

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 7:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

**II. Flag Salute - Mrs. Mody led the flag salute.**

**III. Roll Call of the Board of Education**

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

Two members of the public were also present.

**IV. Sunshine Law – Mrs. Mody read the following statement**

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. Superintendent’s Report**

**District Updates, News, and Events**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Arielle Rementilla as our new Elementary School Assistant Principal. Ms. Rementilla brings extensive experience in both general and special education, along with strong leadership in literacy, culturally responsive practices, and data-driven instruction. Her background and skillset will be a great asset to our schools as she begins this leadership role.

**School Events**

At Mendham Township Elementary School, the opening weeks of school have been filled with excitement. Students have settled into routines, reconnected with peers and

teachers, and engaged in early learning activities such as Morning Meetings, math games, and read-alouds. At the middle school, HIB training was conducted for all students. Mrs. Medina worked with fifth graders, while Dr. Ciccone, Mrs. Ferenc, and Mr. Angrisani led sessions for grades six through eight, reinforcing our district's commitment to respect, kindness, and a safe school climate. In sixth-grade science, Mrs. Slater engaged students with a hands-on lab safety activity that emphasized responsibility and teamwork.

### **Student Enrollment and Staffing Updates**

Current enrollment stands at 826 students districtwide, with 473 at MTES, 345 at MTMS, and eight out-of-district placements. Special services include 37 students receiving speech-only services. Staffing updates include the appointment of Zachary Kleiman as maternity leave replacement for MTES music teacher Lauren Fittapaldi.

### **Facilities and Safety**

We have reached substantial completion of Phase 2 referendum projects. At MTMS, science labs, HVAC systems, and site improvements are finalized. At MTES, new lighting, fire alarms, roof work, classroom finishes, and site work are complete. Punch list items are being addressed as we close this phase. Planning and preparations are underway for Phase 3, which includes preschool renovations, door replacements, and continued site work.

### **School Climate and Culture**

HIB trainings and community-building activities have supported a strong start to the year, reinforcing expectations for respect and positive behavior. Back-to-School Nights and Tiger Values assemblies are scheduled this week, emphasizing partnership with families in fostering school culture.

### **Athletics and Extracurricular Activities**

Our middle school fall athletics program is underway, with strong participation across teams. Coaches and advisors are working to ensure students are engaged in positive extracurricular experiences that complement academics.

As part of tonight's agenda, I am recommending approval for the creation of an after-school choir club to prepare a submission to the NBC 4 New York Holiday Music Contest. The club will be led by Stephen Dodrv and will include nine practices and one recording session, with at least twelve of our sixteen Special Choir students expected to participate. Funding for this initiative, in the amount of \$972, will come from the teacher supply budget and will cover a base stipend as well as ten sessions at \$70 each. The deadline for submission to the contest is October 9, 2025, and this opportunity will allow

our students to showcase their talents while representing Mendham Township on a broader stage.

### **Looking Ahead**

Upcoming Board meetings include the Regular Session on September 24, followed by Work Session on October 14. Student representative involvement will begin next month.

### **Board of Education Information – Presentations**

Tonight, I will present an overview of the statewide shift to adaptive assessments (NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive). The NJDOE is piloting a fall field test and moving toward full administration in spring 2026. I will outline the rationale, goals, and concerns raised by superintendents, as well as what this means for Mendham Township.

### **Concerns with Adaptive Assessments**

- Mask individual strengths by funneling struggling and advanced students into “average” categories based on early performance.
- Make it nearly impossible for students to rebound mid-test, distorting growth monitoring
- Undercut MTSS efforts, making it harder to pinpoint student needs
- Lack sufficient breadth, leading to overlapping or repeated questions that reduce validity
- Do not allow students to skip or return to questions, which increases stress
- Heighten student anxiety, conflicting with efforts to promote social and emotional well-being
- Misused in public reporting, potentially eroding trust between communities, districts, and the NJDOE

### **Broader NJDOE Mandates and Strains on Districts**

- Recently changed literacy protocols (as late as May) forced districts to scramble
- Outdated QSAC monitoring continues to grow in demand
- Mandated field tests for new assessments further strain resources
- Decreasing funding and staffing despite increasing mandates
- New systems (NJSLEDS, NJEDCERT, EIS reporting) remain unreliable, yet districts are admonished for issues outside their control

### **Technology and Budgetary Concerns**

- Districts were not partners in planning, leaving them uninformed about tech requirements
- Ongoing budget reductions make it difficult to pivot if new hardware/software is needed

### **Impact on Instructional Time**

- Field tests reduce instructional time for students
- Professional development on new assessments takes time away from PD focused on pedagogy and instructional improvement

## VI. Assistant Superintendent's Report

### Special Education

- *All In Update: I am pleased to share an update on our work with All In and our continued professional development efforts this year to support the best practices and strategies in co-teaching. Our visits kick off on 9/26.*

*Our calendar for the year has been set, and each month, Brittany will be with us twice a month. The first visit will be a hands-on time in the classroom. The second visit will be for reflection, debriefing, and a supportive coaching model.*

*Time with Brittany will also include support and professional development on inclusive strategies for our special area teachers, as well as support for our paraprofessionals.*

*We are looking forward to a great year working with Brittany and All In.*

**VII. Board President's Report** - Thank you to the administration for getting the VP positions filled in such a timely manner. Congratulations on the new hires. I am excited to meet them both. Also, as a reminder, with committee reports, please stick to the agenda so that things continue to run smoothly.

**VIII. Correspondence - None.**

## IX. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum and School Programs** - Mr. Keeling delivered the report.
- **DEIB** - Mrs. Carrino Tamasi delivered the report.
- **Operations and Finance** - Mr. Keeling delivered the report.
- **Personnel and Human Resources** - Mr. Dumovic delivered the report.
- **Policy** - Mrs. Orban Brown delivered the report.
- **Ad Hoc - Referendum/ROD Grant** - Mrs. Orban Brown delivered the report.

## X. Consent Items

### Approval of Minutes

Regular Session Minutes: August 26, 2025

Executive Session Minutes: August 26, 2025

### Curriculum and School Programs

#### 1. Paraprofessional Staff 2025-2026

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the submission of the Paraprofessional Staff Statement of Assurance for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. **Field Trip** (*Attachment*)

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

3. **Elementary School Fundraiser for 2025-2026 School Year**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following fundraiser activity for the 2025-2026 school year:

Date	Activity	Description
September 2025 - June 2026	Ronald McDonald Project	4th Graders will collect tabs to help families at the Ronald McDonald House.

**Operations and Finance**

1. **Certification Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education certify, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a), 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, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(B), after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports for August 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 August 2025 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

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

4. **August 2025 Transfer Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approve the August 2025 transfer report.

5. **September 2025 Bills List**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the August Bills List. This includes payroll checks N5585 through N5587 and N5588 through N5590.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	\$
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	\$
Fund 20 - Grant Account	\$
Fund 30 - Referendum Account	\$
Fund 80 - Unemployment Account	\$

Total: \$

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. **Interlocal Agreement with Mendham Township** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Interlocal Agreement with Mendham Township for shared custodial services effective September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

8. **Joint Transportation Agreement - To and From for the 2025-2026 School Year** (*Attachments*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following joint transportation agreements between the Mendham Township Board of Education and the following school district for the 2025-2026 school year:

Dover Public Schools - ECLC

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the revised joint transportation agreement between the Mendham Township Board of Education and the following school district for the 2025-2026 school year:

Hanover Township School District - PG Chambers

**Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **Rescind - Elizabeth Carney** (*Attachment*)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Elizabeth Carney for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. **Staff Resignation - Annemarie Stolting** (Attachment)  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Annemarie Stolting dated and effective August 7, 2025.
  
3. **Suspension With Pay**  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension, with pay, of employee #20465167 effective Monday, September 8, 2025, pending further review.
  
4. **New Hire - Arielle Rementilla, Elementary School Vice Principal** (Attachment)  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Arielle Rementilla as an Elementary School Vice Principal, pending completion of paperwork, at a prorated salary of \$85,000.00 effective September 25, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.
  
5. **New Hire - Edita Puntiel, Transportation Driver** (Attachment)  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Edita Puntiel as a full-time Transportation Driver, pending completion of paperwork, at an hourly rate of \$33.07 effective September 25, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.
  
6. **New Hire - Russell Nordmark, Transportation Driver** (Attachment)  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Russell Nordmark as a full-time Transportation Driver, pending completion of paperwork, at an hourly rate of \$33.07 effective September 25, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.
  
7. **Leave of Absence (REVISED-3) – Jillian Glander**  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves Jillian Glander, Special Education Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing on September 15, 2025, under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after 2 weeks on September 26, 2025, and under the NJ Family Leave Act (NJFLA), ending after 5 weeks on October 24, 2025.  
  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves Jillian Glander with an anticipated return to work date of October 27, 2025.
  
8. **Middle School Extra Teaching Periods for 2025-2026**  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following staff member to teach extra periods of instruction during the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 08, 2025, at a prorated stipend based on \$8,500/year for an additional period five (5) times a week for a full year, and independent of placement on the salary guide.

**Extra Instructional Periods**

Math Support Period 6	4 period/wk	Charlene Pintado	\$6,800
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9. **Elementary School Extra Instructional Periods for 2025-2026**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following staff member to teach extra periods of instruction during the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 15, 2025, at a prorated stipend based on \$8,500/year for an additional period five (5) times a week for a full year, and independent of placement on the salary guide.

**Extra Instructional Periods**

ES Multi-Sensory Reading Program Zero Period	5 period/wk	Dawn Cullinan	\$8,500
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5. **Middle School Schedule B Stipend Position for 2025-2026**

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

**CO-CURRICULAR Activity (Schedule B)**

Activity	2025-2026 Salary	Staff Member
Choir Club Grades 5-8 (1 hour each) Zero Period or after school	\$272.00 base + Max of 10 events @ \$70.00 each, not to exceed a total of \$972.00	Stephen Dodrv

11. **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.

12. **Substitute Teachers – Reappointments**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education reappoints substitute teachers Stephanie Manson and Michelle Scaramellino for the 2025-2026 school year at the current rate of \$125.00 per full day and \$62.50 per half day.

13. **Substitute Lunch Aide - Erika Romero**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Erika Romero as a Substitute Lunch/Recess Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.00 effective September 25, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Policy and Planning**

1. **First Reading** (*Attachments*)

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

- P 5440 Honoring Student Achievement
- P 5460 Commencement Activities
- P 5500 Expectations for Student Conduct (M)
- R 5500 Expectations for Student Conduct
- R 5511 Dress Code
- P 5519 Dating Violence at School (M)
- R 5519 Dating Violence at School (M)
- P 5520 Disorder and Demonstration
- R 5533 Student Smoking
- P 5550 Disaffected Students (M)
- R 5550 Disaffected Students (M)
- P 5560 Disruptive Students (M)
- R 5560 Disruptive Students (M)
- P 5570 Sportsmanship
- P 5700 Student Rights
- P 5701 Academic Integrity
- P 5710 Student Grievance
- P 5721 Independent Publications
- R 5721 Distribution of Independent Publications
- R 5750 Equal Educational Opportunity Complaint Procedure (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 5130 Withdrawal from School (M)
- R 5130 Withdrawal from School (M)
- P 5230 Late Arrival and Early Dismissal
- R 5230 Late Arrival and Early Dismissal
- P 5240 Tardiness
- R 5240 Tardiness

- P 5250 Excusal from Class or Program
- P 5300 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS) (M)
- R 5300 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS) (M)
- P 5307 Nursing Services Plan (M)
- P 5331 Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools (M)
- R 5331 Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools (M)
- P 5332 Do Not Resuscitate Orders (M)
- P 5335 Treatment of Asthma (M)
- P 5338 Diabetes Management (M)
- R 5338 Diabetes Management (M)
- P 5410 Promotion and Retention (M)
- R 5410 Promotion and Retention (M)
- P 5411 Promotion from Eighth Grade
- P 5420 Reporting Pupil Progress (M)
- R 5420 Reporting Pupil Progress (M)

Second Reading of Strauss Esmay Policy Alert No. 235 (Attachments)

A. Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures

- P 0173 Duties of Public School Accountant (Revised)
- P 0174 Legal Services (M) (Revised)
- P 0177 Professional Services (M) (Revised)
- P 1570 Internal Controls (M) (Revised)
- R 1570 Internal Controls (M) (Revised)
- P 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised)
- P 6111 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (Revised)
- R 6111 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (Revised)
- P 6220 Budget Preparation (M) (Revised)
- R 6220 Budget Preparation (Revised)

B. General Policy and Regulation Updates

- P 0143 Board Member Election and Appointment (Revised)
- P 1636.01 Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities (New)
- P 1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings - Covid-19 (M)  
(Abolished)
- P 2422 Statutory Curricular Requirements (M) (Revised)
- P 5339.01 Student Sun Protection (M) (New)

## **XI. ACTION ITEM**

### **Personnel and Human Resources**

1. **Leave Replacement - Zachary Kleiman, Elementary School Music Teacher** *(Attachment)*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending completion of paperwork, of Zachary Kleiman as a full-time Leave Replacement Elementary School Music Teacher, effective September 17, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at a prorated salary of \$58,890.00, BA, Step 1.

**Mr. Dumovic moved to approve the Action Items for September 16, 2025; Personnel and Human Resources item 1, seconded by Mr. Keeling, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Orban Brown; yes, Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi; yes, Mrs. Crossan; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, and Mrs. Mody, yes – motion carries.**

## **XII. Discussion - None.**

## **XIII. Verbal Communications from the Public - None.**

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Moved by Dr. Mandel, seconded by Mrs. Orban Brownl, to adjourn the Work Session Monthly Meeting of September 16, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary