

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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

Four 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. Student Representative to the Board of Education

➤ **Student Representative - Rohan Mody**

Hello everyone, my name is Rohan, and I'm the class representative of the eighth grade. I'm meeting with you all every month to inform you on what's happening at MTMS. I want you to think of me as your eyes into the middle school.

A few weeks ago, students participated in field day, which is an event that takes place twice a year where students get to run around and partake in various activities. We all really enjoyed this event because it was engaging and allowed us to take a break from academics.

Another fun and enriching opportunity was the 8th-grade trip, which happened on Friday, that involved visiting the UN, the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, eating at the Ellis State Diner, and taking pictures at the Top of the Rock. We 8th graders had a great time and were able to learn how the world operates and functions in real time.

Last week was a very eventful week because it was also the week of respect, in which students learned about respecting others through a motivational speaker in an assembly.

Though I've mainly been talking about events in the past, 5th and 6th graders also have a dance to look forward to this upcoming Friday night. This event is sponsored by the student council, and those planning the dance have put a lot of effort into making sure everyone has a memorable experience.

Another thing to look forward to is Red Ribbon Week, which takes place in two weeks. In order to deter students from drugs and make them value their health, the school has put together a spirit week where each day has a different theme, like pajamas or jeans.

That's a summary of the exciting start to the year we've had, and I hope you enjoyed the presentation. Thank you so much for having me, and I look forward to giving you end-of-season reports for fall sports teams at the next meeting.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- District Updates, News, and Events

Other Items

- Teacher Observation Updates
- Great In-Service program yesterday
 - AI and department meetings MTMS
 - Literacy skills and CKLA implementation across the curriculum at MTES
- AI Integration Update - continued rollout of AI reflection templates, PD for teachers on AI writing feedback
- Preparing for adaptive assessment (Cambium/NJSLA-Adaptive)
- MCSBA Presentation - connection between fiscal planning and student outcomes, part of "From Budgets to Brilliance" framework.
- MTMS E-Sports program had its first match today against a team from Western Pennsylvania. They are going to be a pilot team in the Garden State E-Sports league with hopes to join as a member for 26-27.
- The second MTES Parent Forum, led by facilitator and parent Taylor Buonocore Guthrie with support from Dr. Constantino, will be held on Sunday, October 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM to discuss how technology, phones, and social media shape modern parenting. The event is a facilitated discussion—not a presentation—designed to help parents share experiences, reflect, and learn from one another.

Mr. Dumovic commented on the MCSBA Presentation, noting that it went well as expected. The entire BOE should be proud of how Dr. Constantino and Mrs. Mosner represented our district.

Mrs. Orban Brown also commented about the presentation and asked Dr. Constantino to share it with the rest of the BOE. It will be helpful during the budget.

VII. Assistant Superintendent's Report - None.

VIII. Board President's Report - None.

IX. Correspondence - None.

X. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum and School Programs** - Mr. Keeling delivered the report.
- **DEIB** - Mrs. Carrino Tamasi delivered the report.
- **Operations and Finance** - Dr. Mandel 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.

XI. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes: September 16, 2025

Regular Session Minutes: September 24, 2025

Curriculum and School Programs

1. Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2025-2026 school year (Attachments)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached activities to be held at the Mendham Township Elementary School and the Mendham Township Middle School in observance of the Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Middle School Holiday Concert Selections (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the Middle School's Holiday Concert Programs for the December 2025 performances.

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.

4. Contract with AssistiveTek - Brian Friedlander

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Brian Friedlander of AssistiveTek to provide AT Training at the following rate of \$500.00 for two hours.

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 October 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 September 2025 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. Treasurer's Report

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

4. September 2025 Transfer Reports

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

5. October 2025 Bills List

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the October 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 60 - Cafeteria 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. **School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports** *(Attachments)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports from Mendham Borough's Hilltop Elementary School and Mountain View Middle School, and Mendham Township Elementary and Middle Schools.

8. **Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act**

WHEREAS, the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act, P.L. 2018, c. 119 (the "Bond Act"), provides \$100 million in grant funding for eligible work to remediate water contamination in school districts.

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township School District (the "District") has determined to apply for grant funding from the New Jersey Department of Education ("NJDOE") under the Bond Act for eligible work to remediate water contamination.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the District's Board of Education (the "Board") approves the submission of the grant application, the acceptance of funds granted thereunder, the availability of local funds should the total estimated cost of the proposed work exceed the District's grant allowance, and the sustainability plan for filtration or flushing solutions.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Leave Replacement - Alexandra Otto, Middle School Counselor** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment, pending completion of paperwork, of Alexandra Otto as a full-time Leave Replacement Middle School Counselor, effective November 12, 2025, through March 27, 2026, at a prorated salary of \$63,990.00, MA, Step 1.

2. **Elementary 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 Elementary School:

CO-CURRICULAR Activity (Schedule B)

Activity	2025-2026 Salary	Staff Member
Chess Club Spring Session	\$272.00 base + Max of 10 events @ \$70.00 each, not to exceed a total of \$972.00	Dori Smyth

3. **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 October 1, 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

Special Education Instructional Support Period	5 period/wk	Carol Hueston	\$8,500
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4. **Extra Hours - Karina Chacon, Middle School Spanish Teacher**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves extra hours, at an hourly rate of \$42.42, for Karina Chacon to serve as an aide for student #15360987 for a band concert at WMC on 10/09/25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

5. **Extra Hours - Cindy Blood, Middle School Instructional Aide**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves extra hours, at an hourly rate of \$34.43, for Cindy Blood to provide 1:1 student services for all extracurricular activities for the 2025-2026 school year.

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 Lunch Aide - Magen Constantinescu**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Magen Constantinescu as a Substitute Lunch/Recess Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective October 29, 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 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

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 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)

XII. ACTION ITEMS

Personnel and Human Resources

1. Leave of Absence (REVISED) – Carolyn Allen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Carolyn Allen, Kindergarten Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing on October 20, 2025, utilizing 27.5 Sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Carolyn Allen with a return to work date of December 3, 2025.

2. New Hire - Tammy Torres, Transportation Driver (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Tammy Torres as a full-time Transportation Driver, pending completion of paperwork, at an hourly rate of \$33.07 effective October 15, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.

3. Termination of Employment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby terminates the employment of employee #20465167 effective October 10, 2025.

Mrs. Orban Brown moved to approve the Action Items for October 14, 2025; Personnel and Human Resources items 1-3, 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.

XIII. Discussion - None.

XIV. Verbal Communications from the Public - None.

XV. Adjournment

Moved by Dr. Mandel, seconded by Mrs. Orban Brownl, to adjourn the Work Session monthly Meeting of October 14, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary