

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Mrs. Elisabeth Carrino-Tamasi

President

Dr. Rekha Mandel

Vice President

Mrs. Cynthia Brusco

Mrs. Natasha Crossan

Mr. Peter Dumovic

Mr. Thomas Keeling

Dr. Christina Klausner

IV. Sunshine 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 meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Mendham Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Mendham Township Board of Education Office, sent to the Clerk of Mendham Township, and the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record. This is an official meeting.

V. 2026-2027 Public Hearing Budget Presentation - Dr. Constantino

VI. Verbal Communications from the Public

The Board President, or Presiding Officer, will direct members of the public to speak in turn and shall have the right to limit the speaking time of individuals wishing to provide comments to the Board as necessary. Board of Education members provide public comment as a time to listen to the comments from attendees of the Board of Education meeting. Public comment shall not be a time for open dialogue with the speaker. Public comment shall not be a time for board members to answer questions posed to them by a speaker or comment on a speaker's concerns. Speakers shall provide their name and address and direct their comments to the Board and not to district staff or other audience members. Speakers shall not expect board members to answer questions during public comment. Questions shall be referred to the Superintendent or his/her designee for review, study, and response. If appropriate, the Board may request the issue be a discussion item at a future Board of Education meeting.

VII. Action Items:

Operations and Finance

1. ADOPTION OF THE FINAL 2026-2027 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT (unchanged)

A. ADOPTION OF THE FINAL 2026-2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 24, 2026, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Daily Record newspaper on Friday, April 24, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Mendham Township Middle School, 16 Washington Valley Road, Brookside, NJ, on the 28th day of April, 2026.

NO, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for the 2026-2027 school year:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES FUNDS	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
2026-27 Total Expenditures	\$27,292,000	\$ 157,500	\$1,348,488	\$28,797,988
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ 6,785,000	\$ 157,500	\$ 425,609	\$ 7,368,109
Taxes to be Raised	\$20,507,000	\$ 0	\$ 922,879	\$21,429,879

B. USE OF ADJUSTMENTS - 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education include in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$225,234. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education include in the final budget the weighted adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$111,231. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to cover additional increases in staff health benefit premiums. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2027, and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or completed incrementally over a longer period.

C. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT – 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education includes in the final budget for the 2026-2027 school year a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$25,000. The establishment of this maximum travel expenditure is pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 and is defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education also set a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$25,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, of which \$12,230 has been spent, and \$3,659 is encumbered to date.

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education recognizes that 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 Subchapter 7 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, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses are not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 to a maximum expenditure of \$25,000 for all staff and board members for the 2026-2027 school year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

D. CAPITAL RESERVE WITHDRAWAL – 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education maintains a Capital Reserve Account in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1 for the purpose of funding capital projects included in the district's approved Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP); and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified the need to allocate funds from the Capital Reserve Account to support the costs associated with the referendum project, as outlined in the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of these funds is in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, which stipulates that funds from the Capital Reserve Account may only be used for capital projects formally approved in the district's LRFP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the withdrawal of \$900,000 from the Capital Reserve Account to be appropriated for the purpose of completing projects for the district during the 2026-2027 school year. To include, but are not limited to, the replacement of HVAC equipment at both the Mendham Township Elementary School and the Mendham Township Middle School, and furniture, supplies/materials for both schools that are needed for the referendum project that were removed to keep the project cost of the bonding down; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation shall be reflected in the district's budget in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(c) and that all expenditures from these funds shall be in strict compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

E. MAINTENANCE RESERVE WITHDRAWAL – 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education maintains a Maintenance Reserve Account in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 for the purpose of funding required maintenance projects as outlined in the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP); and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified the need to allocate funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account to support the costs associated with required maintenance activities for a school facility, as outlined in the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5 and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of these funds is in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2, which stipulates that funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account may only be used for required maintenance activities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-1.2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the withdrawal of \$400,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Account to be appropriated for the purpose of completing projects for the district during the 2026-2027 school year. To include, but not limited to, the repair of roofs, the boilers, and the upgrade and replacement of HVAC equipment at both the Mendham Township Elementary School and the Mendham Township Middle School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation shall be reflected in the district's budget in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(e) and that all expenditures from these funds shall be in strict compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

F. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2026-2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2 (a) mandates boards to establish annually, prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year (2026-2027) and

WHEREAS, the final 2025-2026 budget includes the following appropriations:

Legal	\$12,000
Auditor	\$35,000
Architect	\$30,000
Physician	\$4,700

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

2. RESOLUTION FOR DISTRICT TAX 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of district taxes needed to meet the obligations of the Mendham Township Board of Education during the school year 2026-2027 is \$20,507,000 for the General Fund plus \$922,879 for Debt Service, which equals \$21,429,879 in total for the tax levy for the 2026-2027 school year that Mendham Township is hereby requested to place in the hands of the Treasurer of School Monies that amount according to the following schedule in accordance with the statutes relating thereto:

Monthly Due Date	General Fund Tax Levy	Debt Service Tax Levy	Monthly Due Date	General Fund Tax Levy	Debt Service Tax Levy
July 1, 2026	1,708,916.67	461,440.00	January 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	461,439.00
August 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		February 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	

September 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		March 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
October 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		April 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
November 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		May 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
December 1, 2026	1,708,916.65		June 1, 2027	1,708,916.65	
TOTAL 2026:	10,253,500.00	461,440.00	TOTAL 2027	10,253,500.00	461,439.00

FY 2026-2027 Approved Total: \$20,507,000.00 \$ 922,879.00

Certified Tax Levy: \$21,429,879.00

VIII. Adjournment to the Regular Monthly Meeting