms. Perez**

Good Evening, everyone, and Happy Fall-

Thank you to Mr. Wells, HS Administration and the staff who presented this evening. Congratulations to Mrs. Mancuso, and thank you for all you do for our students!

What a wonderful performance from our band and choir. And thank you to SEPAG for sharing information on how the organization can support our students and families in our community. More importantly, for your advocacy and collaboration!

A special welcome to our student Danny Ni as our Student Rep. I look forward to working with you and hearing student voices throughout our schools. ’

- We have had a successful month of school thus far, and I want to thank your administrators, staff, families, and most of all our students for making it a strong start to the 2025-26 school year
  - Our students have been attending schools each day, and we are already seeing positive results with attendance
    - To date, for this month, our District is at 97% attendance, which is an increase from last year with
    - MAMS has the largest growth of 5%
- On our agenda this evening are QSAC results (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) Districts are measured across **five key areas** (called "performance areas"):
  1. **Instruction & Program** – Curriculum, student achievement, and instructional practices.
  2. **Fiscal Management** – Budgeting, financial controls, audits, and efficient use of resources.
  3. **Governance** – Board operations, ethics, and policies.
  4. **Operations** – Facilities, safety, and daily district management.
  5. **Personnel** – Hiring, certification, evaluation, and staff development

- We scored above an 80% in each category, which is considered high performing
- More details will be shared later this evening and at the upcoming October meeting
- **One Key area I would like to highlight is Governance.**
  - **In March 2019, we scored an 87% which is considered high performance -**
  - **We are always looking to improve in all areas. This year we scored 97% in governance.**
  - **I want to thank the Board of Education and Administration for making this a priority to improve.**
- We continue to work with the Aberdeen Police Department, administrators, and the school community on arrival and dismissal procedures.
  - We appreciate your cooperation and support to help ensure traffic safety
- District Enrollment From August to September, we welcomed a total of 75 new students to our district
  - Our PK-5 enrollment is in 2017
  - 6-12 1825
  - OOD 47 students
- We will be sharing information and upcoming community forums to elicit community feedback with future redistricting for the upcoming school year, 2026-27

Thank you

#### **IX. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Ms. Werneke**

- The District plans to rezone schools to balance enrollment. The growth, coupled with aging facilities, highlights the need for modernization. We will seek community feedback to shape a potential bond referendum for November 2026 to fund necessary school improvements.
- Challenges to school funding are always top of mind, and the district is already looking ahead to the 26-27 School Budget. Facilities and Finance committee has started its work.
- Continuing to keep our town governing bodies in the loop with our liasons.
- Attended a recent home game - a great family night out to support out Huskies - record is 3-2 overall!
- KEYS academy walk on Oct 25th - great cause!
- Board goals for this school year - certified board, training, school boards next month.
- Social media lawsuit - it’s moving along - have been providing requested information and data
- The lawsuit is against Meta (Facebook and Instagram), Tik Tok, Snapchat and YouTube. A number of other New Jersey public school districts
- Please keep an eye on your kids’ online activity. Our district supports the Wait Until 8th initiative, which encourages families to delay smartphones and social media for younger students. It makes such a difference for their focus, friendships, and well-being. And for those who do have phones, just a reminder — no cell phones in class. Being fully present helps kids focus on learning and connecting with one another.
- Neighboring states and even communities next door have made the decision to ban social media from bell to bell. We are strongly considering this policy as well.
- Get Involved: The number one predictor of student success is family engagement. Simple things matter: check Google Classroom, look over assignments, and ask questions about the school day. Your interest makes a big impact.
- Parent Portal: Please take a few minutes to make sure your contact info is current in the portal — especially email addresses and emergency contacts.
- Lunch Forms: And finally, fill out the free and reduced lunch form, even if you don’t think you qualify. It helps determine federal funding for our district, so your form helps all of our students.

#### **X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT - Danny Ni**

Good evening President Werneke, Vice President Martinez, members of the Board, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. My name is Danny Ni, and I’m honored and proud to be the student representative for the Board of Education this school year. I’m excited to work closely with each school in the district to compose monthly reports for the board meetings, keeping the community informed, involved, and up to date with the school events that are taking place!

Beginning with the high school, the school year has had a great start! So far, the varsity football team has a 2-2 record and The Matawan Dawg Pound won best student section on week 2, and they hope to keep winning it as the season continues. After getting bumped up to Open Class, a level above the competition last year, the Marching Huskies kicked off the season with a great start, scoring 70.5 and gaining first place. Despite the lower score of 66.8 the second performance, they bounced back strong with a new score of 72.6 this last Saturday! This year, the

Student Council has been renamed Student Government, as we hope to include even more of the students' thoughts and perspectives on any issues and events related to the school. In addition to this, a new concept called "Roundtable Meetings" are being introduced. In these meetings, each club will send a representative to confer with each other as well as Student Government to discuss what they have planned. This way, we can ensure events from separate clubs do not overlap with one another, promoting collaboration instead of competition. Speaking of events, we are excited for the upcoming spirit week and week of respect from October 6th to 10th, and are in the process of finalizing each days' theme. In the week of respect, civic leaders will encourage students to decorate shoe templates in order to help those understand what it's like to "stand in others' shoes," emphasizing that students come from all walks of life. To promote more student participation, BOTC points will be awarded to the class with the most students following the theme. On the 10th, our Homecoming Pep Rally will be held, where the Homecoming court will be announced. As for Homecoming itself, the students wanted something different this year, and have decided to host Homecoming off campus! Town and Country Inn is the location that was chosen, and we are all excited for this novel approach to a classic event! The theme is "A Night In New York", with each ticket being \$65. Since there is a limit on the amount of students per class, students have to make sure to buy tickets as soon as they can from 9/29 to 10/1! We are also very excited for Red Ribbon Week, where civic leaders fight against drugs and alcohol abuse. A "wheel of misfortune" game will also be played, where civic leaders quiz students on addiction facts. As for other Student Government activities, there has been discussion about additional events throughout the year, as well as bringing back the Honor Roll Breakfast.

Moving on to Cambridge Park, Dr. P has some exciting news to share! They've had a lot of events this September, consisting of the start of the school year itself, park meetups, celebrating national teddy bear day, and having their first spirit day! They're also in the midst of naming their husky pup mascot, with student submissions having ended last Friday and a final school community vote taking place this week! The school expresses that we should all stay tuned for the name! Dr. P additionally reports that everyone is excited for their field trip tomorrow, Tuesday, September 30th to Eastmont Orchards. The fun they've had in September will be missed, but they look forward to what October has waiting in store!

At Cliffwood, their PTO recently held their annual Mum Sale, which was a big success! In addition, they would like to thank everyone who supported the event. Their first Cliffwood Family Dinner of the school year will be tomorrow, Tuesday, September 30th, from 4:00–8:30 PM at Texas Roadhouse. They welcome and encourage any families that would like to participate! For events in October, they have their First Cliffwood Color Run on Wednesday, October 15th, and the Cliffwood Battle of the Faculties the very next day, Thursday, October 16th. For the color run, Principal Cherence would like to remind everyone to sign up if they haven't already, and that all funds raised go directly to the students and the school. Their last event in October is the annual Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 29th! Costumes are available, but parents should reach out to Cliffwood PTO if their child needs one.

Next up, in Strathmore, along with a great start to the school year, their Kindergarten teachers have completed hours of training and professional development in order to properly implement the Tools of the Mind curriculum. (reach out for more info on curriculum). Their K-3 students have completed initial assessments, which will help guide teachers on what they should focus on. The enrichment program is also in the planning stages, and should be on its way soon. The Strathmore school counselor Mrs. Monaco has begun her classroom lessons, which focus on the positive character traits they want their students to embrace! Staying on academics, Strathmore is also excitedly rolling out a new enrichment program for their students in 1st through 3rd grades next month, with a Kindergarten program planned to start in late winter. As the oldest in the school, the 3rd graders get special privileges and events, such as the chance to participate in Safety Patrol! The ones who were accepted applied last year, and eagerly await the Safety Patrol announcement in the first week of October. The Strathmore PTO completed their first fundraiser, being a successful MUMS sale! They have a lot of great events planned for the students this year, with a variety of fall related events!

For Ravine Drive, they've had a great start to the school year! They are kicking off the PBIS program, where students will have positive reinforcement and incentives to be respectful and kind towards one another. Today, they had Grade Level Assemblies, where they spoke with the students about their Remarkable Roadrunner and PBIS Incentive Programs. Next week, they have their Week of Respect, with special lessons and spirit theme dress up days!

Meanwhile, Lloyd had a successful back-to-school night on September 17th, and would like to thank the PTO, the MAEF Foundation, the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG), the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library, Parents of Special People (POSP), Matawan Football/Cheer, Machio’s Food Service, and NJ4S/Compass for their support provided that night! On the same day, there was also a parent workshop they hosted in partnership with Preferred Behavioral Health and Compass, focusing on promoting online safety and appropriate behavior, managing stress and anxiety in school, and strategies and tools for the parents of the students. The school emphasizes the appreciation they have for NJ4S as they provide 4th and 5th graders with important skills related to fostering Social Emotional Learning. They’re also excited to announce the 3rd annual kickoff of Lloyd Road Husky Cafe this past Friday, September 26th. The Cafe provides students in Lloyd Road’s MD and Autism classroom the opportunity to learn important life skills while providing an opportunity for their staff to purchase breakfast snacks. The Lloyd Road PTO is also preparing for their fall chocolate bar fundraiser event, where students are asked to help raise money by selling chocolate in order to support the school. In addition to this, the PTO is gearing up for their Trunk or Treat and Fall Harvest Festival this October, and they look forward to a spook-tacular event!

Finally, MAMS has restarted its attendance incentive program. One homeroom from each grade will be recognized for having the best attendance this September, and those 3 classes will get an ice cream party this week! Thankfully, MAMS students are doing a great job attending school each day! Something new this year is that MAMS students get to eat outdoors when the weather is nice, with students enjoying this greatly and hoping that the PTO can expand the courtyard area before the end of the school year! Last week, the “Guess Whose Pet” contests ended, where students had to guess which pets belonged to which teachers, with 6th graders winning the competition and gaining the first points for the year’s BOTC.

This brings me to the end of my report. Thank you for your time, attention, and acknowledgement of my new and exciting role! I can’t wait to see what this academic year has in store for the community and all of us. Have a great night.

**XI. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Liebmann presented the Curriculum and Instruction Agenda on which the Board will take action this evening.

Motion by Ms. Feiles, seconded by Ms. Pell to approve the following resolution(s):

**A. TRAVEL**

Pursuant to travel policy #6471, the following staff is approved for travel related to training and workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member’s current responsibilities and the district’s Professional Development Plan. [\(Curriculum & Instruction Attachment #1\)](#)

**Policy:** #6471 Travel/Reimbursable Expenses  
**Rationale:** Required estimates to abide by law and policy

**B. OTHER**

1. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the revised 2025-2026 MARSD School Improvement Panel (ScIP) Committee Members for Matawan Regional High School. Staff members highlighted in bold will also serve on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) for the 2025-2026 school year.

<b>Matawan Regional High School</b>
<p><b>Michael C. Wells</b>  <b>Sean Cronin</b>                      Robert Carnovsky                      Meg Harrington  <b>Pam Kacen</b>                      Sheryl Kish                      Dave Miller  <b>Julianna Walker</b>                      Dylan Warren</p>

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
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Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone	X				
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, and zero (0) members were absent.

**XII. STUDENT SERVICES**

Mr. Liebmann presented the Student Services Agenda on which the Board will take action this evening.

Motion by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Ascoli to approve the following resolution(s):

1. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the agreements with the following providers for the 2025-2026 school year on an as needed basis.

Service Provider	Cost	Effective Dates
Melissa Phillip, MA, CCC-SLP Speech & Language Pathologist <a href="mailto:Melissakphillips26@gmail.com">Melissakphillips26@gmail.com</a> 609-456-8440	\$1,100.00 Speech & Language Evaluation Services for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing \$100.00 per hour-Meeting Attendance \$35.00 Travel fee per 30 Minutes \$32.00 Additional fee on fingerprint archival, if required/requested by the hiring district	7/1/25-6/30/26
Peace of Mind Psychologist Services, LLC <a href="mailto:drbersano@pompsychology.com">drbersano@pompsychology.com</a> 201-822-1202	\$1,800.00 Psychologist evaluations for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing \$180.00 Virtual attendance of an IEP meeting per hour, one hour minimum \$45.00 Travel time for testing per 30 minutes Any fingerprinting fee will be assumed by the district	7/1/25-6/30/26

**Rationale:** Per Student's IEP

**Account #:** 11-000-216-320-09-0000-0

2. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve bedside instruction for the following student(s):

Student	Program	Cost	Effective Dates
162274	LearnWell	\$1,218.00	9/5/25-9/11/25
160097	Learn Well	\$2,436.00	9/6/25-10/16/25
164633	Learn Well	\$2,436.00	9/11/25-9/26/25
171396	Silvergate Prep	\$40.00 per hour for total of 10 hours per week Length of service is expected to extend greater than 10 school days, at an estimated stay-30-60 days	9/3/25-11/3/25
162990	MOESC	\$3,350.00	10/1/25-6/30/26

**Rationale:** Per Student's IEP

**Account # :** 11-150-100-320-09-0000-0

**Account # :** 11-219-100-320-09-0000-0

**Keys Account # :** 20-006-100-566-09-0000-0

3. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following students to attend an out of district placement for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Student	School	Cost	Effective Dates
159555	The Rugby School	\$75,685.60 Tuition	9/12/25-6/30/26

**Rationale:** Per Student’s IEP

**Account #:** 11-000-100-566-09-0000-0

4. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following students to attend an out of district placement for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Student	School	Cost	Effective Dates
170060	Long Branch School District	\$57,083.48 (Tuition \$55,102.00, Additional Services \$1,981.48)	09/04/25-06/30/26

**Rationale:** Per Student’s IEP

**Account #:** 11-000-100-562-09-0000-0

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone	X				
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, zero (0) members were absent

**XIII. PERSONNEL**

Dr. Rawls-Dill presented the Personnel Agenda on which the Board will take action this evening to include Walk In items.

Motion by Ms. Skop, seconded by Mr. Montone to approve the following resolution(s):

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following:

**A. Resignations/Retirements - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc	Position	Reason	Hire Date	Effective Date
DeGroat, Margaret	RD	Special Education Teacher - ERI	Recission	9/8/2025	9/11/2025
Gangemi, Jordan	RD	Instructional Assistant	Resignation	9/1/2024	8/03/2025
Pickell, Lee	MS	Special Education Teacher	Resignation	9/1/2010	9/22/2025
Scala, Victoria	CP	Preschool Teacher	Resignation	9/1/2024	11/20/2025

**B. Leave of Absence - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc	Position	Type of Leave	With/Without Pay	Effective Dates
Amir, Sadaf	CP	Instructional Assistant	Personal	Without Pay	9/3/25-9/5/25

<b>Name</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Type of Leave</b>	<b>With/Without Pay</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>
Anderson, Sonali	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	9/30/25-1/4/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 8/25/25
Bottone, Nicole	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	9/9/25-1/4/26
Furman, Jessica	MS	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	9/23/25-2/18/26
Grieci, Jessica	MS	School Counselor	Personal	Without Pay	4/7/26-4/10/26
Johnson, Alexa	CP	School Nurse	Personal	Without Pay	12/10/25-12/12/25
Nilsen, Olivia	MS	Teacher	Maternity/FMLA FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay Without Pay	9/1/25-9/10/25 9/11/25-12/16/2025 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 9/16/25
Santos, LoriAnn	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	9/1/25-11/5/25 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 8/25/25
Savinon, Katiria	CO	Secretary	FMLA Intermittent	Without Pay	9/15/25 ½ Day PM - 9/16/25
Scheuing, James	MS	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	1/5/26-6/30/26
Toomey, Joanne	RD	Teacher	Medical FMLA/NJFLA Intermittent	Without Pay	9/9/25-3/6/26 (Tuesdays & Wednesdays) Amended - Previously Approved on 8/25/25
Toomey, Joanne	RD	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	9/11/25-12/23/25 (Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays)
Walker, Julianna	HS	Teacher	Personal	Without Pay	11/5/25
Walling, Linda	HS	Instructional Assistant	Medical	With Pay	9/3/25-9/15/25
Youssef, Christine	CP	Teacher	Personal	Without Pay	11/12/25-11/17/25
Zibbell, Jamie	HS	Social Worker	Personal Leave	Without Pay	11/5/25

**C. Appointments - 2025/2026 School Year****1. New Hires**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Salary/Stipend</b>	<b>Replace/ Reason</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>
Gascot, Deja	HS	Secretary 12 Month	S-9	\$36,560.00 (Prorated) + AA Stipend \$834.38 = \$37,394.38	Tapia Retirement	10/1/25-6/30/26
Zarella, Melissa	LR	School Psychologist	F 2-3	\$68,250.00 (Prorated)	Engel Resignation	12/1/25-6/30/26 or sooner

**Note:** The law on background checks requires ultimate clearance prior to any employment becoming final, in addition to pre-employment paperwork.

**2. Extra-Curricular Activities - 2025/2026 School Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Step/Stipend</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b>Non-Athletic Activities</b>					
Calandrino, Samantha	HS	Tutorial Program	Instructor	\$36.28/Hr	2025-2026 School Year
Moller, Robert	HS	Tutorial Program	Instructor	\$36.28/Hr	2025-2026 School Year
<b>Hourly Activities</b>					
Yemi-Forli, Maria	HS	Crowd Control	Crowd Control	\$64.78/Game	2025-2026 School Year

**3. Instructional Assistants as Substitute Teachers - 2025/2026 School Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Account #</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>
Balletta, Mia	IA as Substitute Teacher	CP	Per MAREA Contract	20-218-100-101-11-0000-4	9/1/25-6/30/26
McMullan, Lauren	IA as Substitute Teacher	CP	Per MAREA Contract	20-218-100-101-11-0000-4	9/1/25-6/30/26
Peters Esposito, Mindy	IA as Substitute Teacher	CL	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0004-9 - K3 or 20-218-100-101-11-0000-04- PEA	9/1/25-6/30/26
Fiedler, Charnell	IA as Substitute Teacher	CL	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0004-9 - K3 or 20-218-100-101-11-0000-04 - PEA	9/1/25-6/30/26
Saginer, Melissa	IA as Substitute Teacher	CL	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0004-9 - K3 or 20-218-100-101-11-0000-04 - PEA	9/1/25-6/30/26
Yemi-Forli, Maria	IA as Substitute Teacher	CL	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0004-9 - K3 or 20-218-100-101-11-0000-04 - PEA	9/1/25-6/30/26
Hagan, Scott	IA as Substitute Teacher	LR	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0008-9	9/1/25-6/30/26
Ferrara, Michael	IA as Substitute Teacher	LR	Per MAREA Contract	11-120-100-101-11-0008-9	9/1/25-6/30/26

\*IA as Substitute Teacher - \$119.00 Full-Day Rate; \$59.50 Half-Day Rate; \$17.00 Hourly Rate

**4. Staff Array Changes - 2025/2026 School Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Loc/Fte</b>	<b>Current Assignments</b>	<b>Loc/Fte/O/L</b>	<b>New Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Dates/Reason</b>
Church, Patricia	CL: .50 RD: .50	PE & Health Teacher	RD: 1.00	PE & Health Teacher	9/1/25-6/30/26 Saraiva/Church Interchange
Giacci, Gabriella	CL: .50 LR: .50	School Counselor	CL: .60 LR: .40	School Counselor	9/1/25-6/30/26
Califano, Shannon	HS: 1.00 .04 O/L	Chemistry Teacher Chemistry Lab	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L 1 x per week	Chemistry Teacher Chemistry Lab	10/13/25-6/30/26 Amended O/L - Previously Approved on 9/8/25
Longo, Andrea	LR: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher	LR: 1.00 .20 O/L	Special Ed Teacher Wilson Teacher	9/1/25-6/30/26
Biagianti, Mary	MS: 1.00 .17 O/L	Language Arts Teacher Wilson Instruction	MS: 1.00 .17 O/L	Language Arts Teacher Wilson Instruction	9/22/25-6/30/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 8/25/25
Chodkiewicz, Beth	MS: 1.00 .17 O/L	Special Ed Teacher V&V Instruction	MS: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher	9/1/25-6/30/26 Amended - Previously Approved on 8/25/25
Saraiva, David	RD: 1.00	PE & Health Teacher	CL: .50 RD: .50	PE & Health Teacher	9/1/25-6/30/26 Church/Saravia Interchange
DiBrienza, Kerri	ST: 1.00	School Library Media Specialist	ST: 1.00 .17 O/L 1 x per week	School Library Media Specialist	9/1/25-6/30/26

**5. College Student Observers/Teachers/Interns - 2025/2026 School Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Cooperating Staff Member</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Cammarata, Emily	Beth Chodkiewicz, Special Education Teacher	Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School New Jersey City University Student Observer, Fall 2025
Maniscalchi, Allison	Amy Gallagher, Speech Language Pathologist	Lloyd Road Elementary School Gwynedd Mercy University Speech Language Pathology Internship, Fall 2025

**D. Other**

**1. HIB - 2024/2025 School Year**

- The Superintendent recommends the approval of the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report as reported during the Executive Session of the Matawan-Aberdeen Board of Education Meeting of September 8, 2025:

<b>Incidents Reported</b>	<b>Confirmed Incidents</b>
0	0

**2. Administrative Leave with Pay - 2025/2026 School Year**

- Employee # 5972, 09/12/2025

**3. Termination - 2025/2026 School Year**

- Employee # 5972, Termination Date Effective 10/13/2025

**4. Professional Development Presenters - 2025/2026 School Year**

- Nicole Cordi - Up to 3 hours at \$31.10/hr  
To prepare and present for New Teacher Orientation on 08/20/2025
- Kathryn Leslie - Up to 3 hours at \$31.10/hr  
To prepare and present for New Certificated Staff Meeting on 11/24/2025

**5. Moving Compensation - 2025-2026 School Year**

Gabrielle Giacchi, Nicole Groark - Lloyd Road Elementary School  
 Joni Colaneri, Brittany Whelan - Cliffwood Elementary School  
 Up to 5 hours each at \$25/hr

**6. MAMS Early Bus Arrival Supervision - 2025-2026 School Year**

- Michelle Bocchieri, Leslie Lauter, Devenn Williams  
 Up to \$6.89/per day (paid by voucher) to Supervise from 7:55 AM to 8:10 AM  
 Account # 11-000-270-162-11-0000-3

**7. Employee Flu Clinic - 2025-2026 School Year**

- To be held on Monday, October 13, 2025 at the Matawan-Regional High School -  
 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM (Provided by CVS)

**8. Crisis Team\* Voucher Payments -2025-2026 School Year**

- Rachel Alvarez, Adrian Bennett, Daphne Binns, Taylor Connelly, Florence DeCosta, Kaitlin Deignan-Czachor, Kathleen Feen, Christine Frye, Gabrielle Giacchi, Jessica Grieci, Gerard Haney, Dominique Jimenez, Kristina Leach, Amanda Longo, Justine LoStocco, Amanda Lyttle, Gianna Marretta, Daryl McKurth, Jennifer Nangano, Christine Palumbo, Kristina Saccomondo, Kathleen Tay, Jamie Zibbell, Emily Zupkus.  
 \$51.83hHr, Account # 11-000-219-104-11-0000-9  
 \*Must adhere to the process set by Student Services. This is for any work beyond the school day, and capped at the number of hours to conclude a full crisis assessment.

**9. Transportation Assistant Hours - 2025-2026 School Year**

Name	Hours Per Day	Route
Popowych, Kelly	3.5	2-Tier District Route

**10. Additional Pay - 2025-2026 School Year**

- Michael W. Wells, Hall Monitor  
 Up to 2 hours per day at Employee’s Hourly Rate - 09/08/2025 - 09/22/2025

**11. Safety Award Pay - 2023/2024 & 2024/2025 School Years**

- Incentive pay per the MAREA Bus Drivers Contract, Article XV, Miscellaneous Provisions, G, \$250 per employee for every two (2) consecutive years:

Name	Years	Amount
Geena Bartolotta	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Corrinne Borges	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Ewa Debek	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Victor Damico	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Jennifer Dukes	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Heather Fineran	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Eric Hampton	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Kim Hampton	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Stacy Hampton	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Ahmed Hassanin	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Sharon Hudson	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Regina Kaeser	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Alison Kobylanski	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Nena Lavoie	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Kim Lawrence	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Donna McCarthy	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Joyce Nicholson	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00

Name	Years	Amount
Nicole Poulson	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Yefferson Ramirez-Mateo	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Holly Ramsey	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Samantha Schifini	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Nelson Siguenza	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
Steve Tatarka	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
April Weaver	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00
JoAnn Whesper	2023/2024 & 2024/2025	\$ 250.00

**PERSONNEL - WALK-IN ITEMS****1. Leave of Absence - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc	Position	Type of Leave	With/Without Pay	Effective Dates
Feen, Kathleen	LR	School Counselor	Medical	With Pay	9/26/25-10/13/25
Godowski, Donna	HS	School Nurse	Medical	With Pay	10/10/25-1/2/25
Hanson, Christa	HS	Teacher	Maternity	With Pay	11/24/25-12/17/25
			Maternity	Without Pay	12/18/25-12/23/25
			Maternity FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay	1/5/26-3/27/26
Lubniewski, Laurie	MS	Teacher	Maternity	With Pay	11/13/25-1/22/26
			Maternity FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay	1/23/26-4/23/26
Mackey, Latieffa	HS	Instructional Assistant	Medical	With Pay	9/11/25-9/22/25
Pecorino, Kristen	MS	Teacher	Maternity	With Pay	9/10/25-10/22/25
			Maternity FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay	10/23/25-1/23/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 7/21/25
Ripple, Susan	CP	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	10/10/25-10/31/25
Zitrosa, Celestine	CO	Director	Medical	With Pay	8/22/25-9/28/25 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 8/25/25

**2. Appointments - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc	Position	Step	Salary/Stipend	Replace/ Reason	Effective Dates
Claravall, Justinne Hope	RD	Instructional Assistant - PT Kindergarten	A 1-2	\$14,355.00 (Prorated) .58 FTE	New Position TOM Support	10/6/25-6/30/26
Souza, Corey	CL	Instructional Assistant - PT Kindergarten	A 1-2	\$14,355.00 (Prorated) .58 FTE	New Position TOM Support	10/6/25-6/30/26

**Note:** The law on background checks requires ultimate clearance prior to any employment becoming final, in addition to pre-employment paperwork.

**3. Staff Array Changes - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc/Fte	Current Assignments	Loc/Fte/O/L	New Assignment	Effective Dates/Reason
Vidal, Mary	CL: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - Autism	CL: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - Grade 1 1:1	9/1/25-6/30/26 504 Driven
Polakowski, Shannon	CL: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher - Grades 2-3 POR	CL: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher - Grades K-1 ICR	9/1/25-6/30/26 Student Needs
Werner, Kelli	CL: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher - Grade 3 ICR	CL: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher - Grades 203 POR	9/1/25-6/30/26 Student Needs
Berdel, Brad	HS: 1.00	Hall Monitor	LR: 1.00	Hall Monitor	10/1/25-6/30/26
Folchetti, Mary Ann	LR: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - POR	LR: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - LLD	9/1/25-6/30/26
Radoncic, Ermina	LR: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - LLD	LR: 1.00	Instructional Assistant - POR (Shared)	9/1/25-6/30/26

**4. Additional Pay - 2025/2026 School Year**

- Kim Hulsart, Substitute School Nurse  
Not to exceed up to 2 hours per week at \$34.62/Hr while covering LOA

**5. Administrative Leave with Pay - 2025/2026 School Year**

- Employee # 5970, 09/30/2025

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone	X				
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no and zero (0) members were absent

**XIV. POLICY**

- None

**XV. FINANCE**

Ms. Case presented the Finance Agenda on which the Board will take action this evening to include Walk In items.

Motion by Ms. Ascoli, seconded by Ms. Spruell to approve the following resolution(s):

**Board Secretary’s Monthly Certification - August 2025**

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:20-2-2.13(D), we certify that as of August 31, 2025, after review of the Secretary' s monthly financial report (appropriation section), and open consultation with appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:20-2(B), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the school year.

I, Lindsey Case, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that for the month of August 2025 no line item has been over expended in violation of NJAC 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.



School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

### **Payroll Certification**

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary reported, in compliance with NJSA 18A:1919-1B, has certified the August 15, 2025 in the amount of \$462,829.39 and the August 29, 2025 in the amount of \$377,352.57 payroll.

**The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following:**

#### **1. Receipt and Acceptance of the August 2025 Board Secretary's Report**

Recommend the receipt of the Board Secretary Financial Reports as of August 31, 2025, be accepted as filed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16(c)3 that no major account of fund has been over expended as of July 31, 2025 based upon the Board Secretary's Certification and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report - August 2025**

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2025.

#### **3. Approve Appropriation Transfers**

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the transfers attached.

#### **4. Approve Bills**

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the bills paid and checks issued at the Board meeting in the amount of \$4,831,046.62.

#### **5. Enrollment September 2025**

##### [September 2025 District Enrollment](#)

#### **6. Routine Travel Reimbursement for 2025-2026**

Policy: #6471 School District Travel

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education pursuant to Travel policy # 6471, approve the following staff for travel related to routine business for the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jennifer Cohen	Special Ed Teacher ST/MAMS	\$250

**7. Tuition Contract Agreement with Monmouth County Vocational School District**

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract Agreement with Monmouth County Vocational School District. The term of this agreement will be from September 4, 2025 - June 30, 2026

<b>Program</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Total</b>
Academy of Allied Health & Science	\$7,100	4	\$28,400
Academy of Law & Public Safety	\$7,100	2	\$14,200
Biotechnology High School	\$7,100	7	\$49,700
Communications High School	\$7,100	11	\$78,100
High Technology High School	\$7,100	5	\$35,500
Marine Academy of Sci. & Tech.	\$7,100	14	\$99,400
Career Center	\$6,388	23	\$146,924
Shared-Time Regular Education	\$3,568	35	\$124,880
<b>Total</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>\$577,104</b>

Account #: 11-000-100-563-11-0000-0  
 11-000-100-564-09-0000-0

NTE: \$430,180  
 NTE: \$146,924

**8. Acceptance of Donation from the United Way of Monmouth & Ocean Counties**

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education accept a donation from the United Way of Monmouth & Ocean Counties, backpacks and supplies; coats and hoodies in the amount of \$4,150 to be used district wide to benefit/assist students and families in district..

**9. New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)**

Pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:30, the Matawa-Aberdeen Regional School District has undergone the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) review. The Monmouth County Executive County Superintendent and team conducted a review of the school district’s self-assessment on the District Performance Review (DPR) document to verify the school district’s compliance with all five areas of NJQSAC. Based on that review, the school district has been placed on a continuum in the five NJQSAC areas which are, Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations and Personnel. The completed NJQSAC county office review resulted in the district receiving the following placement scores for each area listed below:

<b>NJQSAC Areas</b>	<b>Initial Placement (August 2025)</b>
Instruction and Program	82%
Fiscal Management	96%
Governance	97%
Operations	95%
Personnel	98%

**10. Fire and Evacuation Drills**

The following Fire and Evacuation Drill occurred during **August 2025**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Security Drill Type</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
Cliffwood Elementary School	Lockdown	8/6/25 @ 8:55 am
Cliffwood Elementary School	Fire Drill	8/7/25 @ 8:55 am
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Fire Drill	8/4/25 @ 9:35 am
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Shelter in Place	8/5/25 @ 9:34 am
Ravine DriveElementary School	Fire Drill	8/1/25 @ 10:30 am
Ravine Drive Elementary School	Medical Emergency	8/21/25 @ 11:30 am

### 11. Approval of In-District Routes for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following In-District Routes for the 2025-2026 school year.

Route #	Destination	# of Days	Eff Dates
65	SPARE	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
66	SPARE	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
67	ST pm	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
68	KEYPORT, VOCATIONAL, CP, ST	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
71	HS, MAMS, LR, CL	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
72	HS, CP, RD midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
73	HAWKSWOOD, W/C ST pm in van 67	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
74	HS, MAMS, LR, RD	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
75	HS, MAMS, CP, ST	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
76	Ravine Dr is after Comm./Allied	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
77	Spare Bus	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
78	MAMS, CP, ST	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
79	HS, MAMS, CP, ST	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
80	HS, MAMS, CP, RD midday x2	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
81	MAMS, LR, CL, HS late run x2 midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
82	HS, MAMS, LR, CL	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
83	HS, MAMS, LR, CL	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
85	SHUTTLE, HIGH TECH, BIOTECH, CAREER CENTER, CL	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
86	HS, MAMS, CP, RD midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
87	Communications/Allied	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
88	KEYPORT/HAZLET VOC, LR, RD	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
89	HS, MAMS, CP, CL & midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
90	CBA, HI-TECH, CL	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
91	HS, MAMS, CP, LIGHTBRIDGE, RD	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
92	HS, MAMS, LR, CL midday x2	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
93	SJV, ST BENS, LR, CL, HS late run M-T-W	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
94	REACH, x5 middays & ST	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
95	HAWKSWOOD	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
96	SPARE w/c van	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
97	SJV/STB, LR, ST midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
98	HS, MAMS, LR, CL midday x2	180	9/4/25-6/23/26
99	HS, MAMS, LR, CL & midday	180	9/4/25-6/23/26

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone	X				
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, zero (0) members were absent.

**XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

- None

**XVI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Ms. Pell - Pass policy to revisit and consider a bell to bell ban for eliminating device usage. Discussion ensued
- Ms. Werneke - MAEF does a wait till 8 program

**XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Ms. Ascoli - Matawan Day is this Saturday. Update from the Finance and Facilities Committee:
  - Rezoning, potential referendum - concern with district roofs without warranties, increase in enrollment, toured the high school

**XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION II**

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy, Personnel Matters and Legal Advice. The subject matter of these discussions will be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality subsides. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 45 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business if necessary. Action may take place.

It was moved by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Spruell that the Board convene in Executive Session II and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 8:25 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Feiles that the Board return to Open Session at 9:11 pm.

**FINANCE – Walk in Items**

Motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Feiles to approve the following resolution(s):

**12. Approval of Board of Education Goals for the 2025-2026 School Year**

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education adopt the following Board Goals for the 2025-2026 school year:

Goal 1 - Increase Community Engagement & Buy-in

Goal 2 – Broaden Leadership Development & Board Participation Opportunities

Goal 3 – Support measurable improvement in academic support future forward planning of facilities to sustain our growing district

Goal 4 - Support future forward planning of facilities to sustain our growing district

**13. Approval of District Goals for the 2025-2026 School Year**

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education adopt the following District Goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

Goal 1 – Increase student achievement by supporting regular student attendance

Goal 2 – Align curriculum, instruction, and assessment to meet the needs of students and support academic achievements

Goal 3 – Provide students access to a variety of opportunities to help build well-rounded community members

Goal 4 – Continue to promote safety and security for all students, staff, and our school community

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Montone				X	Left at 9:06 pm
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell					Left at 9:03 pm
Ms. Martinez	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, two (2) members were absent.

#### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Feiles and a unanimous roll call vote the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.