

**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.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING** was held on March 9, 2026, Matawan Regional High School, 450 Atlantic Ave., Aberdeen, NJ.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Werneke called the Committee of the Meeting to order at 6:31 pm

## **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 February 27, 2026 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**

## **VI. ROLL CALL**

Present:	Ms. Werneke - President	Ms. Feiles - Vice President
	Ms. Ascoli	Mr. McGovern
	Mr. Mondella	Mr. Montone
	Ms. Pell	Ms. Skop
	Ms. Spruell	

Absent:

Also Present:	Ms. Perez, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Liebmann, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration PreK-12
	Dr. Rawls-Dill, Director of Personnel

## **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION I**

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy, Personnel Matters and Legal Services. 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 30 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business if necessary. Action will not take place.

It was moved by Ms. Feiles seconded by Ms. Pell that the Board convene in Executive Session and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 6:33 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Ascoli, seconded by Ms. Skop that the Board return to Open Session at 7:00 pm.

## **VI. MINUTES**

- None

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD**

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

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

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
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, nine (9) members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no, and zero (0) members were absent

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- None

**IX. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- None

**X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

- None

**IX. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Liebmann presented the Curriculum and Instruction Agenda which will be presented for action at the Regular Action Meeting which will take place immediately following.

**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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>School/Grade</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - Monmouth University,	March 24, 2026	HS Gr. 9-12 Students from the Minority Male	2026 Empowering Young Black Males Annual Summit	School Budget

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>School/Grade</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Funding</b>
West Long Branch, NJ		Mentoring Group & Advisors		
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - 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 engage in interactive exhibits. Allows for social skills as well.	Student Services (CBI) Funds
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - 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
<b>NEW</b> - Center for Holocaust, Lincroft, NJ	June 8, 2026	LR Gr. 5 Students & Staff	Learning experience for the Humanities Enrichment Class	Student
<b>NEW</b> - YMCA, Freehold, NJ	June 15, 2026	LR Gr. 5 Students & Staff	5th grade YMCA Pool Club (Rain Date)	PTO Funds
<b>NEW</b> -	May 19, 2026	ST Gr. 3 Students	3rd Grade Show	Student Activity

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>School/Grade</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Funding</b>
MRHS, Aberdeen, NJ		& Staff	Rehearsal	Funds
<b>REVISED &amp; NEW -</b> Bayshore Waterfront, Port Monmouth, NJ	May 19 & 20, 2026 <b>(May 19th is a change in date from 5/27/26 and May 20th is an added date to accommodate all students.)</b>	RD Gr. 2 Students & Staff	Bayshore Waterfront trip aligns with Biodiversity & Human curriculum. Observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life & habitats.	PTO Funds
<b>REVISED -</b> Poricy Park, Red Bank, NJ	May 21, 2026 <b>(new date)</b>	RD Gr. 3 Students & Staff	Fossil Hunt as part of Unity & Diversity lesson. Analyze & interpret data.	PTO Funds
<b>REVISED -</b> Allaire Community Farm, Wall, NJ <b>(new location replaced Von Thun Farms)</b>	May 13, 2026 <b>(new date)</b>	RD Gr. 1 Students & Staff	Visit to farm aligns with Science curriculum on Structure & Function and Growth & Development of Organisms	PTO Funds
<b>REVISED -</b> Francisco Family Farm, Matawan, NJ <b>(new location replaced Jenkinson’s Aquarium)</b>	May 12, 2026 <b>(new date)</b>	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)

**X. STUDENT SERVICES**

- None

**XI. PERSONNEL**

Dr. Rawls-Dill presented the Personnel Agenda which will be presented for action at the Regular Action Meeting which will take place immediately following.

**A. Resignations/Retirements - 2025/2026 School Year**

Name	Loc	Position	Reason	Hire Date	Effective Date
Alvarez, Dawn	RD	Kindergarten Teacher	Retirement	9/1/1994	6/30/2026
Fallon, Jill	CL	Elementary Teacher	Retirement	3/1/2000	6/30/2026

**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	3/4/26-4/7/26 Amended Dates - Previously Approved on 1/26/26
Bartelotti, Samantha	RD	Teacher	Maternity Maternity/FMLA Personal	With Pay Without Pay Without Pay	4/25/26-6/30/26 9/1/26-11/24/26 11/25/26-6/30/27
Flanagan, Colleen	CO	School Bus/Van Driver	Medical/FMLA	With Pay	3/2/26-3/12/26
Layrs, Trevor	CO	Transportation Assistant	Medical FMLA	With Pay Without Pay	2/20/26-4/17/26 4/20/26-5/4/26
Potter, Madga	CP	Instructional Assistant	Medical	With Pay	2/25/26-3/20/26
Rosenblum, Erika	ST	Secretary	Medical/FMLA	Without Pay	3/23/26-6/30/26 Amended - Previously Approved on 3/9/26 RAM
Unterburger, Erica	HS	Teacher	Maternity Maternity FMLA/NJFLA	With Pay Without Pay Without Pay	4/27/26-6/1/26 6/2/26-6/23/26 9/2/26-11/24/26
Whesper, JoAnn	CO	School Bus/Van Driver	Medical	With Pay	1/30/26-4/1/26
Zupkus, Emily	ST/RD	School Psychologist	Maternity FMLA/NJFLA	With Pay Without Pay	6/15/26-6/23/26 9/1/26-11/24/26

**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
<b>Athletic Activities</b>					
<b>Non-Athletic Activities</b>					
<b>Hourly Activities</b>					

**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 Saccommodo, 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

**XII. POLICY**

- None

**XIII. FINANCE**

Ms. Perez presented the Finance Agenda which will be presented for action at the Regular Action Meeting which will take place immediately following.

**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. Approve Bills**

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

**5. 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](#)

**6. 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.

**7. 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

**XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

- None

**XIV. ACTION ITEMS**

- None

**XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

**XVIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION II**

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 30 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. Pell, seconded by Ms. Spruell that the Board convene in Executive Session II and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 8:30 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Ascoli, seconded by Mr. Mondella that the Board return to Open Session at 9:01 pm.

**XX. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Feiles, seconded by Ms. Spruell and a unanimous roll call vote the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm.