THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS 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 meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the Woodland Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the door of the Woodland Park Board of Education Administration Building and was provided to the North Jersey Record & Herald News

FLAG SALUTE
ROLL CALL

Present: Shannon Marren, David Amanullah, Gina McQuin, Julissa Rodriguez, Jamie Zummo, Mark Salemi, Glen Grimes
Absent: Kim Galbraith, Andrew Mingione
Also Present: Michele Pillari, Aleksandar Kondovski, Adam Weiss

PROCLAMATION: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Woodland Park Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHERAS, The Woodland Park Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Woodland Park Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Woodland Park Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

Motion by: ___SALEMI___, Seconded by:__RODRIGUEZ__

Roll Call: 6 YES, 1 ABSTENTION-RODRIGUEZ

PRESENTATION: Dr. Irizarry, Director of Special Education & Student Support Services, highlighted all support services provided by the Special Education Department.

PUBLIC HEARING-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

226-207 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by _RODRIGUEZ_ Seconded by _MCQUIN__
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 regular meeting.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the December 15, 2025 regular meetings.
Roll Call: 7 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Preschool:

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful winter break and enjoyed many moments with your children, family and friends. As we begin the new year, we are so excited to welcome you back and start 2026 together. We hope that the winter break included some time to relax, recharge, and create meaningful memories. Here's to a happy and successful new year!

Preschool Lunch & Learn - The Pre-K Lunch and Learn will be held on Wednesday, January 21st from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Video call link: https://meet.google.com/ehe-bdhg-zsa. The topic will be Understanding the IEP Process. Our presenter will be Ms. Jordan Harkins (Preschool Social Worker).

Preschool Curriculum - Math Skills Teaching preschool math skills involves engaging children in hands-on , interactive activities that align with their natural curiosity and cognitive abilities. It's essential to incorporate play-based learning, where concepts like counting, sorting, and recognizing patterns are introduced through games, songs, and everyday experiences. Utilizing manipulatives such as blocks, beads or natural objects allows children to explore mathematical concepts in a tangible way. fostering their understanding through exploration and discovery.

SEL- Social Emotional Learning: Problem Solving Skills For Preschoolers -Problem Solving skills for preschoolers include, the ability to identify a problem, brainstorm potential solutions, decision making, implementation and evaluation. These skills are valuable skills that will be necessary as your little one moves on throughout their school age years and beyond. There are many activities that you can do at home to help support these skills. For instance: Building with blocks, puzzles, maze activities, story time questions or obstacle courses! Modeling how you figure out solutions to problems is an excellent way for them to learn. Try to use everyday moments like cooking or cleaning at home. We all make mistakes at times. That is how we learn!

Home Lending Library - We are excited to share that we have begun our Home Lending Library, which will continue across all preschool buildings. This is a special time for families to join us in the classroom to enjoy a multicultural story, often read by a guest reader. Families are invited to stay with their child, enjoy the story together, and select a book to take home for the week. Please be on the lookout for more information about upcoming Home Lending Library dates.

HSA Fundraisers -The HSA is currently hosting two fundraisers: Chocolate Heart Lollipops Fundraiser & Chick-fil-A Spirit Night. Flyers were sent home earlier this week and will also be included in our weekly e-blast.

ECAC Meeting - Our next ECAC meeting will be held on Monday January 12th at 6:30pm. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to receive the virtual link to join the meeting. mgutierrez@wpschools.org

Alfred H. Baumann Free Public Library's - Thank you to Ms. Sara Rappa who is visiting the preschool classrooms to share information about the Alfred H. Baumann Free Public Library's upcoming Winter Reading Program. We are sharing this opportunity with students and families.

CO School -
Our Second Grade Winter Concert took place on Dec. 17. Ms. Andresen and the Second Grade staff worked very hard with the students who sang winter themed songs beautifully. CO HERO assembly and school sing a long took place on Dec. 23rd. A great time was had by all! Our students, staff and HSA members will be making tie-dye shirts to represent the 6 Pillars of Character during the week of Jan 26th. Our Kids Heart Challenge Assembly will take place on Jan 30th.

BG School
On December 23rd, students and staff were visited by the Morello's - the family who started The Giving Tree Foundation to help support families during the holidays who have loved ones in the hospital. BG raised over $1000 to donate to The Giving Tree Foundation. This was followed by a schoolwide winter sing-a-long led by Ms. Andresen. Throughout the month of January, 4th and 5th grade students will attend a virtual field trip of the Liberty Hall Museum. Thank you to the Democratic Society at Four Seasons Great Notch for donating the funding to support this initiative. On January 5th, all students attended the kickoff assembly for the American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge. NJ Park Ranger visited 3rd grade students on January 6th and will visit 4th grade students on January 28th. Ms. Rappa from the Alfred H. Baumann Library will present to each grade level to kickoff the library's Winter Reading Program.

Memorial Middle School
Memorial Middle School Holiday Concert: On December 17, Mr. Schaefer and the MMS band and choir delighted the community with a festive holiday performance, welcoming the largest audience ever to an MMS concert.
Faculty Learning Time – PBIS at MMS: On December 18, faculty participated in meaningful professional learning focused on PBIS systems of support and how they work together to strengthen our positive school culture.
House Event: On December 23, students enjoyed a vibrant House Event celebrating holidays and traditions from around the world, while Pillar Card Winners were recognized for demonstrating kindness and earning a special privilege.
Mustang Ambassadors Visit BG: On January 8, Mustang Ambassadors mentors and mentees collaborated to solve real-life scenarios relevant to student experiences, further developing leadership skills and meaningful peer connections.

Curriculum Office:
Dips and Dialogue will be held on Tuesday, January 13th from 3-4 at CO. All teachers are welcome to join the Curriculum Office in a casual environment to collaborate and grow professionally. As always, a survey was sent to solicit desired areas of focus. This month will highlight SGO data and analysis, as modifications (if necessary) are due next month. ALL new teachers and mentors are especially encouraged to attend. January kicks off our mid-year data collection. All students will participate in mid-year assessments in SEL, Literacy, ELA, math, SS and Science. This data will continue to inform instruction, as well as Tier I, Tier II and Tier III supports. The ELA and Mathematics Supervisors sent out a memo to all staff regarding resources and other helpful information for their classrooms. They also sent out surveys to the staff to provide feedback and areas in which the supervisors can provide guided assistance and coaching to our teachers.

Special Education:
CST Members continue to attend monthly training provided by the NJDOE and NJ Inclusion Project training - this month's topic is CST & Related Services - Special Education & Specially Designed Instruction.
CBI training with Rutgers The Boggs Center and NJDOE representative took place last week with our Growing Minds team. This was the third session of 4 trainings, that focused on skill acquisition and skill retention through community based instruction. NJPIEP project continues with our PSD class at CO School. The classroom staff is being trained and supported by our preschool team on ensuring the students are being exposed to the general education curriculum while receiving their specialized programming, as well as making sure the classroom environment reflects the general education environment. Students in the PSD classroom are transitioning into the general education preschool classrooms for socialization and exposure to their peers to support LRE. The Wellness Team is supporting the PBIS initiative in each school to support a positive school culture across the district. The School Climate and Culture Teams as well as outside resources such as NJ4S assist with developing activities and providing lessons and assembly programs that target trends in the schools that affect school climate and support positive interactions among students and staff.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
The following items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion.

Motion by SALEMI Seconded by RODRUIGUZ to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 226-208 through 226-209.
Roll Call: 7 YES

226-208 - APPROVAL OF BILL LIST
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of $285,606.88, approved by finance committee chairperson.

Bill List No.	Amount
#71	$206,152.15
#72	$ 19,781.90
#L71	$ 59,672.83

226-209-HIB DECISION
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation #2026-07, 2026-08, 2026-09, 2026-10 & 2026-11, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the student's parents.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS
The following items will be voted on by separate motion for each item.
PERSONNEL:
The following personnel items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.
Motion by RODRUIGUEZ Seconded by MCQUIN to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 226-210 through 226-216.
Roll Call: 7 YES

226-210-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – L. CARREIRA
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Laurie Carreira, as a middle school math teacher, (currently sub) BA, Step 1, $62,805, pro-rated, in accordance with current WPEA contract. Effective January 13, 2026.

226-211-APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE- C. GUARIGLIA
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve medical leave under the Federal Family Leave Act, for Cindy Guariglia, effective January 5, 2026-January 23, 2026, using accumulated sick days. Expected return to work, January 26, 2026.

226-212-RESCIND APPOINTMENT – P. HEUCK
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the appointment of Paul Hueck, as a substitute custodian, previously approved at the 12/15/25 meeting.

226-213-APPROVAL REDUCTION IN FORCE
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Park Board of Education eliminates the position held by employee number 4301, by way of a reduction in force ("RIF"), due to lack of student needs and for reasons of economy, effective 2/5/26.

226-214-APPROVAL REDUCTION IN FORCE
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Park Board of Education eliminates the position held by employee number 4400, by way of a reduction in force ("RIF"), due to lack of student needs and for reasons of economy, effective 2/6/26.

`226-215-APPROVAL OF STAFF STIPENDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve stipend payments for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with current WPEA contract, as listed:

Title	School	Name	Amount
Yearbook	Memorial	Alec Wolf	$500
Newspaper	Memorial	Alec Wolf	$650

226-216 - WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve/ratify approval the attendance of and costs of attendance including registration fees and statutorily authorized travel expenditures for the following listed district employees for the 2025-2026 school year.

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel/Hotel	Total
Krystina Reilly	i-Ready Classroom Mathematics	1/22/26	NA	NA	NA
Sophia Lazan	i-Ready Classroom Mathematics	1/22/26	NA	$7.42	$7.42
Alyssa Handel	i-Ready Classroom Mathematics	1/22/26	NA	$7.80	$7.80
Jennifer Villanueva	i-Ready Classroom Mathematics	1/22/26	NA	$7.96	$7.96
Donnesha Gooden	Pyramid Model Consortium E-Modules	12/23/26	NA	NA	NA
Kim Leary	Veteran PIC	1/16/26	NA	$33.37	$33.37
Kim Leary	Power of Talk: A Coaching Series	1/27, 2/24, 3/18 2026	$125	NA	NA
Donnesha Gooden	NJ E-Module Pyramid Training	1/6-1/8 2026	NA	NA	NA

POLICY:

The following policy items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.
Motion by_____MCQUIN____Seconded by___MARREN___ to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following policy agenda numbers 226-217 through 226-219.
Roll Call: 7 YES

226-217-APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES & REGULATIONS – 1ST READING

Motion by_____Seconded by_____

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 1ST reading of the following new policies & regulations:

POLICY/REGULATION #	POLICY/REGULATION	MANDATED/RECOMMENDED
P1552 & R1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff	Mandated

226-218- APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES & REGULATIONS – 2nd READING & ADOPTION

Motion by_____Seconded by_____

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of the following new policies & regulations:

POLICY/REGULATION #	POLICY/REGULATION	MANDATED/RECOMMENDED
P2535 & R2535	Library Material	Mandated
R9130	Public Complaints	Recommended

226-219-APPROVAL OF POLICY & REGULATION REVISIONS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the revisions and abolishment of the following existing policies & regulations:

POLICY/REGULATION #	POLICY/REGULATION	MANDATED/RECOMMENDED
P0142.1	Nepotism	Mandated
P1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator	Mandated
P3362 & R3362	Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure	Abolished
P4352 & R4352	Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure	Abolished

PUBLIC HEARING

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No one wished to be heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Public Meeting Act, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive or Private Session under limited circumstances and WHEREAS said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such Executive or Private Session. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

1) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel and/or litigation matter or contract matter.

2) The matter(s) discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required.

3) Meeting will be resumed at conclusion of Executive Session.

4) The board does/does not expect to take action after Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 7 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:57 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 7 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. by AMANULLAH, Seconded by MCQUIN
Voice Vote: 7 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Superintendent discussed HIB #'s 2026-12, 2026-13, 2026-14 & 2026-15
- BOE discussed construction & renovation issues
- BOE discussed roof issues

Respectfully Submitted,

Aleksandar Kondovski
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary