

MAGNOLIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
420 NORTH WARWICK ROAD
MAGNOLIA, NJ 08049
Special Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026– 6:30 P.M.
Magnolia Elementary School

Audience members attending Board of Education Meetings are permitted to voice their opinions on school related topics at specified times during the regular meeting. These times are included in the printed agenda for the meeting.

I. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Magnolia Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Retrospect, at the entrance of Magnolia School, and the Magnolia Borough Hall, and notification sent to the Courier Post.

Time: _____

III. ROLL CALL

Rebecca Ammen	_____	Mark Godfrey	_____	Karen Sorbello	_____
Richard Cruz	_____	Jennifer Jackson	_____		
Nick D'Amico	_____	Dale Martin	_____		

Others Present:

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Magnolia School District is to develop well-rounded, engaged, and confident learners who are proud, respectful, and contributing members of their school and community.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION I – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to open the meeting to the public regarding agenda items only.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the public portion of the meeting. Concerns stated, or actions requested by the public, will be taken under advisement by the Board for investigation, discussion, and action or disposition at a later time/date. However, if your questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel items, or negotiations, we would ask that you see the superintendent after the meeting, since we do not discuss these items in public.

Pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12(b), the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board shall not discuss personnel matters and shall not respond to comments made by members of the public.

Employees of the Magnolia School District retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not entertain such comments. Nor shall the Board be held liable for comments made by member of the public. Further, the Board asks that citizens who choose to speak at a public board meeting be reminded that comments should always be respectful, non-defamatory and should maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a meeting of a public body.

When addressing the Board, please respect the following procedure:

1. Be recognized by the Board President.
2. State your full name and address before commenting.
3. Identify the resolution on which you will comment.
4. Wait to be recognized before making your comment(s).
5. Limit your comment(s) to the specific resolution.
6. Per Policy #0167, each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five minute's duration.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to close the Audience Participation I portion of the meeting.

Motion by: _____ *Seconded by:* _____ *Approved:* _____

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

A. Unfinished Business

B. New Business

C. State and Local School Board Association

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

VIII. BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Informational Items:

Board Actions:

Motion to approve item A

A Warrants

The attached bill lists:

- Warrants (**Attachment A1**)

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

Motion to approve items B through E

B 2026-2027 Budget

It is recommended that the Magnolia Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval and adoption of the Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$12,261,952.00	\$5,338,880.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$1,190,753.00	-
Debt Service Fund	\$261,325.00	\$207,149.00
Total Base Budget	\$13,714,030.00	\$5,546,029.00

And to advertise said tentative budget on the District's website (<https://www.magnoliaschools.org/>) in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Magnolia Board of Education located at 420 N Warwick Road on May 6, 2026 at 6:30pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Magnolia Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$94,402.00 The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Magnolia Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$139,200.00 for the purpose of an increase in staff salaries and benefit costs to continue to meet Educational Standards. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2027.

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$800,000.00 for other capital project costs of building renovations and repairs including but not limited to, exterior renovations and interior renovations including but not limited to, bathroom, flooring, HVAC, and asphalt repairs. The total cost of this project is \$800,000.00 which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

C Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education established \$30,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$8,661.54 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$30,000.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

D Legal Resolution

WHEREAS, the Magnolia Board of Education legal expenses exceed 130% of the state average per pupil costs (\$66 per pupil) and;

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 requires districts that exceed 130% of state average per pupil costs to implement procedures to reduce legal expenses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Magnolia Board of Education acknowledges the following procedures to be implemented by the Magnolia Administration;

- Employees authorized to contact legal counsel are the Superintendent, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Confidential Secretary, unless deemed necessary by the Superintendent.
- Administration will refer to board policy and administrative regulations before contacting legal counsel.
- Requests will be approved by the Superintendent before contacting legal counsel.
- Legal invoices will be reviewed by authorized employees before payment is rendered.

E Preschool Education Aid

To approve submission of the 2026-2027 Preschool Education Aid application and acceptance of the award in the amount of \$849,628.00.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION II – PUBLIC COMMENT

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to open the meeting to the public regarding other items of interest.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve to close the Audience Participation II portion of the meeting.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

X. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

Time: _____

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately _____ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Magnolia Borough School District will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

_____ Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon: _____);

_____ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____ Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____ Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body (Specify contract: _____);

_____ Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public

provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____ Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

_____ Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is: _____)

(If contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is _____)

Under certain circumstances, if public disclosure of the matter would have a potentially negative impact on the District's position in the litigation or negotiation, this information may be withheld until such time that the matter is concluded or the circumstances no longer present a potential impact);

_____ Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting;

_____ Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

I, _____, Board Secretary do hereby certify the above to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Magnolia Borough Board of Education at their meeting held on _____.

Board Secretary

Indicate whether action will or will not be taken after executive session.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____ Approved: _____

XI. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

Time: _____

Motion by: _____ *Seconded by:* _____ *Approved:* _____

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Time: _____

Motion by: _____ *Seconded by:* _____ *Approved:* _____