

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Mrs. Joan Mody	President
Dr. Rekha Mandel	Vice President
Mrs. Elisabeth Carrino-Tamasi	
Mrs. Natasha Crossan	
Mr. Peter Dumovic	
Mr. Thomas Keeling	
Mrs. Diana Orban Brown	

IV. Sunshine Law

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings 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 interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, Mendham Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Mendham Township Board of Education Office, sent to the Clerk of Mendham Township, and the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record. This is an official meeting.

V. Student Representative to the Board of Education

- Student Representative - Rohan Mody

VI. Superintendent's Report

- District Updates, News, and Events
- MTES Student Group: Mr. Gallo, Grade 4 - AI
- Board Member Recognition - Mrs. Joan Mody

**Proclamation Honoring Joan Mody on the Occasion of Her Retirement from the
Mendham Township Board of Education**

Whereas, Joan Mody has served with distinction as a dedicated member of the, Mendham Township Board of Education for many years, demonstrating steadfast

commitment to the students, families, and staff of the Mendham Township School District, and

Whereas, during her tenure, Joan Mody held leadership roles as both President and Vice President of the Board, providing steady guidance, clear vision, and thoughtful decision-making on behalf of the community, and

Whereas, she served as Chair of the Curriculum and School Programs Committee for many years, ensuring the district maintained strong academic foundations while advancing initiatives that foster innovation, student growth, and a supportive learning environment, and

Whereas, her leadership has been marked by collaboration, integrity, and an unwavering focus on what is best for children, earning her the respect and admiration of her fellow Board members, district administrators, educators, parents, and students, and

Whereas, her commitment played a vital role in strengthening educational programs, supporting forward-thinking curriculum work, and ensuring that students have the resources and opportunities necessary to succeed, and

Whereas, the Mendham Township Board of Education, administration, staff, and community wish to recognize and express their sincere appreciation for her extraordinary service, contributions, and dedication,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the Mendham Township Board of Education, hereby honor and commend Joan Mody for her exceptional leadership, service, and devotion to the Mendham Township School District and its community, and

Be it further resolved that we extend to her our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes for health, happiness, and fulfillment in her retirement, with appreciation for the lasting impact she has made on generations of Mendham Township students.

Proclaimed this day, November 18, 2025, by the Mendham Township Board of Education

VII. Board Secretary's Report

- Kathi Mantel & Brian Gibbons, Nisivoccia, LLP - 06/30/25, ACFR Summary

VIII. Board President's Report

IX. Correspondence - None.

X. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum and School Programs**

- **DEIB**
- **Operations and Finance**
- **Personnel and Human Resources**
- **Policy**
- **Ad Hoc - Referendum/ROD Grant**

XI. Unofficial Results of Election - November 7, 2025

Unofficial results of the November 7, 2025, School Board Elections for three, three-year terms on the Mendham Township Board of Elections were as follows:

<u>Candidates (Four Candidates - 3 Seats - 3-Year Terms)</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
Christina Klausner	1,239
Cynthia Brusco	1,164
Elisabeth Tamasi	1,262
Diana Orban Brown	973
Allison Barratt	1,017
Kathleen McCallum	1,033

XII. Action Items

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes: October 14, 2025

Regular Session Minutes: October 28, 2025

Curriculum and School Programs

1. HIB School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades (Attachments)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the submission of the Mendham Township Elementary School's and the Mendham Township Middle School's Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the New Jersey Department of Education.

2. Participation in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program

Whereas the Mendham Township Board of Education seeks to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools to focus attention and efforts on matters of sustainability and pursue initiatives that will lead to Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification.

Whereas the Mendham Township Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to ensure a safe and healthy

environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solutions.

Whereas extensive opportunities exist to teach students about ecological, economic and social sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition; to integrate sustainability education into classroom learning; and to support students in becoming leaders in making their schools healthier and more sustainable places.

Whereas many options and choices exist for schools to use resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to follow Green Building Standards for construction and major renovations; to form school partnerships; to eliminate toxic chemicals; to purchase (or produce) clean energy; and to purchase recycled paper, energy-efficient equipment and other green products to protect our global environment.

Whereas sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money, and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children.

Whereas the Mendham Township Board of Education commits to the formation of at least one Sustainability Leadership Team (also referred to as “Green Team”), based on the guidance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

Whereas Green Team members help schools adopt policies and practices addressing areas such as sustainability education and professional training, green purchasing, waste reduction, indoor air quality, energy-saving initiatives, and community partnerships.

Whereas the Mendham Township Board of Education will encourage Green Teams at all district schools by providing networking and educational opportunities.

Therefore, it is resolved that the Mendham Township Board of Education agrees to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, and it is the board’s intention to pursue certification for schools in the district.

We hereby appoint Mariah Clare Clark to be the district’s liaison to Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

We do hereby recognize our School(s) as the agent(s) to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school district through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.

We agree to complete district actions and to support the district's schools in completing their actions.

3. **Field Trips** (*Attachments*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trips for the 2025-2026 school year.

Operations and Finance

1. **Certification Reports**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education certify, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports for November 2025 that no major accounts and fund balances in the 2025/2026 budget have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. **Board Secretary's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the October 2025 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the October 2025 Treasurer's Reports.

4. **October 2025 Transfer Reports**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the October 2025 transfer report.

5. **November 2025 Bills List**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the November 2025 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N5665 through N5667 and N5668 through N5670.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	\$ 66,207.40
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	\$1,786,675.49
Fund 12 - Capital Account	\$ 166,092.98
Fund 20 - Grant Account	\$ 3,000.00
Fund 30 - Referendum Account	\$ 677,346.78
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account	\$ 68,705.52

Fund 80 - Unemployment Account	\$ 9,789.00
Fund 95 - Athletic Account	\$ 805.00
Total:	<u>\$2,778,622.17</u>

6. **District Travel** (*Attachment*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Board of Education approves the attached travel events in agreement with Chapter 53, Public Law 2007, NJSA 18A:11-12, NJAC 6A:23A-1. All mileage will be reimbursed at the maximum NJ Circular 08-19-OMB rate (currently \$0.47 per mile).

7. **Use of District Facilities** (*Attachment*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached use of facility applications for the 2025-2026 school year, with the right to cancel based on school events and needs.

8. **Acceptance of 2024/2025 Audit**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, as prepared by Nisivoccia LLP, Certified Public Accountants & Advisors, inclusive of the following recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures - None.
2. Financial Planning, Accounting, and Reporting - None.
3. School Purchasing Program - None.
4. School Food Service - None.
5. Student Body Activities - None.
6. Application for State School Aid - None.
7. Pupil Transportation - None.
8. Facilities and Capital Assets - None.
9. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations - None.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Termination of Employment**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby terminates the employment of employee #15655269 effective October 31, 2025.

2. **Staff Retirement: Margitt Trocha (Attachment)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of retirement from Margitt Trocha, Transportation Driver, dated October 20, 2025, effective February 1, 2026.

3. **Leave of Absence REVISED – Christopher Vrabel**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Christopher Vrabel, Bus Driver, for a leave of absence commencing on October 10, 2025, utilizing 19 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Christopher Vrabel, per doctor's clearance letter, a return to work date of November 10, 2025.

4. **Mentors for New Teachers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment to the following to serve as mentors to teachers in their first year with Mendham Township Schools.

Mentor	New Teacher	Compensation
Alexandria Ferenc	Alexandra Otto	\$550.00
Charles Gallo	Zachary Kleiman	\$550.00

5. **Middle School Schedule B & C Stipend Positions for 2025-2026**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following 2025-2026 Co-Curricular Stipend positions for Middle School:

CO-CURRICULAR Activities (Schedule B & C)

Activities	2025-2026 Salary	Staff Member
Chorus Director/Middle School	\$3,058.00	Stephen Dodrv
ESports (winter session) Grades 5-8 (1 hour each) Zero Period	\$272.00 base + Max of 10 events @ \$70.00 each, not to exceed a total of \$972.00	Jonathan Smith

6. **Chaperones** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment at the contractual rate for chaperones following the end of the contractual day.

7. **Substitute Transportation Driver: Sami Haile** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Samil Haile as a Substitute Transportation Driver, at an hourly rate of \$30.00, effective November 19, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.

8. **Substitute Teacher: Nicholas Burbano**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Nicholas Burbano as a substitute teacher, pending completion of paperwork, at the current rate of \$125.00 per day for the 2025-2026 school year.

Policy and Planning

1. **First Readings** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policy and regulations:

P 6230	Budget Hearing (M)
P 6320	Purchases Subject to Bid
R 6320	Purchases Subject to Bid
P 6340	Multiple Year Contracts
R 6340	Multiple Year Contracts
R 6350	Competitive Contracting
P 6362	Contributions to Board Members and Contract Awards (M)
P 6421	Purchases Budgeted
R 6421	Purchases Budgeted
P 6422	Budget Transfers (M)
R 6422	Budget Transfers (M)
P 6423	Expenditures for Non-Employee Activities, Meals, and Refreshments
P 6424	Emergency Contracts
R 6424	Emergency Contracts
P 6450	Choice of Vendor
P 6470	Payment of Claims (M)
R 6470	Payment of Claims
P 6472	Tuition Assistance
P 6480	Purchase of Food Supplies (M)
P 6510	Payroll Authorization (M)

2. **Second Reading** (*Attachments*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

- P 5752 Marital Status and Pregnancy (M)
- P 5770 Student Right of Privacy
- P 5820 Student Government
- P 5830 Student Fundraising
- P 5850 Social Events and Class Trips
- R 5850 Social Events and Class Trips
- P 5880 Public Performances by Students
- P 6141 Tax Revenues
- P 6150 Tuition Income
- P 6160 Grants from Private Sources
- R 6160 Grants from Private Sources
- P 6162 Cooperate Sponsorships
- P 6163 Advertising on School Property
- P 6164 Advertising on School Buses
- P 6210 Fiscal Planning
- R 6210 Fiscal Planning
- P 6220 Budget Preparation (M)
- R 6220 Budget Preparation

XIII. Discussion

XIV. Verbal Communications from the Public

The Board President, or Presiding Officer, will direct members of the public to speak in turn and shall have the right to limit the speaking time of individuals wishing to provide comment to the board as necessary. Board of Education members provide public comment as a time to listen to the comments from attendees of the Board of Education meeting. Public comment shall not be a time for open dialogue with the speaker. Public comment shall not be a time for board members to answer questions posed to them from a speaker or comment on a speaker's concerns. Speakers shall provide their name, address, and direct their comments to the board and not to district staff or other audience members. Speakers shall not expect board members to answer questions during public comment. Questions shall be referred to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, for review, study and response. If appropriate, the board may request the issue be a discussion item at a future Board of Education meeting.

XV. Adjournment