

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.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Name	Present	Absent
Sean Breheney	X	
Judy Irwin	X	
Jonathan Lemp	X	
Alison Lorentson	X	
Jonathan Rood		X
Richard Stewart	X	
Linda Watters	X	
James J. Winand	X 7:10 PM	

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Diana Mai, Superintendent

Ms. Gail M. Libby, Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance - *Ms. Lorentson conducted the Pledge of Allegiance*

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*.

President's Report - Alison Lorentson

No report

- *Ms. Lorentson stated that the Board would be going into Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes. Executive Session motioned by Linda Watters and seconded by Jonathan Lemp. ES began at 7:01 pm. Motion to reconvene Open Session by Linda Watters and seconded by Alison Lorentson at 7:45 pm.*

New Business

Oath Of Office - James Winand

Superintendent's Report - Diana Mai

- Ms. Mai discussed School Board Recognition Month
- The strategic planning dates were disclosed. Meeting dates will be March 11, March 18 and April 1 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Childcare will be provided at the March 18 session.
- Ms. Mai stated that there is (1) founded HIB case this school year.

Administrators' Reports

Acting Business Administrator - Gail Libby

- Ms. Libby discussed the annual Board member training, School Ethics Commission forms, NJSBA BOE member candidate packets.

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 - none

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					

On a Motion by Ms. Watters and seconded by Mr. Winand, the Consent Agenda was approved by the Mansfield Township Board of Education with a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

Approval Agenda

Chair: Linda Watters

Education/Policy Committee - Recommended Action(s):

1. Motion to approve a **Special Education Tuition Contract** with Frankford Township Board of Education for the provision of out of district educational services and accompanying related services for Student #9080183180, effective November 24, 2025 to June 30, 2026, at a prorated annual cost of \$61,907.72, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion to approve the First Reading of the below policies, as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent.

A. N.J.A.C 6A:23A-Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures

P 0142.1 Nepotism – Bylaw (M)

P 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator – Policy (M)

B. General Policy and Regulation Guide Updates

P & R 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff – Policy & Regulation (M) (NEW)

P & R 2530 Resource Materials – Policy & Regulation
 P & R 2535 Library Material – Policy & Regulation (M) (NEW)
 P 3362 Sexual Harassment – Policy (M) (ABOLISHED)
 R 3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure – Regulation (ABOLISHED)
 P 4352 Sexual Harassment – Policy (M) (ABOLISHED)
 R 4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure – Regulation (ABOLISHED)
 P & R 9130 Public Complaints – Policy & Regulation

2. Motion to approve the below **Student Field Trips** for the 2025-2026 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Grade/Group	Location	Dates/Times	Cost Per Student
Fifth Grade	Centenary Stage - Hackettstown, NJ	2/10/2026 9:15 am -12:15 pm	\$17.00
Third Grade	Red Mill Museum Village - Clinton, NJ	5/19/2026 9:15 am - 2:00 pm	\$22.00

3. Motion to approve the **2026-2027 Preschool Tuition Rate** in the amount of \$7,500.00 per student enrolled, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a Motion by Ms. Watters and seconded by Ms. Irwin Education / Policy action items were approved by the Mansfield Township Board of Education with a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

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)

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			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

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	3/22/26 to 3/25/26	\$350 Registration \$300 Hotel

	Conference/Harrah's Atlantic City		\$141.00 Mileage \$11.26 Tolls
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On a Motion by Ms. Irwin seconded by Ms. Lorentson, Personnel action items were approved by the Mansfield Township Board of Education with a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

Township Liaison Agenda

Township Chair: Jennifer Rosenblum

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

1. 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)

On a Motion by Ms. Irwin and seconded by Ms. Watters, Finance/Facilities action items were approved by the Mansfield Township Board of Education with a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

Potential Board Member Interview - 7:55 PM

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.

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Desiree Mora Dillon (Mitchell Road, Oxford) expressed concern about doing the BOE member interviews in public. She noted one extra question was asked of Mr. Weiss. Mrs. Mai noted BOE Policy 0143 (Board Member Election and Appointment) was followed by the BOE.

New Business - Members of the Board may introduce any new item or topic of discussion for the Board to consider. - none

Old Business - Members of the Board may comment on any item or topic that was previously discussed by the Board. - none

Future Board Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 12, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	Budget Hearing Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, July 16, 2026 (if needed)	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2026	Regular Business Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2027	Annual Reorganization Meeting

Executive Session

Executive Session motioned by Linda Watters and seconded by Judy Irwin. ES began at 8:14 pm to deliberate on BOE member interviews.. Motion to reconvene Open Session by Linda Watters and seconded by Judy Irwin at 8:26 pm.

Appointment of New Board Member

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Mansfield Township District Board of Education, that upon reviewing the qualifications of Vincent Weiss and Joyce Fera, the Board hereby appoints Vincent Weiss 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.

On a Motion by Linda Watters and seconded by Richard Stewart, Appointment of the New Board Member was approved by the Mansfield Township Board of Education with a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

The new Board Member, Vincent Weiss, was sworn in by Ms. Libby

Adjournment

Recommended Action - Motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Winand and seconded by Mr. Stewart, the Board of Education adjourned from the Regular Meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Voice Vote. All Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Libby
Acting Board Secretary

