

**MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 9, 2026**



**Executive Session
6:30 PM**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
7:00 PM**

**Matawan Regional High School,
450 Atlantic Ave., Aberdeen, NJ**

MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
March 9, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6:30 PM
Matawan Regional High School, 450 Atlantic Ave., Aberdeen, NJ



AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION I (if necessary)
 - Privacy Matters
 - Personnel Matters
 - Legal Services

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

- VI. MINUTES (None)
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- IX. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (None)
- XI. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
- XII. STUDENT SERVICES
- XIII. PERSONNEL
- XIV. POLICY
- XV. FINANCE
- XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS
- XVII. VOTE/ROLL CALL ON AGENDA ITEMS (if necessary)
- XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- XVIII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION II (if necessary)
 - Privacy Matters
 - Personnel Matters
 - Legal Services
- XX. ADJOURNMENT

MARSD MISSION:

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

Members of the Board

Sheetal Werneke, President
Annette Ascoli
Michael Mondella
Dianna M. Pell
Danielle Spruell

Katie Feiles, Vice President
Christopher McGovern
John Montone
Laurie Skop

Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District

Welcome

Welcome to a meeting of the Matawan-Aberdeen Board of Education. We are always pleased when members of the community attend our meeting. The Board welcomes the participation of interested organizations and individuals, and schedules time for public comment, discussion and input. Persons who have questions about specific school practices, incidents or events are encouraged to directly contact the school administration.

The Board regularly holds two meetings per month. The 2nd Monday of each month is the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the 4th Monday of each month is the Regular Action Meeting, unless otherwise scheduled or announced.

Board of Education Meetings

These meetings are reserved for Board deliberation and for review of items contained within the agenda. The Board reserves the right to vote on Action items. Public comment shall be permitted early for thoughts and reactions on items of concern regarding the agenda. Each participant is asked to give his or her name and address prior to making a statement or asking a question. In addition, time will be allotted at the end of the meeting for public comment on any item. Speakers shall limit their comments to three minutes.

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 February 27, 2026 in the Asbury Park Press. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. The notice was also placed on the district’s web site.”

Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on matters of interest to the school community. Individuals wishing to speak must state their name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes’ duration, but an individual may speak a second time after all others who wish to speak on the topic have been heard. All statements should be directed to the Board President and no participant may address or question Board members individually. All speakers are requested to express themselves in a civil manner, with due respect for the dignity and privacy of others whose legal rights may be affected. Please note: While it is not the Board’s intention to stifle comment on matters of legitimate concern, the public should be aware that if their statements violate the rights of others under the law of defamation or invasion of privacy, they may face personal liability to the injured party. If speakers are uncertain of the legal ramifications of their comments, the Board urges them to seek guidance beforehand from their own legal advisor.

Executive Sessions

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 _____ minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action _____ take place.

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

Vision Statement: Students will become life-long learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers who achieve success as valuable and contributing members of society.

2025-2026 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional Board of Education Goals

Goal 1 - Increase Community Engagement & Buy-in

Goal 2 - Broaden Leadership Development & Board Participation Opportunities

Goal 3 - Support measurable improvement in academics

Goal 4 - Support future forward planning of facilities to sustain our growing district

2025-2026 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1 - Increase student achievement by supporting regular student attendance

Goal 2 - Align curriculum, instruction, and assessment to meet the needs of students

Goal 3 - Provide students access to a variety of opportunities to help build well-rounded community members

Goal 4 - Continue to promote safety and security for all students, staff, and our school community

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

MOTION: _____

SECONDED: _____

Email received Feb 20, 2026, avilejen@icloud.com, regarding "Other"

Email received Feb 28, 2026, sandy.furnbach@gmail.com, regarding "Curriculum & Instruction"

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. OTHER

1. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year.

Location	Date(s)	School/Grade	Purpose	Funding
NEW - Stockton University, Galloway, NJ	April 14, 2026	K.E.Y.S. Academy Students Gr. 9-12 & Staff	Substance Abuse Recovery and Wellness Programming	K.E.Y.S. Funding
NEW - Beyond Organic Growers, Freehold, NJ	April 16, 2026	K.E.Y.S. Academy Students Gr. 9-12 & Staff	Students will participate in activities connected to Health & Wellness and connect with the community.	K.E.Y.S. Funding
NEW - Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ	March 24, 2026	HS Gr. 9-12 Students from the Minority Male Mentoring Group & Advisors	2026 Empowering Young Black Males Annual Summit	School Budget
NEW - Brookdale Community College (K.E.Y.S.), Lincroft, NJ	May 19, 2026	HS Gr. 10-11 Students from Student Mentorship Program & Advisors	SPTS Youth Summit. Students will gain knowledge on healthy coping mechanisms and ways to seek help.	School Budget
NEW - TCNJ College of NJ, Ewing, NJ	May 28, 2026	HS Gr. 9-12 ALS Students & Staff	To provide students with a full ASL immersion experience.	School Budget
NEW - Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ	May 15, 2026	MS Gr. 6-8 Students in MD/Autism Classes & Staff	Students will explore and learn about various science topics and	Student Services (CBI) Funds

			engage in interactive exhibits. Allows for social skills as well.	
NEW - Huber Woods, Middletown, NJ	April 13, 2026; April 17, 2026; April 20, 2026; April 23, 2026; April 24, 2026	LR Gr. 4 Students & Staff	Students will learn how the Lenape depended on each other to construct their villages. Aligns with the SS curriculum.	Paid by Students
NEW - The Plant Place, Middletown, NJ	April 24, 2026	LR Gr. 4-5 MD/Autism Classes & Staff	Students will create terrariums and plant art to enhance therapeutic creativity.	Student Services (CBI) Funds
NEW - Freneau Woods, Aberdeen, NJ	April 7, 2026; April 24, 2027; May 12, 2026; May 13, 2026	LR Gr. 5 Enrichment Students & Staff	The program introduces students to biodiversity adaptations, food webs, stewardship of freshwater systems.	Paid by Students/Families
NEW - Center for Holocaust, Lincroft, NJ	June 8, 2026	LR Gr. 5 Students & Staff	Learning experience for the Humanities Enrichment Class	Student
NEW - YMCA, Freehold, NJ	June 15, 2026	LR Gr. 5 Students & Staff	5th grade YMCA Pool Club (Rain Date)	PTO Funds
NEW - MRHS, Aberdeen, NJ	May 19, 2026	ST Gr. 3 Students & Staff	3rd Grade Show Rehearsal	Student Activity Funds
REVISED & NEW -	May 19 & 20, 2026 (May 19th is a	RD Gr. 2 Students & Staff	Bayshore Waterfront trip	PTO Funds

Bayshore Waterfront, Port Monmouth, NJ	change in date from 5/27/26 and May 20th is an added date to accommodate all students.)		aligns with Biodiversity & Human curriculum. Observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life & habitats.	
REVISED - Poricy Park, Red Bank, NJ	May 21, 2026 (new date)	RD Gr. 3 Students & Staff	Fossil Hunt as part of Unity & Diversity lesson. Analyze & interpret data.	PTO Funds
REVISED - Allaire Community Farm, Wall, NJ (new location replaced Von Thun Farms)	May 13, 2026 (new date)	RD Gr. 1 Students & Staff	Visit to farm aligns with Science curriculum on Structure & Function and Growth & Development of Organisms	PTO Funds
REVISED - Francisco Family Farm, Matawan, NJ (new location replaced Jenkinson's Aquarium)	May 12, 2026 (new date)	RD Kindergarten Students & Staff	Observe the environment of plants and animals.	PTO Funds

2. The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the Matawan Regional High School field hockey team for an overnight trip to compete in pre-season games in Florida. The team will be departing on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 and will be returning on Sunday, August 30, 2026.

Rationale: This trip will enable student-athletes and coaches to compete in games that would not be available to them in New Jersey due to competition and weather. The trip will also serve as a team bonding experience.

Cost: No Cost to District (funded by parent booster and families)

STUDENT SERVICES

- None

PERSONNEL

A. Resignations/Retirements - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Loc	Position	Reason	Hire Date	Effective Date
Alvarez, Dawn	RD	Kindergarten Teacher	Retirement	09/01/1994	06/30/2026
Fallon, Jill	CL	Elementary Teacher	Retirement	03/01/2000	06/30/2026

B. Leave of Absence - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Loc	Position	Type of Leave	With/Without Pay	Effective Dates
Anderson, Sonali	CL	Teacher	Medical	With Pay	03/04/2026 - 04/07/2026 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 01/26/2026
Bartelotti, Samantha	RD	Teacher	Maternity	With Pay	04/25/2026 - 06/30/2026
			Maternity/FMLA	Without Pay	09/01/2026 - 11/24/2026
			Personal	Without Pay	11/25/2026 - 06/30/2027
Flanagan, Colleen	CO	School Bus/Van Driver	Medical/FMLA	With Pay	03/02/2026 - 03/12/2026
Lays, Trevor	CO	Transportation Assistant	Medical	With Pay	02/20/2026 - 04/17/2026
			FMLA	Without Pay	04/20/2026 - 05/04/2026
Potter, Madga	CP	Instructional Assistant	Medical	With Pay	02/25/2026 - 03/20/2026
Rosenblum, Erika	ST	Secretary	Medical/FMLA	Without Pay	03/23/2026 - 06/30/2025 Amended - Previously Approved on 03/09/2026 RAM
Unterburger, Erica	HS	Teacher	Maternity	With Pay	04/27/2026 - 06/01/2026

Name	Loc	Position	Type of Leave	With/Without Pay	Effective Dates
			Maternity	Without Pay	06/02/2026 - 06/23/2026
			FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay	09/02/2026 - 11/24/2026
Whesper, JoAnn	CO	School Bus/Van Driver	Medical	With Pay	01/30/2026 - 04/01/2026
Zupkus, Emily	ST/RD	School Psychologist	Maternity	With Pay	06/15/2026 - 06/23/2026
			FMLA/NJFLA	Without Pay	09/01/2026 - 11/24/2026

C. Appointments - 2025/2026 School Year

1. New Hires

Name	Loc	Position	Step	Salary/Stipend	Replace/Reason	Effective Dates

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

2. Curriculum & Instruction - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Position	Staff	Activity	Max Hours	Cost/Hr	Total Cost

Account # 20-361-100-100-30-0000-0

3. 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.

4. Staff Array Changes - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Loc/Fte	Current Assignment	Loc/Fte/O/L	New Assignment	Effective Dates/Reason

5. College Student Observers/Teachers/Interns - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Cooperating Staff Member	Assignment
Hartigan, Nicholas	Matthew Walsh, Social Studies Teacher	High School Student Observer Brookdale Community College Spring 2026
Reynolds, Aprille	Kristina Saccomondo, School Psychologist	Cambridge Park Elementary School Student Observer- Early Practicum Kean University 2026/2027 School Year

6. Volunteers - 2025/2026 School Year

Name	Location	Activity	Effective Date

Note: The law on background checks requires ultimate clearance prior to any approval becoming final, in addition to any other pre-approval paperwork. *District Staff Member, **Non-Staff Member

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 February 23, 2025:

Incidents Reported	Confirmed Incidents
1	1

2. High School Graduation Chaperones - 2025/2026 School Year

- TBD**
Up to three hours at \$25.91/hr
June 2026 Graduation Date or Raindate

3. Middle School Graduation Chaperones - 2025/2026 School Year

- Anthony Certa, **TBD**
Up to three hours at \$25.91/hr
June 2026 Graduation Date or Raindate

POLICY

- None

FINANCE**Board Secretary's Monthly Certification - February 2026**

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:20-2-2.13(D), we certify that as of February 28, 2026, 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 February 2026 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 February 13, 2026 in the amount of \$2,373,446.77 and the February 27, 2026 in the amount of \$2,320,361.48 payroll.

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

1. Receipt and Acceptance of the February 2026 Board Secretary's Report

Recommend the receipt of the Board Secretary Financial Reports as of February 28, 2026, 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 February 28, 2026 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.

2. Treasurer's Report - February 2026

PURSUANT TO NJAC 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2026.

3. Approve Appropriation Transfers

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the transfers attached.

4. March 2026 District Enrollment Report

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

5. Acceptance of Donation from Matawan Borough

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education accept the donation of a box truck from the Borough of Matawan. The vehicle will be used by the district's band and color guard programs for the transportation of equipment.

6. Fire and Evacuation Drills

The following Fire and Evacuation Drill occurred during **February 2026**

School Name	Security Drill Type	Date & Time
Cambridge Park Elementary School	Shelter in Place	2/19/26 @ 12:44 pm
Cambridge Park Elementary School	Fire Drill	2/25/26 @ 12:00 pm
Cliffwood Elementary School	Lockdown	2/3/26 @ 11:10 am
Cliffwood Elementary School	Fire Drill	22/13/26 @ 11:05 am
Lloyd Road Elementary School	Fire Drill	2/10/26 @ 2:27 pm
Lloyd Road Elementary School	Bomb Threat	2/26/26 @ 2:34 pm
Matawan Regional High School	Fire Drill	2/10/26 @ 9:40 am
Matawan Regional High School	Lockdown (Active Shooter)	2/19/26 @ 1:45 pm
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Fire Drill	2/9/26 @ 1:30 pm
Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School	Lockdown Active Shooter	2/12/26 @ 2:00 pm
Ravine Drive Elementary School	Shelter in Place (Medical Emergency)	2/12/26 @ 10:20 am
Ravine Drive Elementary School	Fire Drill	2/17/26 @ 1:45 pm
Strathmore Elementary School	Fire Drill	2/19/26 @ 10:19 am
Strathmore Elementary School	Medical Emergency Shelter in Place	2/27/26 @ 2:22 pm