

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Mrs. Elisabeth Carrino-Tamasi	President
Dr. Rekha Mandel	Vice President
Mrs. Cynthia Brusco	
Mrs. Natasha Crossan	
Mr. Peter Dumovic	
Mr. Thomas Keeling	
Dr. Christina Klausner	

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
- Ms. Margitt Trocha, Retirement
- MTES Students

VII. Board Secretary's Report

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. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Regular Session Minutes: January 20, 2026

Curriculum and School Programs

1. **Approval of Middle School Summer Reading** *(Attachments)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the adoption of the attached required summer reading for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. **Field Trips & Events** *(Attachment)*
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trips and events 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 January 2026, 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 January 2026 Board Secretary's Reports.
3. **Treasurer's Report**
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the January 2026 Treasurer's Reports.

4. **January 2026 Transfer Reports**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the January 2026 transfer report.

5. **February 2026 Bills List**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the February 2026 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N5677 through N5679 and N5680 through N5682.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	\$ 69,817.49
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	\$ 2,490,201.32
Fund 20 - Grant Account	\$ 3,000.00
Fund 40 - Debt Service	\$ 236,168.75
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account	\$ 60,277.98
Fund 80 - Unemployment	\$ 23,090.36
Fund 95 - Athletic Account	<u>\$ 850.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 2,883,405.90</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. **Waiver of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program 2026-2027 (Attachment)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2026-2027 budget year, and

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid-eligible classified students, or participation in SEMI would not provide a cost-benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2026-2027 budget year, and

WHEREAS, the waiver request is based on the 2025-2026 Revenue report received from the NJ DOE, the free and reduced lunch count for special

education students, and the 2025-2026 Revenue Projection report from the NJDOE, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Morris an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Staff Resignation - Josue Terrazas Quintana, Transportation Driver**
(Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Josue Terrazas Quintana, Transportation Driver, dated January 16, 2026, effective January 30, 2026.

2. **Staff Resignation - Diana Gomez, Middle School Math Teacher**
(Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Diana Gomez, Middle School Math Teacher, dated January 7, 2026, effective June 30, 2026.

3. **Staff Resignation - Olga Espinoza, Middle School Spanish Teacher**
(Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Olga Espinoza, Middle School Spanish Teacher, dated February 12, 2026, effective April 17, 2026.

4. **Leave of Absence - Dori Smyth**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Dori Smyth, STEM Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing on January 27, 2026, utilizing 9 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Dori Smyth with a return to work date of February 9, 2026.

5. **Leave of Absence - Julia Coyne**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Julia Coyne, Assistant to the Business Administrator for Finance, for a leave of absence commencing on March 16, 2026, utilizing 10 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Julia Coyne with a return to work date of April 6, 2026.

6. **Leave of Absence**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves placing employee #4105 on paid leave status, effective January 23, 2026, pending receipt and review of required medical documentation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this period of leave, the employee shall utilize available accrued sick leave days in accordance with Board policy.

7. **New Hire - Yvonne Zarnitz, Transportation Driver** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Yvonne Zarnitz as a full-time Transportation Driver, pending completion of CDL and paperwork, at an hourly rate of \$33.07 effective February 18, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

8. **New Hire: Abigail Cogott, Bus Aide** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Abigail Cogott, pending completion of paperwork, as a Bus Aide at an hourly rate of \$22.00 effective February 18, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

9. **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.

10. **Substitute Teachers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Paige Durnan and Shane Romanko as substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, at the current rate of \$125.00 per day for the 2025-2026 school year.

11. **Job Description Review** *(Attachments)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following job descriptions:

10-Month Secretaries
12-Month Secretaries
Part-Time Elementary School Secretary
Part-Time Middle School Secretary

Assistant to the Business Administrator for Finance
Assistant to the Business Administrator for Operations
Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Special Services and Programs
Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Policy and Planning

1. First Readings (Attachments)

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

P 8311 Managing Electronic Mail
P 8335 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
R 8420 Emergency and Non-Fire Evacuation Plan (M)
R 8420.3 Natural Disasters and Man-Made Catastrophes (M)
R 8420.4 Kidnapping (M)
R 8420.5 Asbestos Release (M)
R 8420.6 Accidents To and From School (M)
P 8431 Preparedness for Toxic Hazard
R 8431 Toxic Hazard Preparedness
R 8442 Reporting Accidents
P 8451 Control of Communicable Disease (M)
R 8451 Control of Communicable Disease (M)
P 8453 HIV/AIDS
P 8468 Crisis Response
R 8468 Crisis Response
P 8506 School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan (M)
P 8601 Student Supervision After School Dismissal (M)
P 8613 Waiver of Student Transportation
P 8635 Student Transportation Vehicles and School Buses
P 8651 Community Use of Transportation (M)
R 8651 Non-Use of District Vehicles

2. Second Readings (Attachments)

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

P 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices (ECDR) (M)
R 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices
P 7421 Indoor Air Quality Standards
R 7421 Indoor Air Quality Standards
P 7422 School Integrated Pest Management Plan (M)
R 7422 School Integrated Pest Management Plan (M)

P 7433	Hazardous Substances
P 7434	Smoking in School Buildings and on School Grounds (M)
P 7435	Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises
P 7436	Drug Free Workplace (M)
P 7460	Energy Conservation
P 7480	Motor Vehicles on School Property
P 7490	Animals on School Property
P 7513	Recreational Use of Playgrounds
P 7520	Loan of School Equipment
P 7522	School District Provided Technology Devices to Staff Members
P 7650	School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting (M)
R 7650	School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting (M)
P 8130	School Organization (M)
P 8310	Public Records
R 8310	Public Records

Policy Alert No. 236

P 0142.1	Nepotism (M) (Revised)
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
P 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff (M) (New)
R 1552	Sexual Harassment - Staff (M) (New)
P 2530	Resource Materials (Revised)
R 2530	Resource Materials (Revised)
P 2535	Library Material (M) (New)
R 2535	Library Material (M) (New)
P 3362	Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
R 3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
P 4352	Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
R 4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint (Abolished)
P 9130	Public Complaints (Revised)
R 9130	Public Complaints (Revised)

XII. Adjourn to Closed EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive session under certain limited circumstances, and

WHEREAS, said the law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Mendham Township that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss a student matter. The matters discussed will be made

public if and when confidentiality is no longer required, and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.

XIII. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting

XIV. Discussion

XV. 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 that the issue be a discussion item at a future Board of Education meeting.

XVI. Adjournment