



## 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**

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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORK SESSION/ACTION MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, August 6, 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 Moorthy called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

### ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mesdames Daveniero and Moorthy  
Messrs. Dinice, Galow and Hughes

ABSENT: Ms. Jansen  
Messrs. Coplin, DeSilva, Kezmarsky

ALSO PRESENT: Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Dennis M. Fare, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Thomas Lambe, 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 August 6, 2025, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, New Jersey. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

### AGENDA QUESTIONS

N/A

### MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Hughes seconded by Mr. Galow to open the meeting to the public for comments.

**Motion carried at 9:05 am.**

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Dinice to close the meeting to the public for comments.

**Motion carried at 9:05 am.**

MAHWAH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

*There was no report.*

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DR. MICHAEL DETURO

*Dr. DeTuro introduced Jodie Craft, Director of Curriculum, James O’Hara, Director of Guidance, and ... who presented the district’s testing results on NJGPA, Access, SAT, ACT and AP.*

*After the presentation, Dr. DeTuro thanked them for the presentation and for looking out, not only for students at risk, but also offering opportunities for high achievers to continue to advance.*

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

*Dr. Fare updated the Board about the new teacher orientation that is currently going on this week.*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT – MR THOMAS LAMBE

*Mr. Lambe updated that the summer projects and cleaning are on or ahead of schedule and thanked Gregg Romero and his team for their hard work. He said that the IDEA grant application has been submitted and that we should have the allocation for the ESEA grant within the next few weeks.*

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

*There was no report.*

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. Ting Jansen

Community Relations – T. Daveniero (Chair), B. Kezmarsky, J. Ting 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. Ting 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.)

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

*Mr. Galow updated the Board on the status of the referendum, and said that LAN Associates will be submitting*

*an application to the State of New Jersey in early September. Dr. DeTuro said to please reach out if you have any question, suggestions or ideas regarding the referendum.*

*Dr. Moorthy said that Joyce Kilmer Principal Dr. Bowie explained the changes to the science curriculum at the June meeting of the Instruction & Curriculum committee. Supervisor of Mathematics Faisel Sheikh updated the committee that honors and AP students are doing more small group instruction in math. She also said that there will be a new computer science textbook.*

## OLD BUSINESS

**Resolutions 17a and 17b were moved Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow.**

a. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the July 22, 2025 Public Board Retreat.

b. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the July 23, 2025 Public Work Session/Action Meeting.

**ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 17a and 17b.**

**Motion 17a carried, 5 ayes, 0 nays.**

**Motion 17b carried ,4 ayes, 0 nays, with Mr. Dinice abstaining from 17b.**

## NEW BUSINESS - OTHER

**Resolution 18a through 18f were moved Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Galow.**

a. Transportation Contracts – Region I – South Bergen Jointure Commission

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Region I/Mahwah Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with the South Bergen Jointure Commission, an approved Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purpose of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the time period 2025-26 school year. The services to be provided include but are not limited to the coordinated transportation of nonpublic, out of district special education, vocational and summer programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional I/Mahwah Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the South Bergen Jointure Commission and attached to this resolution.

b. Transportation Contracts – Mahwah Board of Education

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education awards the following special education transportation routes for the 2025-2026 school year, as per bids received July 15, 2025:

<b>Route</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>\$ Per Diem</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>Aide</b>
E1620	We Care	\$214.00	\$1.99	\$85.00
E1621	Triumph Invalid Coach	\$212.00	\$3.00	\$50.00
E1622	Stellar Transportation	\$219.00	\$4.99	\$45.00
E1623	Scholastic Bus Co.	\$169.00	\$1.00	\$49.00

c. Transportation Reimbursements – Mahwah Board of Education

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the reimbursement of transportation expenses from home to school and school to home, to parents of students as follows:

<b>Student ID</b>	<b>\$ Per Diem</b>	<b>Time Period</b>
38843 and 38844	\$200 per day	September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
37087 and 39280	\$90 per day	September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
39086	\$10 per day	September 1, 2025 – June 20, 2026

d. 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:

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Conference/Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Dawn	Savastano	Crisis Prevention Intervention Certification	7/31/2025	\$2,400.00
Christine	Hartigan Miller	NJFPS Coaches' Workshop	9/26/2025	\$75.00

e. Vendor

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves vendor LearnWell, to provide virtual one-to-one tutoring services for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$72.00 per hour.

f. Donation of Office Supplies

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves acceptance of a donation of office supplies listed below from Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc., and thanks them for their generosity.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Legal size copy paper-20 lb, 500 sheets per ream, WB Mason brand	30-40 reams
3 ring binders-2.5-3.5 wide, white & black color	40
Tape dispensers and staplers	10 each
Large binder clips	Small Garbage can full
Standard size hanging folders	Large box
Folders-letter size, top tab file folders	400 red, 400 yellow, 100 purple
Brother P touch machine	2
3-hole punch heavy duty	4
Black Metal office top organizers for envelopes, files, pens & pencils	6 of each

**ROLL CALL VOTE on the resolutions 18a through 18f. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.**

**NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL**

**Resolutions 19a through 19n were moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Hughes.**

a. Resignation – Update

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation update of Elena Bottiglieri, as school psychologist, at Lenape Meadows School; effective retroactive to June 30, 2025.

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Joseph Charles, teacher of audio-visual broadcast production and digital media, at Mahwah High School; effective to September 29, 2025.

c. Appointment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Cydney Rockman, as school psychologist, at Betsy Ross School, from September 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025; salary to be Column F, Step 3, \$68,966; pending certification and employment verification.

d. Appointment - Out-of-District Extended School Year (ESY)

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Amanda Bonilla, as instructional paraprofessional, for an out-of-district ESY program, providing support for Student ID #39510, effective July 24, 2025 – August 6, 2025; salary to be \$20.81 per hour to be paid via a submitted voucher for hours worked.

e. Appointment Adjustment - Out-of-District Extended School Year (ESY)

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment adjustment of Debra Patterson, as instructional paraprofessional, for an out-of-district ESY program, providing support for Student ID #39510, effective June 30, 2025 – July 21, 2025; to be paid her hourly rate for hours worked via a submitted voucher.

f. Appointment – Camp Invention

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of the following paraprofessional, for the 2025 Camp Invention Summer program, to be held from August 4, 2025 - August 8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; stipend to be her hourly rate.

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Jeannette	Gibney

g. Summer Assistance

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves Wendy Brooks, to assist Lenape Meadows School with logistical responsibilities; from August 7, 2025 - August 30,2025; not to exceed 10 total hours; to be paid her hourly rate via a submitted voucher for hours worked.

h. Transfer

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a transfer for Alyssa Cipriano, school psychologist, from Betsy Ross School to Lenape Meadows School, to fill a vacant position; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

i. Increase in Hours

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an increase in hours for Tatjana Klanke, instructional paraprofessional, at Lenape Meadows School; from 7.5 hours to 8.0 hours; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

j. Increase in Hours

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an increase in hours for Mindy Vesia, instructional paraprofessional, at Ramapo Ridge Middle School; from 7.0 hours to 7.5 hours; effective September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

k. Paraprofessional Staff Assignments

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following paraprofessional staff assignments for the 2025-2026 school year. Based on student need and the instructional program, paraprofessional assignments may be adjusted. Tiering will be finalized and determined based on student placement, programmatic need, and subsequent paraprofessional assignment; to be placed on a later Board of Education agenda.

Building 2025-2026	First Name	Last Name	Position	Number of Hours
Lenape Meadows School	Leroy	Burns	Instructional	7.5

l. Appointment – Extra-Service Positions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the extra service positions for the 2025-2026 school year at the negotiated stipend rate, as shown on Schedules L of the MEA contract.

**Betsy Ross School**

Staff Member	Supervision	Amount
Lori Bregman	Car Line - Arrival	\$1,966
Lauren Sullivan	Car Line - Arrival	\$1,966
Jason Schmitt	Crosswalk	\$1,966
Emma Conroy	APR/Morning Meeting	\$1,966
Lori Bregman	Car Line - Dismissal	\$1,966

Stephanie Engstrom	Car Line – Dismissal	\$1,966
Jillian Laurice	Hand-to-Hand/Car Line	\$1,966
Audrey Von Zwehl	APR/Bus Room	\$1,966

**Lenape Meadows School**

Staff Member	Supervision	Amount
Darelle Dunbar	Arrival - AM	\$1,966
Michelle Mariani	Arrival - AM	\$1,966
Luisa Gonzalez	Arrival - AM	\$1,966
Gabrielle Foudy	Dismissal – Car Line	\$1,966
Jamie Brisby	Dismissal – Car Line	\$1,966
Jennifer Koby	Dismissal – Car Line	\$1,966
Darrelle Dunbar	Dismissal – Car Line	\$1,966

**George Washington School**

Staff Member	Supervision	Amount
Eric Pragdat	Dismissal – PM	\$1,966
Christine Piotrowski	Dismissal – PM	\$1,966
Angela Duffy	Dismissal – PM	\$1,966
*Skyler Teats	Dismissal – PM	\$1,966
**Kaelah Steenstra	Dismissal – PM	\$1,966

\*Monday and two Tuesdays a month – pro-rated for time of service

\*\*Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – pro-rated for time of service

m. New Hire Orientation – Presentations

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

Staff Member	Presentation Topic	Hours
Courtney Dodd	iReady Introduction Training (PreK-8)	1.5 hours

**ROLL CALL VOTE on the resolutions 19a through 19n. Motion carried 5 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 FOR COMMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Dinice seconded by Mr. Hughes to open the meeting to the public for comments.

**Motion carried at 10:00 am, 5 ayes, 0 nays.**

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

It was moved by Mr. Hughes seconded by Mr. Coplin to close the meeting to the public.

**Motion carried at 10:00 am, 5 ayes, 0 nays.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Hughes seconded by Mr. Galow to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.**

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Lambe  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary