



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 Ting Jansen

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORK SESSION/ACTION MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, October 29, 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>).

CALL TO ORDER

President Dr. Moorthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mesdames Jansen, and Dr. Moorthy
Messrs. Coplin, DeSilva, Dinice, Galow and Hughes

ABSENT: Mesdames Daveniero
Messrs. Kezmarsky

ALSO PRESENT: Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Dennis M. Fare, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Katherine A. Hiromoto, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
Lisa Rizzo, Director of Special Services
Jodie Craft, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of agenda of this meeting has been provided to *The Ridgewood News and The Record* specifying that the Mahwah Board of Education will meet on October 29, 2025, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, New Jersey. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Coplin and seconded by Mr. Galow to recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations, student, and legal matters.

Motion carried at 7:02 pm.

MOTION TO RECONVENE TO PUBLIC ACTION MEETING

Motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mrs. Ting Jansen to reconvene the public session.

Motion carried at 7:09 pm.

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Galow to open the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 7:09 pm.

AGENDA QUESTIONS

Mr. Khateeb, representing Mahwah Muslims, thanked Board President Dr. Moorthy and Mr. Hughes for attending a recent community meet-and-greet. His comments did not pertain to New Business or any specific resolutions.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. Coplin and seconded by Mr. Hughes to close the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 7:11 pm.

MAHWAH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Mahwah Student Representative Report was read by Superintendent Dr. DeTuro. Highlights included the success of the recent Spirit Rally, recognition of senior captain Scotty Rosenblatt as Young Man of the Year for the Super Football Conference, and the cheerleaders' first-place win at the North Hunterdon competition. The Habitat for Humanity Club assisted with the community mile run, and the girls' tennis team were named Patriot League champions. The Marching Band performed as the finale band at the North Jersey Band Festival, where Mr. Bittner conducted all 17 bands and led "America the Beautiful." Fall sports are concluding successfully. The eighth-grade open house was underway, and congratulations were extended to students recognized at the Scholastic Awards Night. Dr. DeTuro also noted the upcoming internship and externship capstone presentation ceremony.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. MICHAEL DETURO

Superintendent Dr. DeTuro introduced Mr. Dennis Jarvis, Supervisor of Science as well as Supervisor of Integrated Design & Engineering (Grades 6–12), and Mr. Faisal Sheikh, Supervisor of Mathematics (Grades 6–12), who presented the District Testing Report for Spring 2025.

Mr. Jarvis reviewed the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. He noted improvements in student performance across several grade levels, particularly in Grade 5 Science, which showed a 12% increase from the previous year. The district continues to outperform state averages, and targeted interventions and new instructional programs have contributed to positive trends. He highlighted ongoing K–12 intervention strategies, expanded science instructional time, and data-driven supports for students in specialized programs.

Mr. Sheikh reported on the NJSLA Mathematics and English Language Arts results for Grades 3–9. He noted strong achievement in Grade 3 and Geometry, with performance above state averages. Subgroup data showed growth among Black/African American and economically disadvantaged students. He outlined districtwide intervention plans, including the implementation of the Ready Math curriculum (K–5), i-Ready and LinkIt diagnostic tools, small-group instruction, WIN (What I Need) periods, and tutoring programs. For English Language Arts, curriculum revisions, enhanced writing instruction, vocabulary strategies, and tiered supports were emphasized to strengthen student outcomes.

Superintendent Dr. DeTuro provided district updates and highlights. He thanked community members who attended the State of Facilities meeting and shared that 191 survey responses had been received, with 40 volunteers joining the district’s Communication Committee.

Dr. DeTuro recognized recent school events, including walkathons at George Washington, Betsy Ross, and Lenape Meadows Schools, which fostered community spirit and student engagement. He also noted third graders’ visits to MEVO’s educational farm, promoting environmental awareness and collaboration among schools.

Additionally, Dr. DeTuro highlighted the NFL Play 60 partnership at Joyce Kilmer School, where a fifth-grade student participated in an event at Giants Stadium and was awarded Super Bowl tickets. The district will continue this partnership with the Kids Heart Challenge in February.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DR. DENNIS M. FARE

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dennis Fare shared district highlights celebrating student and staff accomplishments. The Mahwah High School Marching Band, led by Mr. Bittner, performed as the finale band at the 78th North Jersey Band Festival. Eleven Mahwah students were selected for the Bergen County Chorus following auditions hosted at Mahwah High School.

Dr. Fare recognized Ridge social studies teachers Donna Conrad, Morgan Ridgway, and Crissy Shannon for participating in a TEAM Foundation event supporting global humanitarian education. Ridge and Mahwah High School students also attended TEAM’s Leadership Symposium at Montclair State University.

He highlighted the Mahwah High School internship and externship program, including a celebration event recognizing students’ work with Pomptonian Food Services. Athletic achievements included victories in girls’ and boys’ soccer, football, and tennis, with Jason Smith named Big North Patriot Division Girls Tennis Coach of the Year.

Additional updates included the successful Ninth Grade Parent Night, distribution of the new Mahwah High School Academic Overview booklet, and outreach efforts encouraging graduates to join the Mahwah Alumni Directory to strengthen engagement with the district.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT – MS. KATHERINE A. HIROMOTO

No report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Board President Dr. Moorthy reported that she, along with Mr. Galo, Mr. Dinice, Mr. Coplin, and Dr. DeTuro, attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Meeting. She highlighted workshops on referendums and artificial intelligence in education, as well as a keynote address by former NFL quarterback Joe Theismann, emphasizing teamwork and collaboration.

Dr. Moorthy also extended Diwali greetings to families celebrating and thanked Dr. DeTuro and the administrative team for promoting inclusivity within the district. She wished the community a safe and enjoyable Halloween and reminded residents to vote in the upcoming Board of Education election.

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, P. Moorthy
Policy – J. Dinice (Chair), R. DeSilva, C. Hughes, J. Jansen
Community Relations – T. Daveniero (Chair), B. Kezmarsky, J. Jansen, C. Hughes
Executive/Planning Committee – P. Moorthy (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky
Negotiations – M. Galow (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky, J. Ting Jansen
Bergen County School Boards Liaison – J. Dinice, M. Galow, 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 – T. Daveniero (Liaison), M. Galow (Alt.)
Transportation Committee Ad Hoc – B. Coplin (Chair) J. Dinice, C. Hughes, T. Daveniero
Board of Education Liaison to Town Council - B. Kezmarsky, B. Coplin (Alt.)

Instructional & Curriculum/Special Education: Dr. Moorthy reported that the Instruction and Curriculum Committee met to review the district data presentation and discuss several instructional initiatives. Participation in the Reflective Practice Protocol teacher evaluation program increased from 30 participants last year to 103 this year.

Dr. Moorthy noted that Ms. Craft provided updates on the Professional Development Day, which focused on artificial intelligence, universal screeners, small group instruction, and cross-curricular skill development. She also shared progress on data team meetings and the development of Tier 1 interventions, with plans to embed this work into grade-level and departmental meetings next year. The Parent Academy series was also highlighted as a valuable resource for families, offering both virtual and in-person sessions on a variety of K–12 educational topics.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REPORTS OR OTHER NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. DeSilva expressed concern about declining test scores, particularly in eighth-grade math, and noted that intervention plans seemed similar to previous years.

Superintendent Dr. DeTuro explained that the eighth-grade results reflect a smaller population due to course offerings. He highlighted ongoing improvements, including small group instruction, data-informed teaching, and curriculum reviews in math and science. Dr. DeTuro noted strong implementation of Ready Math at the elementary level and recent gains in fifth-grade science performance.

Mrs. Ting Jansen asked about the long-term impact of academic interventions and how progress is measured as students move through grade levels. Mr. Sheikh explained that small-group instruction targets prior learning gaps to prevent continued decline within cohorts. Superintendent Dr. DeTuro added that the district uses a tiered support system and multiple data points throughout the year, including i-Ready assessments, to track growth and adjust instruction based on current student needs rather than past performance.

Mr. Hughes commended the improvement in elementary proficiency levels and asked which specific areas students struggle with in science and math, particularly at the eighth-grade level.

Mr. Jarvis explained that science challenges often stem from reading comprehension and test stamina rather than content gaps, noting that assessments are lengthy and complex. Mr. Sheikh added that in mathematics, students mainly struggle with numbers and operations at the middle school level and foundational algebra skills at the high school level. Targeted small-group instruction and support classes are being used to address these areas.

Board President Dr. Moorthy thanked the administration for the presentation and highlighted the district's focused efforts to improve student outcomes, particularly in science and reading comprehension. She emphasized the connection between ELA skills and success in math and science, noting progress such as daily science instruction now implemented at Joyce Kilmer School, which contributed to a 12-point increase in performance. Dr. Moorthy also commended the overall improvement seen across student subgroups.

Mr. DeSilva added that while test results are important, the broader goal remains developing successful, well-rounded students.

Mr. Galo discussed the complexity of the state science assessment, noting that it evaluates students' ability to apply scientific reasoning and connect concepts across multiple subject areas. He commended the recent instructional changes at Joyce Kilmer School and expressed optimism about future results following curriculum updates in elementary mathematics. Mr. Galo also emphasized the need to address learning gaps at the middle school level to ensure continuity and progress across the K–12 curriculum.

Board President Dr. Moorthy thanked Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Sheikh for their comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the continued focus on improving student outcomes. She expressed appreciation to the administrative team and reiterated the Board's commitment to ongoing progress and support for instructional initiatives.

Mr. Coplin encouraged community members to visit the district website to view information on facility upgrades completed over the past six years, including photos, videos, and cost summaries available under the Buildings and Grounds section.

Dr. Moorthy added that many Board presentations and reports, including the recent testing presentation, are also available on the district's website, which was redesigned to improve accessibility and transparency for the public.

Mr. Gallo commended Mahwah High School for successfully hosting a marching band festival despite inclement weather. He recognized Mr. John Pascal for organizing the event on short notice and thanked all volunteers, staff, and community members who assisted with logistics and coordination. The event was well-received by attendees and showcased strong community involvement.

Mr. Coplin congratulated the K–3 HSOs on the success of their annual walkathons, noting the events serve as major fundraisers and foster strong community spirit. He also recognized the Mahwah Schools Foundation (MSF) for a successful run event held the previous weekend and thanked them for their continued support of district initiatives.

17. OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 17a was moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Dinice.

a. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of

Education approves the minutes of the October 8, 2025, Public Work Session/Action Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 17a. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

18. NEW BUSIENSS - OTHER

Resolutions 18a – 18q were moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Hughes.

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 10/09/2025 to 10/23/2025.

General Current Expense	Fund 11	\$3,700,784.18
Capital Outlay	Fund 12	\$33,906.25
Special Revenue Funds	Fund 20	\$184,486.23
Region I	Fund 52	\$12,063.74
Region I-Contracted Trans.	Fund 53	\$1,824,299.27
Total of All Checks		\$5,755,539.67

b. Financial Report – Payroll Agency

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of Payroll Agency checks 8032-8042 for a total of \$15,732.34.

c. Financial Report – Unemployment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of Unemployment check 1280 for a total of \$8,820.49.

d. Financial Report – Cafeteria

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of Cafeteria checks 2987 to 2993 for a total of \$88,010.89.

e. Financial Report – Public School Fund

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of School Store checks 36201 to 36301 for a total of \$16,377.56.

f. Secretary’s Report

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts, and affixes to the minutes, the Secretary’s Report for July and August 2025.

g. Treasurer’s Report

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts, and affixes to the minutes, the Treasurer’s Report for July and August 2025.

h. 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 October 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 October 2025 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(a).

Katherine Hiromoto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

i. Budget Transfers

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

j. Authorization of Actions in Connection with Proposed School Facilities Projects

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, The Mahwah Board of Education approves the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECTS

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Mahwah in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed thereby), seeks to submit to the voters various school facilities projects as set forth in Exhibit A (collectively, the “Projects”);

WHEREAS, the School District will seek Debt Service Aid with respect to the Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the planning and authorization of: (i) the Projects; and (ii) a School District special election at which time a bond referendum authorizing the Projects shall be presented to the voters of the School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-5.1 through 6A:26-5.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby authorizes and/or ratifies the preparation of Schematic Plans and Educational Specifications, if required, by LAN Associates (“LAN”) in connection with the Projects and the Board further authorizes and/or ratifies and directs LAN to submit same to the New Jersey Department of Education and to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval. The Board further authorizes and directs the submission of the Schematic Plans to the planning board for its review, to the extent required by law.

Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-2.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby ratifies any amendments to the Long Range Facilities Plan, as necessary, to reflect the Projects and approves the submission of any such amendments to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Section 3. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3.2 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby ratifies the submission of the Project Applications and its decision seeking debt service aid for the Projects.

Section 4. With respect to the Projects, the Board hereby authorizes/ratifies and directs the Board President, the Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as applicable, to execute the schematic plans and educational specifications, the amendment(s) to the Long Range Facilities Plan, the Project cost estimate sheets and all related project documents allowing submission of same to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Section 5. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, LAN, and Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., as Bond Counsel, as applicable, to take all action required to preserve the opportunity to present the Projects to the voters via a bond referendum at School District special election to be held on March 10, 2026 or such other date as may be available and selected by the Board.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

EXHIBIT A

Renovations at the Joyce Kilmer Elementary School
Renovations at the Lenape Meadows Elementary School
Renovations & Addition at the George Washington Elementary School
Renovations & Addition at the Betsy Ross Elementary School
Renovations at the Ramapo Ridge Middle School
Renovations & Addition at Mahwah High School including renovations of the Maintenance Garage
Renovations at the Administration Building and ECC Building

k. Submission of Comprehensive Maintenance Plan 2025-2026

Whereas, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public-school facilities, and

Whereas, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Mahwah Board of Education are consistent with these requirements, and

Whereas, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved; that the Mahwah Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Mahwah Board of Education in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

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
Cydney	Rockman	Legal One Anti-Bullying Specialist Online Certificate Program	10/13/2025	\$500.00
Michelle	Oates	Law Fair/Law Adventure for Teachers (Grades 3-8) Workshop	10/21/2025	\$44.18
Jennifer	Hogan	Implementing Math Workshop Strategies for K-12 Success	10/22/2025	N/A
Benjamin	Wagman	Holocaust Roundtable at Ramapo College	10/23/2025	N/A
Lynn	Mornebeck-Fuld	All-State Chorus Atlantic City Chaperone	11/05-11/07/2025	\$142.39
Wendy	Campbell	NJEA Teachers Convention	11/06-11/07/2025	\$227.00
Gwenael	Calvez	NJTEEA Annual conference	11/14/2025	\$253.50
Julianne	Correa	2025 Bergen County Middle School Chorus Full Day Rehearsal	11/21/2025	N/A
Dena	Scudieri	PE JAM	12/5/2025	N/A
Dena	Scudieri	PE Jam	12/6/2025	N/A
Talysa	Cole	The Center for Literacy Development-Teaching Writing in Small Groups	12/11/2025	\$230.00
Roger	Pelletier	National Athletic Directors Conference	12/12-12/15/2025	\$1,526.01
Sarah	Meakem	Preparing for America at 250 Years: Indigenous History and Contemporary Life	12/18/2025	N/A

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
Special Education (6-12) to Liberty Science Ctr, Jersey City, NJ	11/10/25	MHS	15
TSA Club (11-12) to TCNJ, Ewing, NJ	11/25/25	MHS	6
Grade 11-12 Athletes to Northern Highlands H.S., Allendale, NJ	12/2/25	MHS	5
DECA (9-12) to Prudential Center, Newark, NJ	12/3/25	MHS	50
Chamber Voices (10-12) to Mount Olive H.S., Flanders, NJ & Ramsey Square, Ramsey, NJ	12/4/25	MHS	20
Grade 11 & 12 to Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ	12/10/25	MHS	30
TSA Club (10-12) to Bernards H.S., Bernardsville, NJ	2/25/26	MHS	6

Grade 11-12 Athletes to Northern Valley Regional High School, Old Tappan, NJ	3/3/26	MHS	5
TSA Club (10-12) to Bloomfield High School, Bloomfield, NJ	4/16/26	MHS	6
String Orchestra (9-12) to Hersey Park & Hershey High School, Hershey, PA	5/22/26	MHS	54
Grade 8 Trip to Boston – Freedom Trail, New England Aquarium, Boston City Boat Cruise, Museum of Science, Boston MA, Basketball Hall of Fame Springfield, MA	6/4-6/5/26	RR	170

n. Curriculum Writing

RESOLVED; that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a stipend for curriculum writing to adhere to the updates and standards set forth by the Department of Education, at the contractual amount for curriculum work per Schedule K of the MEA contract.

Curriculum Writer	Number of Hours	To Be Written	Grade
Mary DiRienzo	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Kindergarten
Jillian Laurice	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Kindergarten
Cathleen Scarpelli	10	Summer/Fall 2025	First Grade
Gianna Bologna	10	Summer/Fall 2025	First Grade
Jenny Lederer	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Second Grade
Stephanie Engstrom	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Second Grade
Eric Pragdat	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Third Grade
Christine Piotrowski	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Third Grade
Lauren Hayes	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Fourth Grade
Jennifer Hogan	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Fourth Grade
Courtney Dodd	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Fifth Grade
Michele Giannattasio	10	Summer/Fall 2025	Fifth Grade

o. Memorandum of Agreement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the 2025-2026 Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Official as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13 - 14. A copy is available in the business office.

p. Renewal – One Call Now Notification System

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education renew its agreement with OnSolve to send district and community communication via telephone, text, and email; for the 2025-2026 school year; at a total cost of \$7,333.69.

q. Bus Evacuation Drills - Mahwah

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of

Education approves Fall 2025 bus evacuation drills, with report attached and on file in the transportation office.

Betsy Ross Elementary School	10/24/25, 9:00 a.m.
George Washington Elementary School	10/17/25, 9:00 a.m.
Lenape Meadows Elementary School	10/06/25, 9:00 a.m.
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	9/30/25, 9:30 a.m.
Ramapo Ridge Middle School	10/14/25, 9:00 a.m.
Mahwah High School	10/10/25 & 10/14/25, 7:40 a.m.
<i>Bus Drill Make-Up Date</i>	<i>11/03/25</i>

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 18a - 18q. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

19. NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Resolutions 19a – 19w were moved by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Dinice.

a. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jennifer Mellana-Rosenblatt, instructional paraprofessional, at Lenape Meadows Elementary School; effective retroactive to October 14, 2025.

b. Rescission

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Selena Tucker, instructional paraprofessional, at Joyce Kilmer School; effective retroactive to October 13, 2025.

c. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Olivia Hahn, as leave replacement for Employee #5188, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from December 8, 2025 – May 8, 2026; salary to be Column A, Step 1, \$58,891, pro-rated.

d. 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 #8861, effective on November 18, 2025 – November 26, 2025, using 7 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from November 18, 2025 – November 26, 2025.

e. 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 #4238, effective on December 19, 2025 – January 30, 2026, using 22 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from December 19, 2025 – January 30, 2026.

f. 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 #4839, effective December 10, 2025 – December 23, 2025, using 10 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from December 10, 2025 – December 23, 2025.

g. 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 #4528, effective November 4, 2025 – January 9, 2026, using 37 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from November 4, 2025 – January 9, 2026.

h. FMLA/Childcare/Maternity 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 #5188, using 19 sick days, effective January 5, 2026 – January 30, 2026, and taking FMLA from February 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026.

i. NJFLA Intermittent Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an intermittent leave of absence for Employee #9408, effective retroactive and taking sick days concurrently during the following dates: October 21, 2025 – October 24, 2025; October 29, 2025 – October 30, 2025; November 3, 2025 – November 5, 2025.

j. NJFLA/Maternity/Child Care Leave

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a maternity/childcare leave of absence update for Employee #4833, effective on February 2, 2026 – August 7, 2026, using NJFLA from February 2, 2026 – April 24, 2026, and available sick days, vacation days, and personal days, from April 27, 2026 – August 7, 2026.

k. 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 #2047, effective during the following dates, using NJFLA and 43 sick days concurrently, on the following dates: September 2, 2025 – September 5, 2025; September 9, 2025; September 15, 2025 – September 19, 2025; September 22, 2025; September 24, 2025 – September 26, 2025; October 6, 2025 – October 10, 2025; October 13, 2025 – October 17, 2025; November 14, 2025 – December 12, 2025

l. Additional Teaching Period – Internal Coverage

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following staff members to teach a sixth period to provide class coverage for Employee #8861; from November 18, 2025 – November 26, 2025, at 1/5th of their salary; pro-rated, per diem, for designated periods; to be paid via submitted voucher:

Name	Designated Period
Michael Tremblay	Homeroom (8 minutes)
Danielle Signore	Period 1
Michael Tremblay	Period 2
Rebecca Savino	Period 3
Christiane Lange	Period 5
Jamie Wald	Period 6

m. Stipend - Extra Service Position Rescission

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the extra service stipend for the following staff, for the 2025-2026 school year:

First Name	Last Name	Building	Assignment
Kevin	Raschen	Joyce Kilmer School	Jazz Band

n. Stipend - Extra Service Positions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the extra service stipend for the following staff, for the 2025-2026 school year; at the negotiated stipend rate:

First Name	Last Name	Building	Assignment
Josie	VanPuttenVink	Joyce Kilmer School	Jazz Band

o. School Nurse Substitute

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Debra Maguire as substitute nurse for the 2025-2026 school year; rate to be \$70 per hour, to be paid via a submitted voucher for hours worked.

p. Appointment – Option Two: Academic and Career Internship Program Locations

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following site for the 2025-2026 school year for students approved to participate in Option Two – Academic and Career Internship Program. All sites have been approved by the Work-Based Learning Coordinator, in accordance with NJDOE regulations, application requirements, and insurance verification.

Franklin Lakes Animal Hospital
 754 Franklin Avenue
 Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

q. Appointment – Girls Lacrosse Head Coach

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board

of Education approves the appointment of Michael Menzella, as girls lacrosse head coach, for the 2025-2026 season; stipend to be \$12,214; pending employment verification.

r. Appointments – Coaching Staff for 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointments of the Fall coaching staff for the 2025-2026 school year, at the negotiated stipend rate, as shown on schedule I, of the MEA contract.

Position	Name	Stipend
Boys Basketball Head Coach (Ramapo Ridge)	Justin Grippo	\$5,085
Boys Basketball Assistant Coach (Mahwah High School)	Brian Rice	\$9,841
Boys Basketball Head Coach (Mahwah High School)	Michael Dlugo	\$13,705
Wrestling Assistant Coach	Matthew Apruzzese	\$9,841
Wrestling Assistant Coach	Austin Jack	\$9,841
Wrestling Assistant Coach	Benjamin Wagman	\$9,841
Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	Alexander Hufford	\$8,361

s. Rescission – Coaching Staff for 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the appointments of the following coaching staff for the 2025-2026 school year.

Position	Name
Baseball Head Coach	Jeffrey Remo
Boys Basketball Head Coach	Michael Branagh
Winter Track & Field Assistant Coach	Joseph Charles
Spring Track & Field Assistant Coach	Joseph Charles
Girls Lacrosse Head Coach	Brian Girardi
Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	Matthew Myones

t. Parent Volunteers

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following individuals, as volunteers, to assist Mahwah Township Public Schools for 2025-2026 school year:

Betsy Ross School

First Name	Last Name
Christina	Coker
Stephanie	Cooper
Randi	Frascella

Deborah	Yanno
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u. Clinical Internship Placement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following clinical internship placement for the 2026 spring semester, for the following student, attending the following colleges/universities:

Student Name	College/University	Supervising Staff Member
Christopher Gioni	Ramapo College	Caroline Krueger (Supervisor of English Language Arts, 6-12) Alison Malone (Teacher of English Language Arts, Ramapo Ridge Middle School)

v. Practicum Placement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following fieldwork/practicum placement for the 2025 fall semester, for the following student, attending the following colleges/universities:

Student Name	College/University	Supervising Staff Member
Xitlali Ortiz Vasquez	Bergen County Community College	Nancy Merrigan (Teacher of ELL) Courtney Carrelha (Supervisor of ELL, K-12)

w. Paraprofessional Substitutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following paraprofessional substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY
De Almeida	Laysa	Mahwah

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 19a - 19w. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

PUBLIC QUESTION OR COMMENT

Public participation at Board meetings is in accordance with Bylaw 0167.

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make a comment on educational issues or school matters of community interest. As a matter of fairness, you are asked to limit your questions to no more than one, and your remarks to no longer than three minutes. If you are here representing a group, please identify yourself, the group, and your position in the group. If you are here as an individual, please give us your name and address.

Note: This section of public participation will be limited to fifteen minutes.

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. DeSilva, second by Mr. Coplin to open the meeting to the public.

Motion carried at 8:29 pm.

A Mahwah parent expressed concerns about the formatting of school emails, noting that messages sent by principals are not mobile-friendly and require excessive zooming and multiple link clicks to access content. He requested that email communications be made more streamlined and user-friendly for mobile devices.

Board President Dr. Moorthy thanked Mr. Mohammed for his feedback and acknowledged that communication remains an ongoing area of focus for the district, noting that improvements have already been made and that additional feedback is appreciated.

Another Mahwah parent thanked the Board for implementing the high school internship and externship program. He shared that his daughter, a recent graduate, benefited greatly from participating in the program, which helped her gain hands-on experience in a pharmacy and solidify her career goals.

Board President Dr. Moorthy thanked Mr. Khan for his positive feedback and acknowledged the value of the program in supporting students' career readiness.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Coplin, second by Mr. Hughes to close the meeting to the public.

Motion carried at 8:33 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Coplin, second by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried at 8:33 pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Hiromoto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary