

MISSION STATEMENT: To foster a safe and equitable learning environment that celebrates our diverse learners, and provides the necessary resources and support to prioritize the social-emotional and academic development of all students.

RE-ORGANIZATION/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING was held on January 5, 2026, Cambridge Park Elementary School, 1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Case called the Re-Organization/Committee of the Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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 interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education advertised this meeting on May 22, 2025 in the Asbury Park Press and the district’s website. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Joint Free Public Library.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

The Board Secretary will read the official results of the Annual School District Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2025.

Official Results of Matawan-Aberdeen Regional Board of Education Members

Election of Board Members	Votes Cast
Ms. Sheetal Werneke (Aberdeen)	3,760
Mr. Mike Mondella (Aberdeen)	4,213
Mr. William R. Talty (Aberdeen)	2,655
Write In	147
Ms. Annette Ascoli (Matawan)	2,119
Write In	109

Combined Statement of Results for 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board have the Combined Statement of Results of the 2024 School Election made part of the annual organization meeting minutes.

V. OATH OF OFFICE

The Board Secretary will confer the Oath of Office upon the following newly elected Board Members:

Ms. Sheetal Werneke	3 Year Term
Mr. Mike Mondella	3 Year Term
Ms. Annette Ascoli	3 Year Term

VI. ROLL CALL

Name	Term Expires
Ms. Annette Ascoli	December 2028
Ms. Katie Feiles	December 2027
Mr. Christopher McGovern	December 2026
Mr. Michael Mondella	December 2028
Mr. John Montone	December 2027
Ms. Dianna Pell	December 2027
Ms. Laurie Skop	December 2026
Ms. Danielle Spruell	December 2026
Ms. Sheetal Werneke	December 2028

VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Board Secretary will call for nominations for the office of Board President. When all nominations have been made, a member will move to close the nominations and the Board President will be elected by roll call vote.

Call for Nominations:

Ms. Werneke

Nominated by: Ms. Ascoli, Ms. Pell

Close Nominations

MOTION: Ms. Ascoli

SECONDED: Ms. Pell

Voice vote to close nominations

NOTE: The newly elected Board President will chair the meeting from this point.

VIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

The Board President will call for nominations for the office of the Board Vice-President. When all nominations have been made, a member will move to close the nominations and the Board Vice-President will be elected by roll call vote.

Call for Nominations:

Ms. Feiles

Nominated by: Ms. Skop, Ms. Ascoli

Close Nominations

MOTION: Ms. Skop

SECONDED: Ms. Ascoli

Voice vote to close nominations - Mr. Mondella abstained

VI. MINUTES

- None

VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

Motion by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Spruell to approve the following correspondence:

Email received, Dec 22, 2025, lylaabridges@gmail.com, regarding “Other”

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Mondella			X		
Mr. Montone				X	
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, one (1) members abstained and one (1) member was absent

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Ms. Perez

- Tenure Presentation - Mr. Liebmann

IX. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Ms. Werneke

Tonight, we recognize and thank Vice President Tara Martinez for her remarkable service to our district. Tara first won election in 2012, and for more than a decade she has poured her heart, her time, and her unwavering energy into serving our students.

I still remember first meeting Tara while volunteering for the Cliffwood School PTO — even then, her passion for children and community was unmistakable. Today, having had the privilege of serving alongside her, that passion is even clearer. Tara has been a steady, committed presence through our district’s greatest wins and its toughest challenges. No matter the moment, she has shown up with grit, thoughtfulness, and a deep belief in doing what is right for ALL students.

She asks the hard questions, she gives more hours than anyone ever sees, and she always grounds the conversation in what matters most: *How does this benefit kids?*

Tara, thank you for your dedication, your heart, and your years of tireless service. Our schools — and our students — are better because of you. We will miss you! But we know that we will always have your support and of course we know you will continue to volunteer to serve the school community. Thank you again.

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

- None

IX. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Mr. Liebmann presented the Curriculum and Instruction Agenda requesting the Board take action on Item A. The remainder of the items will be presented for action at the January 26, 2026 meeting.

B. OTHER

1. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan - Addressing Student Chronic Absenteeism Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1, in the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent, the school(s) shall develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. A student is considered chronically absent if the student misses 10 percent or more of the school days in session for which the student was enrolled. Utilizing attendance data from SY24-25, the following schools are on a corrective action plan for SY25-26.

Matawan Regional High School, Matawan Aberdeen Middle School, Lloyd Road School, Cliffwood Elementary, Ravine Drive Elementary, Strathmore Elementary, and Cambridge Park.

X. STUDENT SERVICES

- None

XI. PERSONNEL

Dr. Rawls-Dill presented the Personnel Agenda requesting the Board take action on Items A, B. and C.3. The remainder of the items will be presented for action at the January 26, 2026 meeting.

C. Appointments

2. Extra-Curricular Activities - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Loc	Activity	Position	Step/Stipend	Effective Date
Athletic Activities					
Non-Athletic Activities					
Hourly Activities					

Note: The law on background checks requires ultimate clearance prior to any employment becoming final, in addition to pre-employment paperwork.

D. Other

1. HIB - 2025-2026 School Year

- The Superintendent recommends the approval of the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report as reported during the Executive Session of the Matawan-Aberdeen Board of Education Meeting of December 15, 2025:

Incidents Reported	Confirmed Incidents
4	3

2. Additional Hours - 2025-2026 School Year

- Corey Souza, Instructional Assistant at CL
Up to 13 hours at Employee’s Hourly Rate
- Michael W. Wells, Hall Monitor
Up to 2 hours at Employee’s Hourly Rate

XII. POLICY

Dr. Rawls-Dill presented the Policy Agenda requesting the Board approve and adopt the 2nd reading of the policies listed on the Policy Agenda.

XIII. FINANCE

Ms. Case presented the Finance Agenda requesting the Board approve Items 1 through 7. The remainder of the items will be presented for action at the January 26, 2026 Regular Action Meeting.

Board Secretary’s Monthly Certification - December 2025

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:20-2-2.13(D), we certify that as of December 31, 2025, after review of the Secretary' s monthly financial report (appropriation section), and open consultation with appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:20-2(B), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the school year.

I, Lindsey Case, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that for the month of December 2025 no line item has been over expended in violation of NJAC 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.



School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Payroll Certification

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary reported, in compliance with NJSA 18A:1919-1B, has certified the December 15, 2025 in the amount of \$2,325,148.30 and the December 23, 2025 in the amount of \$2,280,405.58 payroll.

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following:

8. Receipt and Acceptance of the December 2025 Board Secretary’s Report

Recommend the receipt of the Board Secretary Financial Reports as of December 31, 2025, be accepted as filed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16(c)3 that no major account of fund has been over expended as of December 31, 2025 based upon the Board Secretary’s Certification and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

9. Treasurer’s Report - December 2025

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, approve the Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 2025.

10. Approve Appropriation Transfers

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the transfers attached.

11. Approve Bills

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the bills paid and checks issued at the Board meeting in the amount of \$XXXXXX.

12. REVISED - Out of District Tuition for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve a student from the Red Bank Regional School District to attend the Matawan-Aberdeen KEYS Program (#3632829350) at a cost of \$25,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. The students last day was Nov 26, 2025. The revised cost is \$7,500 (previously approved on Jul 21, 2025)

13. REVISED - Out of District Tuition for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve a student from the Middletown Twp North School District to attend the Matawan-Aberdeen KEYS Program (#2576598467) at a cost of \$57,527 for the 2025-2026 school year. The students last day was Oct 20, 2025. The revised cost is \$9,587.78 (previously approved on Jul 21, 2025)

14. Ed-Stability Tuition 2025-2026

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following students to attend placement as indicated for the 2025-2026 school year.

Student ID	Placement	Start Date	End Date	Tuition
171858	Brick School District	9/3/25	6/30/26	\$21,390 (prorated based on # of days student is active)
171856	Brick School District	9/3/25	6/30/26	\$21,390 (prorated based on # of days student is active)

Account # 11-000-100-562-11

15. January 2026 District Enrollment Report

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the attached District Enrollment Report for January 2026. [January 2026](#)

16. Fire and Evacuation Drills

The following Fire and Evacuation Drill occurred during **December 2025**

School Name	Security Drill Type	Date & Time
Cambridge Park Elementary School	Fire Drill	12/3/25 @ 11:32 am
Cambridge Park Elementary School	Shelter in Place (Bomb Threat)	12/11/25 @ 2:05 pm
Cliffwood Elementary School	Lock Down	12/12/25 @ 2:30 pm
Cliffwood Elementary School	Fire Drill	12/18/25 @ 1:45 pm
Lloyd Road Elementary School	Fire Drill	12/10/25 @ 1:50 pm
Lloyd Road Elementary School	Shelter in Place	12/18/25 @ 10:59 am
Matawan Regional High School	Fire Drill	12/3/25 @ 1:23 pm
Matawan Regional High School	Lock Down	12/19/25 @ 9:39 am
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Fire Drill	12/3/25 @ 8:45 am
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Active Shooter/Lock Down	12/9/25 @ 10:00 am
Ravine Drive Elementary School	Fire Drill	12/12/25 @ 9:30 am
Ravine Drive Elementary School	Lock Down	12/19/25 @ 1:45 pm
Strathmore Elementary School	Fire Drill	12/10/25 @ 2:19 pm
Strathmore Elementary School	Lock Down	12/19/25 @ 10:31 am

17. Award of Parental Contract for Student Transportation

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve a Parental Contract for Student Transportation (Route TBD) for the transportation of student ID 161852 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 6A:27-9.9 (e) and N.J.S.A.6A:27-1.5 (a) and (b) 1 for the school year 2025-2026 at a total cost of \$TBD.

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Started 6:53 pm

- C. Marsh (Keyport) - concerned about changing volunteer requirements.
- Ms. Werneke - Brought up looking at the policy committee
- D. Beckleman - Congratulations and thank you for the time you put into the district and service

Ended - 6:58 pm

XIV. ACTION ITEMS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Motion by Ms. Pell, seconded by Ms. Feiles to approve the following:

A. TRAVEL

Pursuant to travel policy #6471, the following staff is approved for travel related to training and workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member’s current responsibilities and the district’s Professional Development Plan. [\(Curriculum & Instruction Attachment #1\)](#)

Policy: #6471 Travel/Reimbursable Expenses

Rationale: Required estimates to abide by law and policy

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Mondella			X		
Mr. Montone				X	
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, one (1) members abstained and one (1) member was absent

PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Feiles to approve the following:

A. Resignations/Retirements - 2025-2026 School Year

Name	Loc	Position	Reason	Hire Date	Effective Date
Godowski, Donna	HS	Nurse	Retirement	9/1/2001	6/30/2026

B. Leave of Absence - 2025-2026 School Year

Name	Loc	Position	Type of Leave	With/Without Pay	Effective Dates
Bottone, Nicole	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay Without Pay	9/9/25-5/11/26 ½ Day AM 5/11/26 ½ Day PM - 6/23/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved 9/29/25
Calandra, Debra	ST	Instructional Assistant	Medical	With Pay	12/15/25-12/23/25
Fallon, Jill	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	1/5/26-6/23/26
Hollinger, Jessica	HS	LDTC	Medical	With Pay	1/7/26-2/4/26
McAndrews, Catherine	RD	Instructional Assistant	Personal	Without Pay	2/17/26-2/19/26
Patel, Payal	CL	Instructional Assistant	Personal	Without Pay	11/25/2025 1/2 Day PM - 12/8/2025
Puleo, Carla	CO	Confidential Secretary	Medical	With Pay	12/4/25-12/19/25 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 12/15/25
Ramsey, Holly	CO	School Bus/Van Driver	Medical	With Pay	12/10/25-12/23/25
Rosenblum, Erika	ST	Secretary	Medical	With Pay	11/10/25-3/20/26 Amended Dates- Previously Approved on 12/15/25
Savinon, Katiria	CO	Confidential Secretary	Medical/FMLA Intermittent	Without Pay	12/18/25
Toomey, Joanne	RD	Teacher	FMLA Intermittent	With Pay Without Pay	1/5/26, 1/8/26, 1/9/26, 1/12/26, 1/15/26, 1/16/26 1/6/26, 1/7/26, 1/13/26, 1/14/26 1/20/26-2/13/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 9/29/25

C. Appointments

3. Staff Array Changes - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Loc/Fte	Current Assignment	Loc/Fte/O/L	New Assignment	Effective Dates/Reason
Carnovsky, Robert	HS: 1.00	Social Studies Teacher	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L	Social Studies Teacher Creative Arts	9/1/25-1/30/26 Pra Sisto LOA Amended Dates - Previously Approved 8/25/25
Frisina, Salvatore	HS: 1.00	Special Ed Teacher	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L	Special Ed Teacher Drawing	9/1/25-1/30/26 Pra Sisto LOA Amended Dates - Previously Approved 8/25/25
Moller, Jennifer	HS: 1.00	English Teacher	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L	English Teacher Sculpture 3D	11/14/25-1/30/26 PraSisto LOA Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 10/27/25
O'Neill, Michelle	HS: 1.00	Freshman Seminar Teacher	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L	Freshman Seminar Teacher Creative Arts	9/1/25-1/30/26 Pra Sisto LOA Amended Dates - Previously Approved 8/25/25
Provines, Effie	HS: 1.00	Math Teacher	HS: 1.00 .20 O/L	Math Teacher Drawing	9/1/25-1/30/26 Pra Sisto LOA Amended Dates - Previously Approved 8/25/25

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Mondella			X		
Mr. Montone				X	
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, one (1) members abstained and one (1) member was absent

POLICY

Motion by Ms. Ascoli, seconded by Mr. McGovern to approve and adopt the following:

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following:

1. Second Reading and Adoption

Series	Category	Policy/ Regulation	Title	Second Reading
0000	Bylaws	P 0174	Legal Services	1/5/26

Series	Category	Policy/ Regulation	Title	Second Reading
			(M)	
0000	Bylaws	P 0177	Professional Services (M)	1/5/26
1000	Administration	P & R 1570	Internal Controls (M)	1/5/26
1000	Administration	P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M)	1/5/26
5000	Students	P 5517	Pupil Identification Cards	1/5/26
6000	Finances	P & R 6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M)	1/5/26
6000	Finances	P&R 6220	Budget Preparation (M)	1/5/26
6000	Finances	P 6360	Political Contributions (M)	1/5/26

(M) indicates mandated by state law

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Mondella			X		
Mr. Montone				X	
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, one (1) members abstained and one (1) member was absent

FINANCE

Motion by Ms. Spruell, seconded by Ms. Feiles to approve the following resolution(s):

1. Adoption of Official Newspapers

WHEREAS the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education deems it advisable to designate official newspapers for the advertisement of all legal notices and all other necessary public notifications,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Asbury Park Press is designated the official newspaper for all legal notices and the Star Ledger be designated should it be impossible to advertise in the Asbury Park Press for reasons of timely notice, emergency or other

2. Parliamentary Procedures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education adopt Robert’s Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the board secretary and the board attorney to act as the parliamentarians.

3. Board Policies/Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the adoption of all existing Board Policies and Regulations. The Board of Education regularly reviews and updates Board Policies and Regulations as needed.

4. Authorized Signatures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education authorize the following signatures for money market, checking and savings accounts:

Accounts	Authorized Signature
Custodian/General Account (Any 2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Payroll Agency Account (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Payroll Account (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Unemployment Compensation Trust (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
NJ Cash Management Fund (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Matawan Regional High School (MRHS) Athletic Activities Account (2)	MRHS Principal or Athletic Director and Board Secretary or Assistant Board Secretary
Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Student Activities Accounts (2)	Building Principals and Board Secretary or Assistant Board Secretary
Scholarship Account (1)	Board Secretary or Board President
Food Services Account (1)	Board Secretary or Board President

5. Approval of Depositories for the 2025-2026 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education designate the below listed Financial Institutions, Fund and Corporation as depositories for the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education funds and that the Financial Institutions be required to be insured by either the SLIC or the FDIC and/or as required by both Federal and State statutes:

- Santander
- Citizens Bank
- New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program (NJ/ARM)
- Bank of America
- US Bank

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized to wire transfer Board of Education funds between Board of Education accounts only; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized to enter into agreements with the State to allow the State to initiate credit entries to Board of Education accounts in its depositories by automatic deposits when appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all endorsements on behalf of the Board of Education upon checks, drafts, notes or instruments for depositor or collection made may be written or stamped endorsements of the Board of Education without any designation of the person making such endorsements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized on behalf of the Board of Education to change existing account types and establish new Statement Savings, NOW, Special Checking and/or Money Market Investment Accounts, in any one or all of the above depositories when in the best interest of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funds on deposit in Board of Education accounts be subject to withdrawal at any time upon presentation of warrants, checks, notes, bonds, bond coupons or other instruments or orders for the payment of money when signed, live or facsimile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to deliver, upon demand, specimen facsimile signatures of required authorities to the above approved depositories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized on behalf of the Board of Education to:

- a. Withdraw from depositories and give receipt for, or authorize depositories to deliver to bearer or to any person designated by the Board Secretary, all or any documents and securities or other property held by the depositories for any purpose
- b. Authorize the depositories to purchase or sell CDs, Repurchase Agreements and other securities, and
- c. Execute and deliver all instructs required by the depositories in connection with any of the foregoing resolutions and affix thereto the seal of the Board of Education.

6. Approval of Doctrine of Necessity

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to prove specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the opinion further provided that if the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity not just to vote, but also to form a negotiations committee because it is without even three members to serve as a committee, then the Board must determine whether to act as a committee of the whole or to choose a smaller negotiations committee from among its members after stating publicly its reason for doing so as set forth above; and,

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty (30) days and provide the Commission with a copy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts and charter schools, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School; Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association.

7. School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey January 2026

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 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education is one of 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District 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 approximately 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 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District 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 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District 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.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Ascoli	X				
Mr. McGovern	X				
Mr. Mondella			X		
Mr. Montone				X	
Ms. Pell	X				
Ms. Skop	X				
Ms. Spruell	X				
Ms. Feiles	X				
Ms. Werneke	X				

On a roll call vote, seven (7) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, one (1) members abstained and one (1) member was absent

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review Committees:

Chair - Ms. Ascoli for F&F provided update on committee structure and tour through Cambridge

Members: Ms Ascoli, Ms. Spruell, Mr. Mondella and Mr. Montone

Chair - Ms. Pell - Contract negotiations update for MRAA is active and expires June 2026

Members: Ms. Pell, Ms. Werneke and Ms. Ascoli

Mr. Liebmann - provided timeline update about redistricting

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

- None

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy, Personnel Matters and Legal Advice. The subject matter of these discussions will be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality subsides. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 60 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business if necessary. Action may take place.

It was moved by Ms. Skop, seconded by Ms. Feiles that the Board convene in Executive Session II and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 7:12 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Pell, seconded by Ms. Martinez that the Board return to Open Session at 8:27 pm.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Spruell, seconded by Ms. Werneke and a unanimous roll call vote the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.