

**Magnolia School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 16, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Mr. Nick D’Amico opened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Roll Call	Mrs. Rebecca Ammen	Present
	Mr. Mark Godfrey	Present
	Mrs. Jennifer Jackson	Present
	Mr. Dale Martin	Present
	Mrs. Karen Sorbello	Phone In
	Mrs. Alyssa Vazquez-Colon	Present
	Mr. Nick D’Amico	Present

Other Attendees	Mrs. Karen Macpherson, Superintendent
	Mr. Greg Gontowski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mission Statement	Mission Statement was read by Nick D’Amico.
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Presentation	Presentation – Mr. Loper and the students shared an exciting preview of their holiday performance.
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Election Results	ELECTION RESULTS
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Regular Term:
Jennifer Jackson – 1,338 votes
Mark Godfrey – 1,150 votes
Richard Levi Cruz – 10 votes

Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the Regular Session Board of Education meeting held on November 18, 2025
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Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: To approve Minutes
Voice Vote. All in favor ** Vazquez-Colon and Godfrey – Abstained
Motion Approved

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Audience Participation I	Open Audience Participation I – <u>AGENDA ITEMS ONLY</u>
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Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded by Mark Godfrey

Vote: To approve opening of Audience Participation I
Voice Vote. All in favor

None

Close Audience Participation I

Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded by Dale Martin

Vote: To approve closing of Audience Participation I
Voice vote. All in favor

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

**State and Local
School Boards
Association**

- Karen Sorbello – Provided updates on recent NJ School Boards (Delegate Assembly) business.

**Superintendent's
Report**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Informational Items:

1. The Multiply Disabled classes held their Friendsgiving celebration on November 25, 2025, and the Preschool classes held their Friendsgiving with families on November 26, 2025. Both events were a great success, and each received a special visit from the Magnolia School Turkey.
2. Parent-Teacher Conferences were held from December 10 through December 12, 2025. Attendance was strong across all grade levels, and the sessions provided valuable opportunities for families and staff to discuss student progress and goals.

B. Curriculum/Programs *(No items at this time)*

C. Interdistrict

1. The Curriculum Supervisors met and discussed reinstituting the Interdistrict Professional Day in March.

D. Public Relations/Liaison *(No items at this time)*

E. Student/Parental Issues and Concerns

(No items at this time)

F. Buildings and Grounds

1. A fire drill was conducted on November 25, 2025.
2. A shelter-in-place drill was conducted on November 26, 2025.

G. Negotiations/Contractual (*Executive Session*)

1. Review of the Board of Education Self-Evaluation for the 2024–2025 school year.

H. Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB)

(No items at this time)

I. Miscellaneous

(No items at this time)

J. Principal's Report

1. Principal's Report - November 2025
2. Nursing Report - November 2025

A. Personnel

Motion to Approve Personnel Items 1 through 11

**Paul Sorrentino –
Attend NJASRO
Training 12/1/25-
12/5/25**

**Marissa Greenberg,
Julie Kemble and
David Rymer – Attend
Meeting at Sterling
High School**

1. Approval of Paul Sorrentino to attend NJASRO training for School Resource Officers and School Liaisons on December 1 through December 5, 2025, at a cost of \$475.00.
2. Approval of the following staff members to attend a meeting at Sterling Regional High School to review programming and placement for incoming students to support district SEL initiatives, at a rate of \$40 per hour for 1 hour, to be funded through Title II (200-100):

Last Name	First Name
Greenberg	Marissa
Kemble	Julie
Rymer	David

Dylan Smith and Steve Taylor – Attend Data Detectives 12/18/25 and Fractions 1/15/26

3. Approval for the following staff members to attend *Data Detectives* on December 18, 2025, and *Fractions* on January 15, 2026, with Cheryl Fricchione of Coaching That Counts, at a total cost of \$298.00, to be funded through Title II (200-500):

Last Name	First Name
Smith	Dylan
Taylor	Steve

Alison Gilley and Leah Hallahan – Attend Fractions 1/15/26

4. Approval for the following staff members to attend *Fractions* on January 15, 2026, with Cheryl Fricchione of Coaching That Counts, at a total cost of \$298.00, to be funded through Title II (200-500):

Last Name	First Name
Gilley	Allison
Hallahan	Leah

Kelly Livingston and Karen Macpherson – Attend NJ Association of School Administrator Women in Leadership Conference 3/9/26 and 3/10/26

5. Approval for the following staff members to attend the NJ Association of School Administrators Women in Leadership Conference on March 9–10, 2026. The registration fee of \$499.00 per attendee, along with hotel, mileage, and miscellaneous expenses, will be funded through the general fund:

Last Name	First Name
Livingston	Kelly
Macpherson	Karen

Nicholas Meehl – Complete Coursework at Rutgers 25-26

NJFLA – Employee #615 1/5/26-5/25/26

NJFLA – Employee #713 3/30/26-9/1/26

6. Approval of Nicholas Meehl to complete coursework at Rutgers University during the 2025-2026 school year in pursuit of a Master's in School Administration, with reimbursement in accordance with the Magnolia School Education Association (MSEA) contract.
7. Approval of a maternity/NJFLA leave of absence for employee #615, effective January 5, 2026 through May 25, 2026, returning to work on May 26, 2026.
8. Approval of a parental/NJFLA leave of absence for employee #713, effective March 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026, returning to work on September 1, 2026.

**Pauline Haigh –
Substitute Nurse 25-26**

9. Approval of Pauline Haigh as a substitute nurse for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$250.00 a day. Start date to be determined upon receipt of fingerprinting approval.

**Rowan Students Kayla
Arnold, Jack
Crawford, Elizabeth
Giordano and Avery
Ingram – To Complete
Their Clinical
Placement 1/27/26-
3/24/26**

10. Approval of Rowan University students Kayla Arnold, Jack Crawford, Elizabeth Giordano, and Avery Ingram to complete their clinical placement consisting of eight (8) prescheduled visits per semester (2.5 hours per day, one day per week—Tuesdays, mornings only) with Gunner Loper, music teacher, effective January 27, 2026 through March 24, 2026. (**Attachment A1**)

**Rowan Students
Kimberly Good and
Samantha Slashinski –
To Complete Clinical
Placement 2/3/26-
4/2/26**

11. Approval of Rowan University students Kimberly Good and Samantha Slashinski to complete their clinical placement consisting of sixteen (16) prescheduled visits per semester (7 hours per day, two days per week - Tuesdays and Thursdays) with Olivia Heyser, 1st grade teacher, effective February 3, 2026 through April 2, 2026. (**Attachment A2**)

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, second by Dale Martin

Vote: to Approve Personnel Items 1 through 11

Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, Mrs. Vazquez-Colom and Mr. D’Amico (7-0-0)

Motion Approved

B. Students

(No items at this time)

C. Programs

(No items at this time)

D. Trips

Motion to Approve Trip Item 1

**Field Trio to Spectrum
Sports 1/30/26**

1. Approval for the Multiply Disabled classes to participate in a field trip to Spectrum Sports in Deptford on January 30, 2026, with transportation costs covered by the Board of Education in the amount of \$262.50.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, second by Dale Martin

Vote: to Approve Trip Item 1

Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, Mrs. Vazquez-Colom and Mr. D’Amico (7-0-0)

Motion Approved

E. Plans

(No items at this time)

F. Job Descriptions

(No items at this time)

G. Facilities

(No items at this time)

H. Policies

**Second Reading of
Policies and
Regulations**

1. Second Reading - Approval of new, revised, and/or updated policies and/or regulations provided by Strauss Esmay Associates pursuant to the authorization granted at the Special Meeting held on May 25, 2010, allowing the Superintendent to implement policy updates from Strauss Esmay Associates in advance of formal board approval. (**Attachment H1**)

P 2530	Resource Materials (Revised)
R 2530	Resource Materials (New)
P 2535	Library Material (M) (New)
R 2535	Library Material (M) (New)
P 9130	Public Complaints (Revised)
R 9130	Public Complaints (New)

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, second by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon

Vote: to Approve Item H 1

Voice Vote. All in favor

Motion Approved

**Board Secretary
Report**

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Informational Items:

-Governance Training – Due December 31, 2025

-Reminder that the Reorganization date has been changed to Monday, January 5, 2026

Board Actions

Board Actions:

Motion to Approve Items A Through D

Monthly Reports

A. Monthly Reports

The Budget Summary and Revenue Summary for the month of October 2025.
(Attachment A1 & A2)

Transfers

B. Transfer of Funds

The attached transfer list, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, for the month of October 2025. **(Attachment B1)**

Financial Reports

C. Financial Reports

1. Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of October 2025. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **(Attachment C1).**
2. Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of October 2025. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's report are in agreement for the month of October 2025. **(Attachment C2).**
3. Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
4. Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 4 We certify that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Bill List

D. Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- Warrants **(Attachment D1)**
- Payroll **(Attachment D2)**

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, second by Rebecca Ammen

Vote: to Approve Items A through D

Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, Mrs. Vazquez-Colom and Mr. D'Amico (7-0-0) ** Mr. D'Amico – Abstained to ESS

Motion Approved

Motion to Approve Items E and F

Form 326

E. Form 326

To approve the attached food service procurement procedures (Form 326).
(Attachment E1) (Note: To reflect change to bid threshold)

**Federal Grant Salaries
– Revised**

F. Federal Grant Salaries - Revised

To approve the following salaries to be paid through federal grant funds for the 2025-2026 school year:

Title I – Lorraine Shields - \$49,853.00 – 54.33%

IDEA Preschool – Ke’ahilani Noane-Carter - \$7,547.00 – 28.84%

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, second by Dale Marten

Vote: to Approve Items E and F

Roll Call Vote. All in favor: Mrs. Ammen, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Sorbello, Mrs. Vazquez-Colom and Mr. D’Amico (7-0-0)

**Audience
Participation II**

Open Audience Participation II

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Seconded by Mark Godfrey

**Vote: To approve opening of Audience Participation I
Voice Vote. All in favor**

- None

Close Audience Participation II

Motioned by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon, Seconded by Rebecca Ammen

**Vote: To approve closing of Audience Participation II
Voice vote. All in favor**

**Recess into Closed
Session**

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION at approximately 7:08 p.m.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately 7:30 p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is Board Self valuation)
;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

Motioned by Rebecca Ammen, Seconded Alyssa Vazquez-Colon

Vote: To Enter Executive Session
Voice Vote. All in favor (7-0-0)

Action will not be taken after Executive Session

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING 7:28 pm

Motioned by Mark Godfrey, Seconded by Jennifer Jackson

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:29 pm by Alyssa Vazquez-Colon Second by Mark Godfrey

Vote: To Adjourn meeting
Voice Vote. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Gontowski
Board Secretary