

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 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: Kim Galbraith, Shannon Marren, Andrew Mingione, David Amanullah, Gina McQuin, Julissa Rodriguez, Jamie Zummo, Mark Salemi, Glen Grimes

Also Present: Michele Pillari, Aleksandar Kondovski, Adam Weiss

PRESENTATION – David Bottge, of Wielkoltz & Co., presented the 2025 Financial Audit results.

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.

226-220 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 reorganization and the January 12, 2026 regular meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the January 12, 2026 regular meeting.

Roll Call: 9 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pillari reported SSDS for Reporting Period 1

Preschool:

HSA (Thank you): Thank you to the Preschool HSA for organizing the Valentine's Day photos. The setup was lovely, and your continued support is truly appreciated.

Kindness Week Reminder: Please refer to the Kindness Week flyer for details. Preschool students will also be participating in classroom-based activities throughout the week.

Cozy Reading Time: Preschool will be hosting Cozy Reading Time on February 12th. Students are encouraged to wear a cozy or comfy top and may bring a stuffed animal to enjoy this special reading experience.

Feb 13th Craft Volunteers: Thank you to the parents who are volunteering for the February 13 Valentine's Day classroom craft. We greatly appreciate your support. Please note that to volunteer in classrooms, individuals must be a paid HSA Member. However, this month they are allowing parents to volunteer. For more details, please contact the HSA directly to become a member.

Home Lending Library: Events will continue throughout the month of February at all preschool locations. Please remember to sign the permission slips.

February Lunch & Learn: Our February Lunch & Learn is scheduled for February 25th. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Tatiana Expinal from the Passaic County Health Department, who will present on supporting dental care at home. We hope you can join us. Preschool Parent Lunch & Learn (virtual) Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gra-cdtp-pva>

Lead Screenings: Lead Screenings are scheduled for ECC - Feb. 5 and S1 - April 2. Permission slips for ECC went home on Monday

Goodie Bags/Birthdays: If you choose to send goodie bags to celebrate a birthday or other celebrations the items must be non-food. Candy or food items are not permitted. Please read the [Nurse's Birthday Guidance](#). Thank you for your cooperation. **100th Day of School:** Feb 11th.

Learning About Communication Boards and Visual Supports: During a recent Preschool PLC, Ms. Ramirez, our speech-language pathologist, provided training for preschool teachers on how to effectively utilize communication boards and visual support in the classroom. Teachers learned practical strategies to support student communication, and a small packet of materials was provided to help implement these tools across classroom learning environments.

Preschool Curriculum: Writing Skills Though most children in PK are approximately the same age, their writing levels usually have a wide range. With daily writing experiences young children will move through various writing stages, at various rates. The teacher helps children progress with their writing development by modeling writing everyday and providing children with varied writing activities. Analyzing each child's writing level will also help the teacher in providing meaningful experiences that develop young writers. Making writing materials and fine motor materials available to the children daily aides in this process.

Social Emotional Learning: Teaching Kindness: Teaching kindness to preschoolers can help them develop social skills, build relationships, and feel accepted by their peers. You can teach kindness to preschoolers by being a role model, reading books, and doing activities together. Explain that small acts of kindness can have a big impact. Be specific when expressing gratitude. Encourage simple acts of kindness and make them a regular part of your child's day. Teaching kindness can help children develop a sense of well-being and promote positive behavior

CO

During the week of Jan. 26, our students and staff participated in Tie-Dying t-shirts donated by the COHSA to represent the Six Pillars of Character. These shirts will be worn monthly during our CO HERO assemblies.

CO HERO assembly and kick off to our new PBIS classroom incentive took place on Feb. 6th.

Students and staff will participate in kindness activities planned by the school counselor which took place during Random Acts of Kindness Week Feb. 6-Feb.13.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences will take place on Feb. 18th from 2:30pm-4:30pm and 5:30pm -7:30pm

Reading Rocks assembly with Joe Holiday will take place on Feb. 23. Thank you our COHSA for sponsoring this event.

BG

Our 4th and 5th grade students at BG attended a virtual field trip of Liberty Hall throughout the month of January. Museum educators in period dress conducted programming specifically designed to engage students on a virtual platform while still allowing for interaction between students and the museum educators, capturing the experience of a museum visit. Pre-visit materials were provided to the teachers for a hands-on component. Thank you to Seniors for a Democratic Society at Four Seasons Great Notch for sponsoring this event for our students.

BG kicked off the Kid's Heart Challenge with an assembly facilitated by the American Heart Association on January 5th.

Passaic County Park Rangers visited 3rd and 4th grade classrooms on January 6th, 7th, 28th, and 29th. The visits provided students with interactive environmental education programs covering topics such as local wildlife, habitats, and conservation.

NJ4S facilitated an assembly for 4th and 5th grade students on January 9th and 3rd grade students on January 20th. This month's presentation was on Cultural Compassion.

On January 20th, staff participated in a hands-on professional development, facilitated by Ms. Mastropaolo, on aligning expectations throughout grades 3-5.

3rd grade students, staff and chaperones attended Liberty Hall in Union, NJ for their annual field trip.

Memorial Middle School

On January 12, sixth-grade STRIVE students visited Haskell to participate in hands-on coding activities designed to strengthen problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.

From January 13–15, students in grades 6–8 engaged in grade-level "Comfy Conversations," participating in guided, casual discussions on communication, relationships, boundaries, substance awareness, and self-advocacy, facilitated by the school Wellness Team. On January 16, students took part in an interactive House Event focused on the life, legacy, and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., engaging in meaningful activities that promoted reflection and understanding. On January 29, staff participated in Faculty Learning Time centered on ATLAS, ensuring interdisciplinary connections were intentionally embedded and aligned within the curriculum. On January 29, Memorial Middle School hosted its annual Spelling Bee at Charles Olbon, where Katalina Rodriguez was crowned champion and will represent Woodland Park at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee. Ms. Yesenosky and Mrs. DiBona coordinated a wonderful Spelling Bee! On February 3, Passaic Valley Regional High School staff and students met with the eighth grade to discuss academic life, course selection, and preparation

for a successful transition to high school. On February 3, sixth-grade STRIVE students traveled to Ringwood to compete in a problem-solving competition against other local schools, showcasing teamwork, perseverance, and critical thinking.

Curriculum Office:

ML teachers completed their training and will begin ACCESS testing with their students. Students are completing their winter/mid-year diagnostic assessments in Social Emotional Learning, math, science and ELA. Teachers and the Data Teams will be reviewing these results and aligning instruction and interventions accordingly.

ELA:

The Literacy Supervisor, implemented the Coaching Cycle, planning and arranging classroom visits for peer observation and review of best practices. Mrs. Davidson, with the support of Ms. Krasnomowitz, facilitated K-3 staff Foundations training. Foundations is a phonics based program designed to support early literacy development. The program emphasizes systematic, explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, and word study to build strong foundational reading skills. The training included opportunities for engagement and collaboration, as well as practical tips and strategies to support instruction and planning.

Math:

Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Tomback, and several math teachers attended an i-Ready Professional Development on hands-on mathematics content. During this workshop, teachers had an opportunity to dig into the core math content that builds student understanding, explores how place value supports number sense, using conceptual models to strengthen multi-digit operations, and how to help students transition from arithmetic to algebra through expressions, equations, and reasoning. Mrs. Reilly planned and co-taught a lesson with a newer teacher, modeling best practices and providing feedback and coaching. Students played a Math Game during their center rotations with Mrs. Reilly and enjoyed learning about numbers. Mrs. Reilly arranged for a day of learning with the i-Ready Coach and those newer to the i-Ready platform. Teachers explored using tools for proper pacing, development of pre-requisite skills, and analyzing data to meet the needs of every student.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Kondovski thanked Mr. Bottege and the audit team for their time and guidance during the audit process. He thanked the Board office employees for their help with the audit. He especially thanked the business office staff. He stated with all the turnover in BA’s, they held the office together, which reflected in a clean audit.

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 GALBRAITH Seconded by MINGIONE to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 226-221 through 226-225.
Roll Call: 9 YES

226-221 - SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, receives and accepts the attached reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the months of December 2025 & January 2026 “Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6: 20-2.12©, we certify that as of December 31, 2025 & January 31, 2026, the Board Secretary’s monthly financial reports (appropriations section) did not reflect any over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year”

226-222 - TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of transfers for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

226-223 - APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$509,516.09, approved by finance committee chairperson.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#73	\$465,629.08
#74	\$ 1,700.75
#L74	\$ 42,186.26

226-224 - HIB DECISION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation #2026-12, 2026-13, 2026-14, & 2026-15, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the student's parents.

226-225 - APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, as attached.

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 RODRIGUEZ Seconded by GALBRAITH to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 226-226 through 226-233.

Roll Call: 9 YES

226-226-ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT – S. O'DONNELL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of Susan O'Donnell, district teacher of 20 years, effective June 30, 2026.

226-227-ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT – D. MURRAY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the retirement of Donna Murray, district teacher of 25 years, effective June 30, 2026.

226-228- REVISE RESOLUTION 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 the revision of resolution 226-211, to reflect a return to work of 2/2/26.

226-229-APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff class change, retroactive to February 1, 2026:

Jennifer Villanueva - From BA, Step 1, \$62,805 to BA+30, Step 1, \$69,255

226-230-APPROVAL REDUCTION IN FORCE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Park Board of Education eliminates the position held by employee number 4874, by way of a reduction in force ("RIF"), for reasons of economy, effective 2/19/26.

226-231-APPROVAL REDUCTION IN FORCE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Park Board of Education eliminates the position held by employee number 4477, by way of a reduction in force ("RIF"), due to lack of student needs and for reasons of economy, effective 3/7/26.

226-232 - APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve home instruction for Student ID#35165, effective 2/10/26-TBD. Instruction will be provided as follows:

Lori McCluskey – Social Studies – 2 hours per week, at a rate of \$48/hr.

Lorraine Altomare – Science – 2 hours per week, at a rate of \$48/hr.

226-233 - 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
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Jamie Casanovas	NJ Preschool Inclusive Ed Project	3/11/26	NA	NA	NA
Luftar Zeneli	NJSBGA 2026 Conference	3/23-3/25 2026	NA	NA	NA
Aimee Soto	AI for SpEd Team & Demystifying Assessments.	2/27/26	NA	\$8.82	\$8.82
Aimee Soto	One Team, Many Strengths	3/27/26	NA	\$12.86	\$12.86
Krystina Reilly	NCSM Leadership in Math Education	Virtual Self Pace	\$85	NA	\$85
Desi Mayol	ELLs & Dyslexia	4/17/26	\$295	NA	\$295
Alyssa Handel	iReady Math Content Knowledge Wksp.	1/22/26	NA	\$7.80	\$7.80
Mireya Gutierrez	NJPIP	3/11/26	NA	NA	NA
Kathryn Williams	22 nd Annual Suicide Prevention Confer.	1/28/26	NA	\$32.90	\$32.90
Alrick Douglas	Student Achievement Curriculum Equity	1/29/26(reschedule)	NA	NA	NA
Marelyvy Castillo Caitlyn Giannino	Pyramid Model Training	01/08/26	NA	NA	NA
Lori McCluskey Jennifer Smith Jessica Sonners	Foundations of Teaching the Holocaust	2/9/26	NA	NA	NA
Mireya Gutierrez Caitlin Miqui Caitlyn Giannino Noura Mohd Laura Cunterea Nesma Abdelrahman Nadica Milkova Marelyvy Castillo	Culturally Responsive Practice: Self Reflection, Instruction & Strategies	1/29/26	NA	NA	NA
Jessica Riviera	Meeting All Learners Every Day	4/14/26	\$85	NA	\$85

FINANCE:

The following finance 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 MINGIONE Seconded by MCQUIN to accept the recommendation of the Business Administrator to approve the following finance agenda numbers 226-234 through 226-235.

Roll Call: 9 YES

226-234 - ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2025 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED, THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION has received and accepts the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, prepared by Wielkott & Co., Certified Public Accountants and further resolved, that the Woodland Park Board of Education has reviewed and discussed the audit recommendations and has approved the Corrective Action Plan for the audit recommendations.

A ACFR/AMR Finding	B Condition/Finding	C Recommendation	D Method of Implementation	E Person Responsible for Implementation/Title	F Implementation Date
2025-01	The general ledger opening balances were not updated to be in agreement with the prior year audit balances.	That general ledger opening balances be in agreement with prior year audit balances.	BA to ensure that opening year balances are in agreement with prior year audit balances.	Business Administrator	1/27/2026
2025-02	The TPAF/FICA report did not include all salaries paid from federal funds.	That the TPAF/FICA include all salaries paid from federal funds.	BA to ensure all TPAF/FICA salaries are included in the federal grant.	Business Administrator	1/27/2026

A ACFR/AMR Finding	B Condition/Finding	C Recommendation	D Method of Implementation	E Person Responsible for Implementation/Title	F Implementation Date
2025-03	The A.S.S.A. the reported on roll students were understated by 24 students when compared to work papers, the Resident Low Income students were overstated by 19 students when compared to work papers, and Resident LEP Low Income Students were overstated by 1 student when compared to work papers.	That students reported on the A.S.S.A. be in agreement with the District's work papers.	BA to ensure all District information regarding students coincides with information submitted to A.S.S.A.	Business Administrator	1/27/2026

226-235 - APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – LEARN WELL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with LearnWell, to provide educational instruction for student ID #33353, 5 hrs. per week, at \$63/hr., effective 1/26/2026-approx. 2/24/2026.

POLICY:

226-236-APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES & REGULATIONS – 2ND READING & ADOPTION

Motion by GALBRAITH Seconded by SALEMI

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
P1552 & R1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff	Mandated

Roll Call: 9 YES

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Grimes informed the public that the school play this year is Matilda the Musical, being held at BG on February 26th, 27th and 28th.

PUBLIC HEARING

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.

Jasmine Asalde – 599 McBride Ave.

Ms. Asalde had a problem with her pre-school son. She feels her son needs a 1 to 1 aide and therapy and was upset that the aide that was originally assigned to his class was moved. She has taken her son out of school and has requested a meeting to see if they can come to terms to re-enroll him with the help she thinks he needs.

Nicole Zlotkowski – 38 Park Dr.

Ms. Zlotkowski asked if there was a way the gen ed bus can stop in front of her house, as opposed to walking to the bus stop, since the bus passes her home.

Janella Almonte – 201 Overmount Ave.

Ms. Almonte asked the Board to please give attention to the pre-school student previously mentioned. She stated the drastic change in him since the aide left the classroom.

Tara Wanga – 19 Borkowski Pl.

Ms Wanga stated her son is friends with the pre-school student previously mentioned and said her son told her the student has had many outbursts since the aide left the classroom.

Valente Mira-434 Riflecamp Rd.

Ms. Mira stated that she saw such a big improvement over the last year in the pre-school student previously mentioned, with the help of the aide who was in the room and hopes that you can bring her back.

Dr. Pillari addressed the concerns that were brought up. She stated that she cannot discuss a student matter in public, but the Board will discuss the matter in private and see what can be done to help the situation. She also stated that our busing is courtesy busing for hazardous routes. She said that stops are established to find a communal spot that can accommodate all busing students. She said she would call the parent to discuss it further.

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 7:46 p.m. by RODRIGUEZ, seconded by GALBRAITH
Voice Vote: 9 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 9:25 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 9 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. by SALEMI, Seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 9 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Board discussed student that parent spoke about in public session.
- Superintendent discussed HIB case #'s 2026-16, 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19, 2026-20
- Board discussed Buildings & Grounds matters
- Board discussed contract at ECC
- Board discussed 26-27 budget impacts
- Board discussed dedication of Memorial gym

Respectfully Submitted,



Aleksandar Kondovski

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary