

Mansfield Township Board of Education



Thursday, January 29, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Alison Lorentson, President

Roll Call - Gail Libby, Acting Board Secretary

Mansfield Township Board of Education

Alison Lorentson, President	Judy Irwin	Richard Stewart
Linda Watters, Vice President	Jonathan Lemp	James J. Winand
Sean Breheney	Jonathan Rood	

Pledge of Allegiance - Alison Lorentson

Executive Session -

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the board of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- ☐ *Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule*
- ☐ *Pending Litigation*
- ☒ *Personnel Matters*
- ☒ *Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege*
- ☐ *Confidential Student Matters*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education reserves the right to discuss such other matters rendered confidential by law should the need arise;

and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Approval to go into Executive Session,

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to move to Closed Session at _____ (time) for approximately _____ minutes. Action will / will not be taken upon return to open session. Voice Vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to return to Open Session at _____ (time). Voice Vote.

President's Announcement**Statement of Advance Notice**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, The Mansfield Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the District website and in the Mansfield Township Municipal Building, and sent to the following newspapers: *The Express Times and Star Ledger*

Oath of Office**Three (3) Three-Year Terms:**

James Winand

President's Report - Alison Lorentson**Superintendent's Report** - Diana Mai

- School Board Recognition Month
- Strategic Planning
- HIB Report

Administrators' Reports

- Business Administrator - Gail Libby
-Board member mandatory annual training

Communications and Petitions (If required) – The Superintendent and members of the Board may acknowledge any communications and/or petitions received.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only, in accordance with Board Policy 6130 which is available for review on our website, will be heard at this time. Each speaker must state their name, address, and group affiliation, if applicable. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.

The Board bears no responsibility for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Consent Agenda - Recommended Action(s)

Board Member: Linda Watters

Approval of Minutes and Reports

1. Motion to approve the open and closed session **minutes** of the December 11, 2025 Regular meeting.
2. Motion to approve the open and closed session **minutes** of the January 5, 2026 Reorganization meeting.
3. Motion to receive/approve the **HIB Report Cases**, as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Month/Year	HIB #	Founded (Y/N)	Remediation (Y/N)	Discipline (Y/N)	Counseling (Y/N)
July 2025	none				
Aug. 2025	none				
Sept. 2025	none				
Oct. 2025	none				
Nov. 2025	none				
Dec. 2025	none				
Jan. 2026	1	Y	Y	Y	Y
Feb. 2026					
Mar. 2026					
Apr. 2026					
May 2026					
June 2026					

MOTION:					SECOND:				
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Sean Breheney					Richard Stewart				
Judy Irwin					Linda Watters				
Jonathan Lemp					James J. Winand				
Jonathan Rood					Alison Lorentson				

Approval Agenda

Chair: Linda Watters

Education/Policy Committee - Recommended Action(s):

MOTION:					SECOND:				
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Sean Breheney					Richard Stewart				
Judy Irwin					Linda Watters				
Jonathan Lemp					James J. Winand				
Jonathan Rood					Alison Lorentson				

Approval Agenda

Chair: James Winand

Personnel Committee - Recommended Action(s)

1. Motion to approve horizontal movement on the salary guide for **Erin Granitski**, Teacher, from BA +15/Step 5 to MA/Step 5, effective February 1, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.
2. Motion to approve horizontal movement on the salary guide for **Laurie O'Brien**, Teacher, from MA + 45/Step 19 to MA + 60/Step 19, effective February 1, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.
3. Motion to approve horizontal movement on the salary guide for **Kristi Putignano**, Teacher, from BA/Step 5 to BA+15/Step 5, effective February 1, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent.
4. Motion to approve the **appointments and transfers** of the below staff members, as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Employee	Position	Salary/Guide Step	Effective Date
Sophie Andershonis	Substitute Teacher	\$125 p.d.	1/30/26 (pending paperwork)
Jane Carr	Substitute Teacher	\$125 p.d.	1/30/26 (pending paperwork)
Daniel Weissman	Leave Replacement Teacher (Grade 4)	Step 1/MA Per diem	1/30/26-4/13/26

5. Motion to approve the below staff requests for **Tuition Reimbursement**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Employee	School/Course	Date(s)	District Cost
Selena Donaldson	William Paterson University / ELLM 5140 Instructional Design	3/23/26-5/10/26	\$1873.65
Selena Donaldson	William Paterson University / ELRL 6170 Young Children's Literacy & Curriculum Design	5/18/26-7/5/26	\$1873.65

6. Motion to approve the below placements of **Student Teachers/Student Observation Hours** for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Student	School/Experience	Date(s)	Cooperating Teacher
James Craig	Centenary University Practicum Student	2/2/26-5/31/26	Lauren Linus

Emily Boniface	Centenary University Student Teacher	3/2/26-5/15/26	Corin Francisco & Jen Micucci
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7. Motion to approve the below **Leaves of Absence** as recommended by the Superintendent.

Employee	Type of Leave	Date(s)
#51411387	FMLA	1/8/26-4/12/26
#21997499	FMLA	1/9/26 - ~~2/7/26~~ 4/6/26
#88594460	Unpaid Leave of Absence	5/1/26-start of 26/27 school year
#18281857	Unpaid Leave of Absence	4/17/26-6/1/26

8. Motion to approve the below staff requests for **Professional Development**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Employee	Event/Provider	Date(s)	District Cost
Joe Kady	Annual NJSBGA Expo and Conference/Harrah's Atlantic City	3/22/26 to 3/25/26	\$350 Registration \$300 Hotel \$141.00 Mileage \$11.26 Tolls

MOTION:					SECOND:				
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Sean Breheney					Richard Stewart				
Judy Irwin					Linda Watters				
Jonathan Lemp					James J. Winand				
Jonathan Rood					Alison Lorentson				

Township Liaison Agenda

Township Chair:

Township Committee - Recommended Action(s):

1. No requested action/update as needed.

Approval Agenda

Chair: Judy Irwin

Facilities/Finance Committee - Recommended Action(s)

1. Motion to approve the below **Resolution**:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby **authorizes the extension and expansion of the engagement of Peter J. Fallon, Esq., as Special Legal Counsel**, to conduct continued and additional internal investigative services, including any new or supplemental matters that may arise, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in his proposal dated November 5, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$190; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby **approves additional funds** or these services in an amount **not to exceed \$12,500**,

2. Motion to approve the **payment of bills** for the period of December 12, 2025 through January 29, 2026, as presented, in the amount of \$1,717,320.92, as recommended by the Superintendent.
3. Motion to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Board Secretary for December 31, 2025, and after review of the **Board Secretary's and December 31, 2025 Treasurer's Reports**, certify that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 and 4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year, and that no budgetary line-item account has been exceeded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1, and that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditure, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A23-2.11(a).
4. Motion to approve the annual Mansfield Township School District's **Indoor Air Quality Program Plan** for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.
5. Motion to approve line item **transfers** for December 2025.
6. Motion to approve the Literacy Initiative for Families and Thriving Communities (LIFT) Competitive Grant in the amount of \$19,946, as recommended by the Superintendent.
7. Motion to approve the below requests for Facilities **Usage** as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Requesting Party	Event/Location Requested	Dates	Cost to Use
Jen Cagnasola	Spring Concert -Gym	5/19/26	0
Diana Mai	Strategic Planning- APR	3/11/26	0
Diana Mai	Strategic Planning- APR	3/18/26	0
Diana Mai	Strategic Planning- APR	4/1/26	0

8. Approval of Submission of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Amendment Application for Fiscal Year 2026 to Include Carryover Funds as follows:

100-500 - \$40,914
100-600 - \$8,797
200-300 - \$119,960
200-600 - \$15,206
200-800 - \$0
TOTAL: - \$184,877 (includes carryover of \$8,963)

MOTION:					SECOND:				
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Sean Breheny					Richard Stewart				
Judy Irwin					Linda Watters				
Jonathan Lemp					James J. Winand				
Jonathan Rood					Alison Lorentson				

Potential Board Member Interview

Public Comment

Public Comment, in accordance with Board Policy 6130 which is available for review on our website, will be heard at this time. Each speaker must state their name, address, and group affiliation, if applicable. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.

The Board bears no responsibility for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

New Business - Members of the Board may introduce any new item or topic of discussion for the Board to consider.

Old Business - Members of the Board may comment on any item or topic that was previously discussed by the Board.

Future Board Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 19, 2026
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Thursday, June 11, 2026
Thursday, July 16, 2026 (if needed)
Thursday, August 20, 2026
Thursday, September 17, 2026

Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Budget Hearing Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026
Thursday, November 19, 2026
Thursday, December 10, 2026
Wednesday, January 5, 2027

Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Regular Business Meeting
Annual Reorganization Meeting

Executive Session (if needed)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- ☐ *Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule*
- ☐ *Pending Litigation*
- ☐ *Personnel Matters*
- ☐ *Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege*
- ☐ *Confidential Student Matters*
- ☐ *Potential Board of Education Member*

Approval to go into Executive Session

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to move to Closed Session at _____ (time) for approximately _____ minutes. Action will / will not be taken upon return to open session. Voice Vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to return to Open Session at _____ (time). Voice Vote.

Appointment of New Board of Education Member

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Mansfield Township District Board of Education, that upon reviewing the qualifications of _____, the Board hereby appoints _____ as a member of the School Board effective January 30, 2026, with a term ending January 4, 2027, due to their extensive experience in education and commitment to our community.

Adjournment

Recommended Action - Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to Adjourn the meeting at _____ (time). Voice Vote.