



MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Richard DeSilva, Jr.
1st Vice President

Brett Coplin
Trista Daveniero
Michael Galow

Prema C. Moorthy, PhD
President

Benjamin A. Kezmarsky
2nd Vice President

Christopher L. Hughes
Steve Huston
Janine Ting Jansen

MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION AND PUBLIC WORK SESSION/ACTION MEETING OF THE MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at George Washington School, 39 Fardale Ave., Mahwah, NJ.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Mahwah Board of Education is open to members of the public to be physically present. Members of the public that attend will be asked to follow the same procedures as all other visitors to our schools. Those procedures can be found on the agenda page of our website. Additionally, the Board meeting will be live streamed for viewing purposes only. Anyone wishing to view the meeting, may do so via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>).

CALL TO ORDER

President Dr. Moorthy called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mesdames Daveniero, Dr. Moorthy, and Ting Jansen
Messrs. Coplin, Galow, Kezmarsky, and DeSilva

ABSENT: Messrs. Hughes, and Huston

ALSO PRESENT: Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Dennis M. Fare, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Katherine A. Hiromoto, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
Lisa Rizzo, Director of Special Services
Jodi Craft, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of agenda of this meeting has been provided to *The Ridgewood News and The Record* specifying that the Mahwah Board of Education will meet on February 11, 2026, at George Washington School, 39 Fardale Ave., Mahwah, NJ. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mr. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Galow to open the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA QUESTIONS

There were no questions about the agenda.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Ting Jansen and seconded by Mr. Kezmarsky to close the meeting to the public for comments.

Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

MAHWAH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Student Representative reported that the Winter Guard placed second out of thirteen schools in the Scholastic Region A Division at their first competition, held at Hillsborough High School. The Internship/Externship Program held an interest meeting on February 24, and MCORE visited the high school to conduct heart screenings for students. Winter sports teams are beginning their state tournament competitions, with bowling and wrestling highlighted for strong performances this season. Additionally, the Junior Formal is scheduled for March 19.

SUPERINTENDENT AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMBINED REPORT – DR. MICHAEL DETURO AND DR. DENNIS M. FARE

Representatives from Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO) provided a presentation on the Farm to School Program, led by Executive Director Violet Reed and Farm to School Program Manager Lauren Brophy. The presenters reviewed the development and implementation of the program over the past year and a half, which originated from a USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant awarded in July 2024 in the amount of \$100,000 and runs through June 30, 2026.

The presentation highlighted MEVO's longstanding partnership with the district, including environmental education initiatives, student involvement in community cleanups, and science programming across multiple schools. Specific Farm to School accomplishments included the construction, refurbishment, and maintenance of school garden beds at Betsy Ross, Lenape Meadows, and George Washington Schools; field trips for third-grade students to MEVO's Fresh Roots Farm; garden-based classroom education aligned with science curriculum standards; and hands-on learning experiences focused on plant life cycles, composting, pollinators, and nutrition.

The presenters reported that more than 380 students participated in farm and garden programming during the 2024–2025 period, 12 garden beds were installed, and over 200 pounds of produce were grown and donated to local food organizations. The program also emphasized sustainability through summer garden maintenance, irrigation systems, and long-term garden viability.

Looking ahead, MEVO shared plans for potential program expansion pending approval of a new grant application, which could significantly increase funding and broaden programming to additional grade levels, including curriculum extensions for fifth grade, seventh grade, and high school students. Proposed future initiatives include expanded agricultural education, internships, community engagement, and the eventual integration of selected crops into district cafeterias.

The presenters thanked the district for its continued collaboration and support of the Farm to School initiative.

The Superintendent expressed appreciation for the presentation and highlighted the district's partnership with Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO), noting the role of Mr. Gallo in facilitating

the initial connection. He reflected on the positive impact of MEVO-led projects on students, staff, and administrators, emphasizing student engagement, community connection, and meaningful hands-on learning experiences.

The Superintendent commended the Farm to School field trip model, which brought third-grade students from across the district together for shared learning and team-building experiences, and noted the program's success in fostering collaboration among students from different schools. He highlighted the educational value of the program's experiential learning opportunities and the enthusiasm demonstrated by students.

He further emphasized the strength of the district's K–3 experiences and expressed enthusiasm for the potential expansion of programming across additional grade levels. The Superintendent also underscored the value of integrating the Farm to School initiative with the district's internship and externship programs, noting the opportunities for students to gain exposure not only to agriculture but also to the business and operational aspects of environmental organizations.

The Superintendent concluded by expressing gratitude to MEVO staff for their work and commitment to the district and shared optimism for the continued growth of the partnership and its future impact on students.

The Superintendent provided an update on recent district and community outreach efforts, including continued informational sessions regarding the upcoming school referendum scheduled for March 10, 2026. He reported positive community feedback and emphasized the district's comprehensive communication strategy, which includes in-person meetings, the referendum website, social media, newsletters, emails, brochures, postcards, and lawn signs. The Superintendent stressed the importance of community awareness and voter participation.

The Superintendent also highlighted recent student and athletic achievements, noting that several student-athletes were nominated for Player of the Week honors and encouraging community participation in voting. He congratulated the wrestling program on its continued success, including recognition in local media, and announced that junior Lindsay Cunningham earned a gold medal at the Bergen County Wrestling Tournament and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Additionally, the Superintendent provided an update on the district's Thunderbird mascot project, stating that the mascot is currently in production. In the interim, digital versions of the mascot are being utilized for social media and student engagement initiatives. He expressed appreciation to the Mahwah Boosters and the Mahwah Schools Foundation for their support of this project.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT –DR. DENNIS M. FARE

The Assistant Superintendent highlighted several recent student and athletic achievements, noting the importance of recognizing positive accomplishments across the district. He congratulated the Color Guard team on earning first place out of nine teams at the Maine Scholastic Regional competition held at Lakeland Regional High School. She also recognized Brecken Cole and Victor Yang for their acceptance into the All North Jersey Region I High School Orchestra for string bass.

Updates were provided on bowling achievements, including the girls bowling team's 2–1 victory over South Plainfield, led by Angelina Lafiri with a high game of 188, and the boys bowling team's 2–0 win over High Point Regional in the first round of the state tournament, led by Sharon Hensel with a high game of 209.

The Assistant Superintendent also shared information on ongoing efforts to communicate career pathways to students, including an upcoming Internship/Externship informational meeting scheduled for February 24 at the high school for current sophomores and juniors. The meeting will provide students with an overview of

internship and externship opportunities and their connections to potential career pathways.

Building upon the Assistant Superintendent's report, the Superintendent further discussed the district's Career Pathways initiative, noting its continued expansion and increased visibility since its inception five years ago. He emphasized the district's ongoing efforts to communicate career pathway opportunities early and consistently to students and families through middle school outreach, parent academies, and coordinated efforts by district administrators and guidance staff.

The Superintendent also highlighted the high school's rotating Career Pathways displays, which showcase professional opportunities and student work aligned to each pathway. He acknowledged the collaborative efforts of staff, including the Wood Shop and administrative team, and noted that photographs of the displays would be shared with Board members unable to visit the high school in person.

Continuing his report, the Assistant Superintendent highlighted several student support and district initiatives. He noted the continued success and growing participation in the Homework Club, a cross-school program in which high school students provide academic assistance, organizational support, and encouragement to younger students. Due to increased participation, the program has expanded into a larger space in the library and continues to positively impact student confidence and academic performance.

The Assistant Superintendent also shared an example of cross-school engagement, reporting that high school students recently visited George Washington School to read to kindergarten classes. He noted that the participating high school students were from a self-contained program and emphasized that the experience was meaningful for both age groups and aligned with the district's strategic goal of fostering connections across school communities.

Additionally, the Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the district's newly formed Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee, led by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the District Technology Coach. He explained that staff from across the district are collaborating to develop a thoughtful, districtwide framework for AI use, education, and integration.

Finally, he reported that summer school leadership appointments are being recommended and that program dates will be communicated to families in the coming weeks to support advance planning.

The Superintendent referenced recent district efforts to expand summer programming over the past five years, including Camp Ignite (formerly Camp Invention) and the Kindergarten Kickstart program. He highlighted the value of providing early access to school environments for incoming kindergarten students and noted the enrichment opportunities offered through STEAM-focused activities. The Superintendent emphasized that these programs support early engagement, student readiness, and strengthened connections between the district and the community.

Concluding his report, the Assistant Superintendent acknowledged several staff retirements and recognized their years of service and contributions to the district. He announced the retirement of Nancy Merrigan, ESL Teacher at Lenape Meadows School, who is retiring after 24 years of service. He commended her dedication to supporting multilingual learners and her ability to build strong relationships with students while continuously refining her instructional practices.

He also recognized Maureen Schaffner, Mathematics Teacher at Joyce Kilmer School, who is retiring after 40 years of service. He highlighted her longstanding commitment to student success, her leadership among colleagues, and her lasting impact on the school community.

Additionally, the Assistant Superintendent announced the retirement of Lori Bregman, who is retiring after

36 years of service, including 22 years at Betsy Ross School. He noted her strong advocacy for students, mentorship of colleagues, and meaningful contributions to the Betsy Ross School community.

The Assistant Superintendent expressed appreciation for each retiree's service to the district and extended best wishes to them in their retirement.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT – MS. KATHERINE A. HIROMOTO

The Business Administrator reported that a draft of the preliminary 2026–2027 budget was reviewed with the Finance and Facilities Committee and continues to be refined. She noted that progress to date has been positive.

Facilities updates were also provided, including the replacement of multiple light bulbs on the Mahwah High School stadium field lights, a significant project due to the height of the fixtures, ensuring the field is ready for spring sports. Additional updates included coordination with the Township Engineer to plan summer paving projects and the creation of costume racks for the Theatre Department as part of ongoing organizational improvements in Building 5.

Lastly, the Business Administrator expressed appreciation to the Fischer family for their generous donation of a flute and baritone instrument to the district, which was reflected on the agenda under Resolution 18N.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board President shared several updates during her report. She extended well wishes to community members celebrating Lunar New Year and acknowledged the significance of the holiday.

She also recognized the January “Soaring Thunderbirds” at Mahwah High School, aligned with the district's Thunderbird pillars. Tyler Sue was recognized as the student honoree for demonstrating determination, noted for his positive attitude, persistence, and involvement in multiple school activities and organizations. Additionally, staff member Walker Larson, a mathematics teacher, was recognized for being inspiring, with praise given for his fairness, patience, and belief in student success.

The Board President further provided an update on the recent virtual referendum forum, thanking district leadership and staff for organizing the event and acknowledging the participation of multiple panelists. She noted that the forum was recorded and will be made available on the district's referendum website, encouraging community members to review the information and remain informed ahead of the March 10, 2026, special election.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Instructional & Curriculum/Special Education – P. Moorthy (Chair), T. Daveniero, M. Galow, B. Coplin, J. Ting Jansen (Alt.)

Finance & Facilities – M. Galow (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky, J. Ting Jansen, P. Moorthy (Alt.)

Policy – J. Ting Jansen (Chair), C. Hughes, S. Huston, R. DeSilva

Community Relations – B. Coplin (Chair), T. Daveniero, S. Huston, C. Hughes, M. Galow (Alt.)

Executive/Planning Committee – P. Moorthy (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky

Transportation Committee – B. Coplin (Chair) T. Daveniero, C. Hughes, M. Galow

Negotiations – J. Ting Jansen (Chair), M. Galow, B. Kezmarsky, P. Moorthy

Bergen County School Boards Liaison – M. Galow, P. Moorthy (Alt.)

New Jersey School Boards Legislative Liaison – P. Moorthy

Mahwah Schools Foundation Liaison – B. Kezmarsky, B. Coplin (Alt.)

Mahwah Access for All Liaison – S. Huston, M. Galow (Alt.)

Board of Education Liaison to Town Council - B. Kezmarsky, R. DeSilva, (Alt.)

On behalf of the Community Relations Committee, Mr. Coplin provided an update on upcoming referendum outreach efforts, noting that the March 10, 2026, special election is less than one month away. He encouraged community members to attend upcoming Board meetings scheduled at Betsy Ross School on February 25 and at Mahwah High School on March 4, emphasizing the importance of providing residents with opportunities to visit district facilities and better understand the scope of the proposed referendum projects.

Mr. Coplin highlighted the connection between district facilities, youth athletics, and community impact, noting that recent student-athlete recognitions reflect the strength of the township's youth sports programs. He emphasized that the proposed referendum improvements would support and enhance athletic opportunities from youth programs through the high school level.

He concluded by encouraging continued community engagement, inviting residents to attend meetings, ask questions, and become informed about the referendum, and urged Board members to continue sharing accurate information through their respective networks.

On behalf of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Mr. Galow reported that the Committee met to review the first working draft of the preliminary 2026–2027 budget. He noted that the Committee was encouraged by the progress made to date, while acknowledging that challenges remain and expressing confidence that they can be addressed within the required timelines.

Mr. Galow advised that, as a result of the Committee's discussion, the March Board meeting originally scheduled for March 25 will be moved to March 18 to allow sufficient time for county budget review. He further explained that the budget will continue to be presented publicly at upcoming Board meetings, with adoption anticipated in late April or early May, pending receipt of state aid information expected in early March.

Additionally, Mr. Galow emphasized the importance of understanding the distinction between the proposed referendum and the district's operating budget. He noted that while a successful referendum would provide significant improvements to facilities and programs, the district's day-to-day operational costs will continue to require careful and prudent financial management. He reiterated the district's ongoing commitment to maintaining program quality, reasonable class sizes, and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Galow concluded by noting that the Committee will continue to update the Board as additional information becomes available and welcomed questions from Board members.

On behalf of the Policy Committee, Mrs. Ting Jansen reported that the Committee met and reviewed several policy items. She noted that agenda items H and I include the abolition of certain policies. She also highlighted an update to Policy 2422, which incorporates additional language related to Asian American and Pacific Islander history and contributions. Mrs. Ting Jansen expressed appreciation for the continued collaboration with administration to ensure policies are reviewed regularly and kept current.

On behalf of the Instructional & Curriculum/Special Education Committee, Dr. Moorthy reported on the Committee's meeting held on January 23. She provided an update on the district's work related to Artificial Intelligence, noting presentations from the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the District Technology Coach. She highlighted the Committee's appreciation for the district's proactive and thoughtful approach, including the development of an AI vision statement to guide ongoing monthly discussions and

planning.

Dr. Moorthy also shared a Math Committee update regarding the middle school mathematics program at Ramapo Ridge Middle School for grades 6–8. She reported that, following a review of programs and vendors, the committee unanimously selected the i-Ready Classroom Mathematics program, which appears on the agenda under Item 18J. Key strengths cited included emphasis on mathematical vocabulary, student engagement, and problem-solving. She noted that curriculum writing and professional development would take place over the summer, with implementation anticipated for fall 2026.

Additionally, updates were provided on NJSLA tutoring for students in grades 3–8 in mathematics and ELA, as well as a review of i-Ready assessment results, which indicated positive growth from fall to mid-year. Dr. Moorthy concluded by noting that the Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for February 20.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REPORTS OR OTHER NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Superintendent announced that the district’s hockey team secured a 3–2 victory over Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) and will advance to the Big North Final, scheduled for Friday evening.

Mrs. Ting Jansen commended the girls’ wrestling team for their initiative and advocacy, noting her pride in the students for presenting their request to the Board and for their continued commitment and success.

17. OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 17a-17b were moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Coplin.

a. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 21, 2026, Public Work Session/Action Meeting.

b. Minutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 21, 2026, Executive Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 17a-17b.

Motion 17a-17b carried 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions

18. NEW BUSINESS-OTHER

Resolutions 18a-18n were moved by Mr. Kezmarsky and seconded by Mrs. Ting Jansen.

a. Financial Report

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of bills for the period of 01/17/2026 to 02/11/2026.

General Fund	Fund 10	\$5,330.40
General Current Expense	Fund 11	\$1,257,283.08

Special Revenue Funds	Fund 20	\$331.55
Region 1	Fund 52	\$677.32
Region I-Contracted Trans.	Fund 53	\$1,167,471.32
Cafeteria	Fund 60	\$103,111.09
Total of All Checks		\$2,534,204.76

b. Financial Report – School Store

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of School Store checks 1041 to 1140 for a total of \$3,029.45.

c. Financial Report – Public School Fund

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the payment of Public-School Fund checks 36532 to 36590 for a total of \$21,955.75 .

d. Payroll Consultant - VMC Workforce Solutions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves VMC Workforce Solutions to be appointed as Payroll Consultant to provide payroll support services for the District for the period February 5, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$95, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

e. Conferences/Workshops

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves attendance at the following conferences/workshops that are deemed to be educationally appropriate and for the benefit of the school district including conference/workshop fees and necessary travel expenses. The conference/workshop amount shall align with the staff member's annual contractual allowance.

First	Last	Conference/Workshop	Date	Amount
Courtney	Neglia	Hot Issues in Artificial Intelligence, Schools, and the Law: 2025-2026	2/5/2026	\$160.00
Jodie	Craft	AI Virtual Workshop	2/5/2026	\$160.00
Brian	Gregson	NYU Counselor Open House 2026	2/6/2026	N/A
Jennifer	Koby	NJIDA PRESENTS WIFFT: Winter Institute Food for Thought Virtual Only Conference - Integrating AI in Your Orton-Gillingham Classroom	2/7/2026	\$35.00
Jennifer	Koby	NJIDA PRESENTS WIFFT: Winter Institute Food for Thought Virtual Only Conference -What We Carry: A Family's Emotional Journey through MTSS I & RS, and Beyond	2/7/2026	\$35.00
Jennifer	Koby	NJIDA PRESENTS WIFFT: Winter Institute Food for Thought Virtual Only Conference - Mind the Gap: Study Skills as Essential Support for Dyslexic Students	2/7/2026	\$35.00

First	Last	Conference/Workshop	Date	Amount
Lynn	Morneweck -Fuld	North Jersey Region Chorus Rehearsal	2/13/2026	N/A
Julianne	Correa	2026 NJMEA State Conference	2/20/2026	\$390.00
Dawn	Savastano	Atlas PD	2/27/2026	\$150.00
Ofeer	Kearns	Rubicon Atlas	2/27/2026	\$150.00
Roger	Pelletier	DAANJ Annual Conference	03/10- 03/13/2026	\$1,271.16
Shawn	Daly	New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children 2026 Spring Conference	3/16/2026	\$175.00
Morgan	Ridgway	TEEEM Global Classrooms Shared Passion	3/26/2026	N/A
Cristen	Shannon	TEEEM Global Classrooms Shared Passion	3/26/2026	N/A
Donna	Conrad	Global Classrooms, Shared Passion!	3/26/2026	N/A
Nicole	O'Donohue Jacobson	Best Science of Reading Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Students with Special Needs (K-8)	4/22/2026	\$275.00
Julia	Greenwald	Best Science of Reading Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Students with Special Needs (K-8)	4/22/2026	\$275.00
Rebecca	Savino	Best Science of Reading Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Students with Special Needs (K-8)	4/22/2026	\$275.00
Beth	Ruggiero	Best Science of Reading Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Students with Special Needs (Grades K-8)	4/22/2026	\$275.00
Gladys	Fernandez	Preschool Inclusion Leadership Conference	4/23/2026	\$134.67

f. Field Trips

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following field trips:

Group/Destination	Date(s)	School	# of Students
Grade 8 to Mahwah High School, Mahwah, NJ	2/19/26	RR	11
DECA (9-12) to Harrah's Waterfront, Atlantic City, NJ	3/2- 3/5/26	MHS	25
History Club (6-9) to St. Elizabeth's University, Morristown, NJ	3/21/26	RR	4
Select Strings Orchestra (9-12) to George Washington School, Mahwah, NJ Betsy Ross School, Mahwah, NJ Lenape Meadows School, Mahwah, NJ	3/23/26 3/24/26 3/26/26	MHS	18
Broadcast Journalism to Brookdale Collins Arena, Lincroft, NJ	3/24/26	MHS	43
Marketing (9-12) to Marketing Research, Rutherford, NJ	3/27/26	MHS	23
Kindergarten to Bergen County Zoo, Paramus, NJ	4/20/26	GW	45
String Orchestra (9-12) to West Essex H.S., Caldwell, NJ	4/21/26	MHS	54

Group/Destination	Date(s)	School	# of Students
Chorus (4-5) to Ramapo Ridge Middle School, Mahwah, NJ	5/12/26	JK	60
Grade 5 visit to Ramapo Ridge Middle School, Mahwah, NJ	5/15/26	JK	187
Grade 7 to Sandy Hook Environmental, Sandy Hook, NJ	6/17/26	RR	200

g. Vendor

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves Turnbridge: Young Adult & Teen Residential Treatment Center, New Haven, CT be appointed to provide educational services for students in treatment at a rate of \$360 for the academic platform fee.

h. Policy & Regulation Abolished

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the abolishment of the following policy:

P1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – Covid-19
P3362 Sexual Harassment
R3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedures
P4362 Sexual Harassment
R4362 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedures

i. First Reading of Policies and Regulations

P0142.1 Nepotism
P0143 Board Member Election and Appointment
P0173 Duties of Public-School Accountant
P0174 Legal Services
P0177 Professional Services
P1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator
P&R1552 Sexual Harassment
P&R1570 Internal Controls
P1620 Administrative Employment Contracts
P&R6111 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
P&R6220 Budget Preparation
P2422 Statutory Curricular Requirements
P&R2535 Library Materials
P5339.01 Student Sun Protection

j. Curriculum Program Adoption

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the adoption of Ready Classroom Math at the 6-8 level.

k. Curriculum Writing

RESOLVED; that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of

Education approves a stipend for curriculum writing to adhere to the updates and standards set forth by the Department of Education, at the contractual amount for curriculum work per Schedule L of the MEA contract.

Curriculum Writer	Hours Requested	To be Written	Course
Matthew Surich	10	Spring/Summer	Economics for the 21 st Century
Carolyn Ferguson	5	Spring/Summer	Financial Literacy
Heather Tirino	5	Spring/Summer	Financial Literacy
Justin Saputski	10	Spring/Summer	Sports & Entertainment Management

* 1. Out of District Placement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves student with local identification number 38466 be placed in the Winslow Township Board of Education, 40 Cooper Folly Road, Atco, NJ retroactive to January 21, 2026, with the prorated tuition cost of \$11,310.18

m. Change in Placement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves student with local identification number 37706 change placements to attend the Windsor Learning Center, Pompton Lakes, NJ with an effective start date of February 9, 2026. Tuition cost prorated to \$30,828.00 and extraordinary aide at the prorated cost of \$22,680.00.

n. Donation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the acceptance of a donation of a used flute and baritone horn for the Mahwah High School music program from the Fisher family whose children participated in our music program. Additionally, the Board extends their sincere gratitude and appreciation for this generous donation.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 18a-18n.

Motion 18a-18n carried 7 ayes, 0 nays, with Mr. Galow abstaining from check number 122646 on 18a, and Mr. Kezmarsky abstaining from check number 122713 on 18a.

19. NEW BUSINESS- PERSONNEL

Resolutions 19b-d were moved by Mr. Galow and seconded by Mr. Coplin.

Resolutions 19a and 19e-dd were moved by Mr. Kezmarsky and seconded by Mrs. Ting Jansen.

a. Termination

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Employee ID #5531 is hereby terminated from her employment in the Mahwah School District, effective February 22, 2026.

b. Retirement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Nancy Merrigan, teacher of multi-lingual learners, at Lenape Meadows School, for the purpose of retirement; with a final date of employment June 30, 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for her 24 years of dedication and service to the Mahwah Public Schools.

c. Retirement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Maureen Schaffner, teacher of grades four and five, at Joyce Kilmer School, for the purpose of retirement; with a final date of employment June 30, 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for her 39 years of dedication and service to the Mahwah Public Schools.

d. Retirement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Lori Bregman, teacher of grade two, at Betsy Ross School, for the purpose of retirement; with a final date of employment June 30, 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mahwah Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for her 37 years of dedication and service to the Mahwah Public Schools.

e. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jaqueline Santos, as 12-month administrative assistant to the buildings/grounds and technology departments, at Central Office; effective February 21, 2026.

f. Resignation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts the resignation of Neha Srivastava, 0.5 bookkeeper, for the Business Office, at Central Office; effective March 6, 2026.

g. Appointment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Damon Leeper, as teacher of chemistry, at Mahwah High School, from August 25, 2026 – June 30, 2027; salary to be Column F, Step 12, \$84,561; pending certification and employment verification.

h. Appointment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Zoe Saint, as teacher of kindergarten, at Betsy Ross School,

from August 25, 2026 – June 30, 2027; salary to be Column A, Step 1, \$61,606; pending certification, and employment verification.

i. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Maria Gramuglia, as leave replacement for Employee #4260, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, effective retroactive from February 9, 2026 – February 27, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 10, \$78,511, pro-rated.

j. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Damon Leeper, as leave replacement for Employee #2102, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from April 6, 2026 – June 30, 2026; salary to be Column E, Step 11, \$78,896, pro-rated; pending employment verification.

k. NJFLA/Childcare/Maternity Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #2102, using 40 sick days, and taking FMLA concurrently, effective May 1, 2026 – June 26, 2026, taking NJFLA from August 24, 2026 – November 13, 2026, and taking an unpaid leave of absence from November 16, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

l. NJFLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #4286, effective retroactive on February 9, 2026 – February 20, 2026, using 7.5 sick days and 0.5 personal day, and NJFLA concurrently, from February 9, 2026 – February 20, 2026.

m. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #9878, effective March 11, 2026 – April 10, 2026, using 17 sick days and FMLA concurrently, from March 11, 2026 – April 10, 2026.

n. Appointment – Mahwah Extended School Year/Self-Contained Summer Program Director

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Dawn Savastano, as Director for the 2026 Mahwah Extended School Year (ESY) and self-contained summer program, to be held from June 29, 2026 – July 23, 2026; to work Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for this program, from June 29, 2026 – July 17, 2026; stipend to be \$4,128.

o. Appointment – Mahwah Extended School Year/Self-Contained Summer Program Co-Director

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Ofeer Kearns, as Director for the 2026 Mahwah Extended

School Year (ESY) and self-contained summer program, to be held from June 29, 2026 – July 23, 2026, with no school on Friday, July 4, 2026; to work Wednesdays for this program, from June 29, 2026 – July 17, 2026, and July 20, 2026 – July 24, 2026; stipend to be \$1,950.

p. Appointment – Booster Camp (formerly Mahwah Title I Summer & ESL School) Director

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Kalliopi Triantafillakis, to the position of Director of the 2026 Booster Camp (formerly Mahwah Title I and ESL summer school program), to be held June 29, 2026 – July 24, 2026 (staff and students), with no school on Friday, July 3, 2026; stipend to be \$5,419.

q. Appointment – Camp Ignite Director

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Courtney Carrelha, to the position of Director of the 2026 Camp Ignite, to be held July 27, 2026 – July 31, 2026; stipend to be \$2,709.

r. Appointment – Kindergarten Kickstart Program Director

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Jillian Laurice, to the position of Director of the 2026 Kindergarten Kickstart Program, to be held July 27, 2026 – July 31, 2026; stipend to be \$2,218.

s. Appointment – Self-Sustaining Summer Music Program Coordinator

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Julianne Correa, as program coordinator for the self-sustaining Summer Music Program to be held June 29, 2026 – July 16, 2026; classes to run Monday to Thursday, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; at no cost to the district.

t. Appointment – Safety Town Program Coordinator

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Angela Nocito, to the position of coordinator for the 2026 Safety Town Program, to be held June 29, 2026 – July 2, 2026; stipend to be \$2,261.

u. Appointment – Safety Town Program Coordinator

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Erin Seifert, to the position of coordinator for the 2026 Safety Town Program, to be held June 29, 2026 – July 2, 2026; stipend to be \$2,261.

v. NJFLA Leave of Absence - Extension

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence extension for Employee #4263, effective retroactive on September 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026, taking NJFLA from September 2, 2025 – November 21, 2025, and taking an unpaid leave of absence from November 24, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

w. Additional Teaching Period

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following staff members to teach a sixth period to provide class coverage for Employee #4755; from March 9, 2026 – March 27, 2026, at 1/5th of their salary; pro-rated, per diem, for designated periods; to be paid via submitted voucher:

Name	Designated Period	Course
Mary Rosen	Period 1	United States History II
Julia Conde	Period 2	United States History II
Christopher Buser	Period 6	United States History II
Randall Fuchs	Period 7	Honors Sociology
Benjamin Wagman	Period 9	United States History II

x. Summer Music Program - Revised

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the Self-Sustaining Summer Music Program; to be held June 29, 2026 - July 16, 2026; classes to be run Monday to Thursday; from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; at no cost to the district.

y. School Nurse Substitute

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of the following substitute nurse for the 2025-2026 school year; rate to be \$70 per hour, to be paid via a submitted voucher for hours worked; pending fingerprinting and employment verification.

Eileen Pragdat

z. Parent Volunteers

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following individuals, as volunteers, to assist Mahwah Township Public Schools for 2025-2026 school year:

George Washington School

First Name	Last Name
Randi	Frascella

Lenape Meadows School

First Name	Last Name
Keila	Cirillo
Nicholas	Giacoppi
Jennifer	Peters

Betsy Ross School

First Name	Last Name
Beth	Beran

Pauline	Furey
Lora	Facendola
Lauren	Barraso

aa. Parent Volunteers

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following individuals, as volunteers, to chaperone and provide assistance, as needed, to Ramapo Ridge students for 2026 Frost Valley yearly school trip from May6, 2026 to May 8, 2026:

First Name	Last Name
Christopher	Gioni
Lauren	Ledbury
Nathan	Cassella

bb. Student Volunteers

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following Mahwah High School students, as volunteers, to assist George Washington School’s themed dance night on March 19, 2026:

First Name	Last Name
Taylor	Tremblay
Abby	Clark

cc. Therapy Dog

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves The Seeing Eye, to provide therapy dog services to students, at George Washington School, on March 13, 2026; at no cost to the district.

dd. Paraprofessional Substitutes

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following paraprofessional substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

Last Name	First Name	City
Hester*	Chantel	Mahwah

*retroactive to 2/2/26

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 19b-19d.

Motion 19b-19d carried 7 ayes, 0 nays

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution 19a and 19e-dd.

Motion 19a and 19e-dd carried 7 ayes, 0 nays

PUBLIC QUESTION OR COMMENT

Public participation at Board meetings is in accordance with Bylaw 0167.

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make a comment on educational issues or school matters of community interest. As a matter of fairness, you are asked to limit your questions to no more than one, and your remarks to no longer than three minutes. If you are here representing a group, please identify yourself, the group, and your position in the group. If you are here as an individual, please give us your name and address.

Note: This section of public participation will be limited to fifteen minutes.

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Coplin and seconded by Mr. DeSilva, to open the meeting to the public.

There were no public questions or comments

Motion carried at 7:57 p.m.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Kezmarsky and seconded by Mr. Galow to close the meeting to the public.

Motion carried at 7:57 p.m.

MOTION TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Kezmarsky and seconded by Mr. Galow to recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations, student, and legal matters.

Motion carried at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION TO RECONVENE TO PUBLIC ACTION MEETING

Motion by Mrs. Ting Jansen and seconded by Mr. Galow to reconvene the public session.

Motion carried at 8:10 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mrs. Ting Jansen and seconded by Mr. Galow to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried at 8:10 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Hiromoto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary