

**MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
May 4, 2026**



**Special Finance Meeting  
6:30 PM**

**Cambridge Park Elementary School,  
1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ**



**MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**May 4, 2026 - Special Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM**  
**Cambridge Park Elementary School, 1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL
- V. FINANCE
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS
- VII. VOTE/ROLL CALL ON AGENDA ITEMS
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)
  - Personnel
- XI. 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 May 4, 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

**FINANCE**

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Final Budget Adoption 2026-2027**

**WHEREAS**, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 23, 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 21, 2026 and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was posted on the district's website on April 22, 2026, and

**WHEREAS**, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing held at Cliffwood Elementary School, 422 Cliffwood Ave., Cliffwood, NJ, on April 27, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has now determined to make modification to the tentative budget as follows:

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Tentative Budget</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
11-000-230-100	Salary	\$712,817	\$712,293	\$524	Reduced projected salary increases
11-000-230-590	Misc Purch Serv Travel	\$399,657	\$398,257	\$1,400	Reduced projected travel
11-000-240-100	Salary	\$2,343,013	\$2,342,566	\$447	Reduced projected salary increases
11-000-251-100	Salary	\$647,857	\$647,263	\$594	Reduced projected salary increases

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for SY 2026-2027:

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$89,770,660	\$10,175,528	\$2,683,555	\$102,629,743
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$20,742,384	\$10,175,528	\$326,250	\$31,244,162
Taxes to be Raised	\$69,028,276	\$0	\$2,357,305	\$71,385,581

**Adjustment for HEALTH CARE COSTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$2,929,429. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

## **Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Other Capital Projects**

**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 \$1,500,000 for other capital project costs of partial roof replacements for \$1,000,000 and the cost of High School Auditorium renovation \$500,000. The total cost of this project is \$1,500,000 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.

## **Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) the general fund appropriations include a \$750,000 withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5.

## **Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2026-2027**

**WHEREAS**, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District 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 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education established \$143,226 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$88,867 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 \$136,425 for the 2026-2027 school year.

## **2. Authorization to Implement the 2026-2027 Budget**

The Superintendent recommends that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education authorize the Superintendent and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to implement the 2026-2027 budget pursuant to Board of Education policy and state regulations.

## **3. Tax Levy Certification Form A and B (A4F)**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the amount required for school purposes in the school district of Matawan-Aberdeen Regional, County of Monmouth for the 2026-2027 is a general fund tax levy of **\$69,028,276** plus a debt service tax levy of \$2,357,305 for a total tax levy of **\$71,385,581** and is required to be levied for local school district purposes.

## **4. NJ Schools Health Insurance Fund**

**WHEREAS**, a number of school boards in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the SCHOOLS HEALTH INSURANCE FUND hereafter referred to as "SHIF", as permitted N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq., and;

**WHEREAS**, the SHIF has received approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance on August 10, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a school board joint insurance fund;

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as "SCHOOL BOARD" has determined that membership in the SHIF is in the best interest of said SCHOOL BOARD.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD hereby agrees as follows:

- i. SCHOOL BOARD shall become a member of the SHIF for the period outlined in the SCHOOL BOARD's Indemnity and Trust Agreement.
- ii. SCHOOL BOARD will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s): a) Health Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the SHIF's Bylaws, and the SHIF's Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. SCHOOL BOARD accepts and approves the SHIF's Bylaws and agrees to be bound by the terms thereof.
- iv. SCHOOL BOARD shall execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.
- v. SCHOOL BOARD agrees to commit to the four principles of the SHIF which are:
  - a) A long term philosophy on rates.
  - b) A willingness to work with bargaining units to achieve plan design changes.
  - c) Professional management with stability and commitment.
  - d) Rating structure based on actuarial numbers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the governing body of the SCHOOL BOARD is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the SHIF as required by the SHIF's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the SHIF's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- i. Approval of the SCHOOL BOARD by the SHIF.
- ii. Receipt by the SHIF of a Resolution from the SCHOOL BOARD accepting SCHOOL BOARD's SHIF assessment.
- iii. Approval by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance of School Board as a member of the SHF.

## **5. NJ Schools Health Insurance Fund Indemnity and Trust Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of various school boards within the State of New Jersey, have elected to form a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.A.C. 11:15-5.2, and as such an entity is authorized and described in N.J.S.A. N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et. seq. and the administrative regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCHOOL BOARD has agreed to become a member of the SHIF in accordance with and to the extent provided for in the Bylaws of the SHIF and in consideration of such obligations and benefits to be shared by the membership of the SHIF;

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is agreed as follows:

1. The SCHOOL BOARD accepts the SHIF's Bylaws as approved and adopted and agrees to be bound by and to comply with each and every provision of said Bylaws and the pertinent statutes and administrative regulations pertaining to same.

2. The SCHOOL BOARD agrees to participate in the SHIF with respect to health insurance, as defined in N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, and as authorized in the SCHOOL BOARD's resolution to join.
3. The SCHOOL BOARD agrees to become a member of the SHIF and to participate in the health insurance coverages offered for an initial period, (subject to early release or termination pursuant to the Bylaws), such membership to commence on 7/1/26 and ending on 6/30/29 at 12:01 AM provided, however, that the SCHOOL BOARD may withdraw at any time subsequent to the delivery of ninety (90) day prior written notice of the intent to withdraw to the SHIF as provided in the Bylaws.
4. The SCHOOL BOARD certifies that it has never defaulted on payment of any claims if self-insured and has not been cancelled for non-payment of insurance premiums for a period of at least two (2) years prior to the date of this Agreement.
5. In consideration of membership in the SHIF, the SCHOOL BOARD agrees (i) that it shall jointly and severally assume and discharge the liability of each and every member of the SHIF for the periods during which the SCHOOL BOARD is a member of the SHIF, (ii) acknowledges that the SCHOOL BOARD and all other members of the SHIF, as a condition of membership in the SHIF, have executed and delivered an Indemnity and Trust Agreement similar to this Agreement and (iii) by the execution of this Agreement the full faith and credit of the SCHOOL BOARD is pledged to the punctual payment of any sums which shall become due to the SHIF in accordance with the Bylaws thereof, this Agreement or any applicable Statute. However, nothing herein shall be construed as an obligation of the SCHOOL BOARD for claims and expenses that are not covered by the SHIF, or for that portion of any claim or liability not within the SCHOOL BOARD's retained limit or in an amount which is in excess of the SHIF's limit of coverage.
6. If the SHIF in the enforcement of any part of this Agreement shall incur necessary expenses or become obligated to pay attorney's fees and/or court costs, the SCHOOL BOARD agrees to reimburse the SHIF for all such reasonable expenses, fees, and costs, inclusive of attorney fees, on demand.
7. The SCHOOL BOARD and the SHIF agree that the SHIF shall hold all moneys in excess of the SCHOOL BOARD's retained loss fund paid by the SCHOOL BOARD to the SHIF as fiduciaries for the benefit of SHIF claimants all in accordance with N.J.A.C. 11:15-5.1 et seq.
8. The SHIF shall establish and maintain Claims Trust Accounts for the payment of health insurance claims in accordance with N.J.S.A. N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 11:15-5.13 and such other statutes and regulations as may be applicable. More specifically, the aforementioned Trust Accounts shall be utilized solely for the payment of claims, allocated claim expense and stop loss insurance or reinsurance premiums for each risk or liability as follows:
  - a) Employer contributions to group health insurance
  - b) Employee contributions to contributory group health insurance
  - c) Employer contributions to contingency account
  - d) Employee contributions to contingency account
  - e) Other trust accounts as required by the Commissioner of Insurance

9. Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 8, above, to the contrary, the SHIF shall not be required to establish separate trust accounts for employee contributions provided the SHIF provides a plan in its Bylaws or Risk Management Plan for the recording and accounting of employee contributions of each member.

10. Each SCHOOL BOARD who shall become a member of the SHIF shall be obligated to execute an Indemnity and Trust Agreement similar to this Agreement. Each SCHOOL BOARD, by the execution and delivery of an Indemnity and Trust Agreement agrees to be jointly and severally bound with each other member of the SHIF who executes and delivers an Indemnity and Trust Agreement to the terms and conditions set forth in said Indemnity and Trust Agreement.

**6. Fund Commissioner - Schools Health Insurance Fund**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education that Lindsey Case be and is hereby appointed as Fund Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund, effective July 1, 2026, to represent the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Dori Caprio be and is appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund.