

**MAYWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
March 18, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Maywood Board of Education was held on March 18, 2026. President Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Benson-Kraft, Ms. Kiely, Mr. O’Neill, Ms. Soriano, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Velez

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Ramirez

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Michael Jordan, Superintendent and Ms. Jennifer Pfohl, Business Administrator

**FLAG SALUTE**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 7, 2026 in accordance with the New Jersey Statutes 10:4-8 as follows: Posted by the Board Secretary in the Board of Education Office, 452 Maywood Avenue, e-mailed to Our Town and the Record newspapers, e-mailed to Municipal Building for posting on the Municipal Bulletin Board in the Borough Clerk’s Office, 15 Park Avenue.

All staff motions have been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, subject to approval by the New Jersey Department of Education, Chapter 116, PL 1986, Provisional Employment, pending criminal history background check.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Mr. Jordan reported on the following:**

- All non-tenured and tenured second/third round observations have been completed.
- Our next early dismissal for staff PD is Wednesday, March 19.
- District Calendar 26-27 TENTATIVE
- As previously noted, we have run out of emergency days/snow days as we have thus far used our allotted three days. Therefore, whether it is snow or any other unforeseen reason that we have to close from now until the end of this school year, we will use the following plan.
  - If we need one (1) extra day, we will shift April 3<sup>rd</sup> from a full day closed to an Early Dismissal.
  - If we need more than one (1) day, we will in turn shorten the spring break.
- We thank one and all for their attendance and involvement at Read Across America Day/Week, including Maywood students in the Becton National Honor Society, MAS 4th graders, and community guests.
- Congratulations to the Hawks on their Maywood Tournament championship, the Ladyhawks on their second place finish and the cheerleaders for always being a huge part of the success of the tournament.
- We thank the many teams who attended and the community of supporters who helped raise over \$10,000 for the grade 8 end of year activities.
- Many thanks to the PTOs for their help with a number of events since we last met.
- The Maywood/Becton Youth Art Show takes place this Thursday at 6 pm in the MAS large gym.
- Families have been notified of the upcoming NJSLs assessment schedule, which begins in late April.
- World Down Syndrome Day - Friday, March 21. Maywood will honor this day of recognition by joining in the national ROCK YOUR SOCKS initiative in both schools.
- MAS Spring Musical: Friday & Saturday, March 20 & 21 at 7:00 pm and 2 pm respectively. Come see Finding Nemo!

- The following memo will be sent via district eblast and USPS mail.  
“This memo is provided to all Maywood families as a reminder of the laws and statutes that govern the residency requirements of attendance in New Jersey Public Schools. Unfortunately, this school year, and in particular this past month, the District has found the highest number of residency frauds it has ever seen. The Maywood School District has and continues to investigate multiple cases of residency violations that have been deemed fraudulent, resulting in swift consequences, for the families involved. The Maywood Board of Education has a sworn responsibility to adhere to and enforce the laws (N.J.S.A 18A:38-1) governing residency on behalf of the Maywood taxpayers.
  - A child is entitled to an education in Maywood if and only if that child resides at a Maywood address with his/her parent(s) or sworn legal guardian.
  - The child cannot be living outside of Maywood and at the same time attend the Maywood Schools.
  - The child cannot be living in Maywood with a relative or friend of the family and still attend the Maywood Schools.
  - The child cannot be dropped off at either school each morning from a location outside of Maywood and still attend the Maywood Schools.
  - Families have a legal responsibility to advise the District of a move out of Maywood immediately.

In summary, a child cannot attend the Maywood Schools unless he/she and the parent/legal guardian live together in a residence in Maywood confirmed, by the nine-point document evidence found on the district website. The District is at the will of the honesty of its families who attend our schools. The filing and submission of incorrect, false, or deliberately deceiving paperwork, indicating that the child and parent/guardian live in Maywood, is an act of fraud. The consequences of such actions are swift and include immediate disenrollment of the child or children from the District and/or Becton, including non-public high schools. It also includes the filing of fraud charges and the assessment and collection of the unpaid tuition (\$13,000 per school year).

As noted above, this is a very serious issue. The Maywood Board of Education will continue to investigate all tips and suspicious activity. The Maywood Board of Education will also be investing in the use of a private investigation firm that specializes in fraudulent residency claims while also requiring an in person full district re-registration prior to the start of next school year. It would be in the best interest of all if a family who falls into the category of what has been clearly described in this memo, report themselves, or be reported, to the Maywood Board of Education immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this memo and/or need any clarification, please email either [mjordan@maywoodschools.org](mailto:mjordan@maywoodschools.org) and/or [sbaliatico@maywoodschools.org](mailto:sbaliatico@maywoodschools.org).

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

### **Ms. Pfohl reported on the following:**

- Submission of the preliminary budget is being approved tonight. This is not the adoption of the budget.

## **COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS**

**Buildings & Grounds** – *No report*

**Finance** – *No report*

**Curriculum** – *No report*

**Policy** – *No report*

**Personnel** – *No report*

**Safety/OEM** – *No report*

**Technology** – *No report*

**Community Relations** – Seniors happy with the bus

**Negotiations** – No report

**Legislation** – No report

**Mayor and Council** – Discussing firework cancellation

**MAS PTO** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade dance was last week at MEM due to lack of availability at MAS

**MEM PTO** – No report

**Seniors** – No report

**Library** – No meeting until 8/20

**Office of Emergency Management** – No report

**Becton BOE** – All bathrooms are being redone in house

## PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS;

- n/a

## BREAK

- n/a

## MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- n/a

## BOARD COMMENTS

- n/a

## OLD BUSINESS

- n/a

## NEW BUSINESS

### **BL.11 Meeting Block Motion/Approval to Vote on Monthly Motions as a Group**

Any board member who takes exception to any of the following listed actions may so indicate now and a separate motion for each of the excepted motions will be entertained:

**RECOMMENDED ACTION** - "move that the following actions of the Maywood Board of Education numbered: A.152 A.153, A.154, A.155, A.156, A157, A.158, A.159, A.160, A161, A.162, A.163, A.164, P.123, P.124, P.125, P.126, F.103, F.104, F.105, F.106, F.107, F.108, F.109, F.110, F.111, F.112, F.113, F.114, F.115 and R.22, excepting motion A.151 to be approved as shown on the agenda dated, 3/18/2026."

Moved by: Mr. Taylor  
Seconded by: Ms. Kiely  
Vote: 6/0  
Abstentions: 0

### **A.152 Acceptance of Recorded Fire/Security Drills** - "that the Board accept the following recorded Fire/Security Drills for February 2026:

**MEM:**  
2/27/26 Lockdown  
2/25/26 Fire Drill

**MAS:**  
2/10/26 Fire Drill  
2/24/26 Lockdown

**A.153 Approval of SEMI Action Plan** - "that the Board approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative Action (SEMI) Plan, as attached. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(f) and (g), failure to maximize SEMI, each district that has less than 90 percent participation of SEMI eligible students in the pre-budget year or has failed to comply with all program requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(e) shall submit a SEMI action plan to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval as part of the district’s proposed budget submission.”

**A.154 Appointment of Health Insurance Broker** – “that the Board appoint Brown and Brown Metro, LLC of Lambertville, NJ as the district’s health insurance broker through June 30, 2027, with the option of an additional year at the Board’s discretion.”

**A.155 Approval of Conference Attendance** – “that the Board approve the Jennifer Pfohl attend the 2026 Annual NJASBO Conference, June 2-5, 2026, in Atlantic City, NJ. The *estimated cost* is as follows:

<b>Convention Registration</b>	\$ 500.00
<b>Mileage, Tolls, &amp; Parking</b> (approx. 266 miles roundtrip and \$5.00 parking fee)	\$ 130.02
<b>Hotel Accommodations for 3 Nights (tax not incl.)</b> (GSA allowable per diem rate is \$110.00 per night excluding tax)	\$ 297.00
<b>Meals &amp; Incidentals</b> (Calculated as 2 days @ \$68.00 and 2 travel days @ \$51.00 each)	\$ 238.00

<b>Total (estimated cost):</b>	<b>\$1,165.02</b>
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**A.156 Approval of Conference/Workshop Attendance** – “that the Board approve the following individual’s attendance at the specified conferences/workshops:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Approx. Cost</u>
K. LaRose	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual NJ Literacy Summit	3/03/26	mileage
K. Dilks	Elementary Music Roundtable	3/19/26	mileage

**A.157 Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar** – “that the Board approve the 2026-2027 school calendar, as submitted.”

**A.158 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS large gymnasium by the *Bulls Basketball Club*, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm from 3/24/26-5/28/26.”

**A.159 Approval of Use of Facilities** – “that the Board approve the use of the MAS large gymnasium by the *Redtails Basketball Club*, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5pm-9pm from 3/16/26-5/27/26.”

**A.160 Approval of Parent Training** – “that the Board approve parent training for student BD (Prek/MAP) for 10 sessions @ \$75 per session provided by Region V for a total of \$750. To be completed by June 2026.”

**A.161 Approval of Class Trips** – “that the Board approve the following class trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

<u>Grade/Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
3rd & 5th Grade	05/26/26	Rockland Boulders LEAD trip
5th Grade	6/4 & 6/5	Beuhler Science Center
6th Grade	5/13-5/15	Fairview Lake trip
7th grade	06/10/26	Liberty Hall, Union, NJ
8th Grade	05/27/26	Hudson River - Dinner Cruise
8th Grade	05/28/26	Bowler City & Maywood Pool
8th Grade	05/29/26	Great Adventure
8th Grade	June 2026	Van Saun Park & Zoo
8th Grade	6/5/26	Metropolitan Museum of Art
MAP and PreK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maywood Public Library</li> <li>• Memorial Park - Maywood</li> <li>• Grove St. Playground - Maywood</li> <li>• Garden State Plaza - Paramus,</li> <li>• Bergen Town Center - Paramus</li> <li>• Paramus Park Mall - Paramus</li> <li>• Van Saun County Park - Paramus</li> <li>• Chuckie Cheese - Paramus</li> <li>• American Dream - East Rutherford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maywood Stores &amp; Restaurants</li> <li>• Life Town - Livingston</li> <li>• Bowler City - Hackensack</li> <li>• Demarest Farms - Hillsdale</li> <li>• Abmas Farm - Wyckoff</li> <li>• Bounce U - Paramus</li> <li>• Shoprite - Rochelle Park</li> <li>• Overpeck Park - Leonia</li> <li>• 1 Gym for all - Waldwick</li> <li>• NJ Swingsets - Midland Park</li> </ul>

**A.162 Approval of Transportation Contract** – “that the Board approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Maywood Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with the South Bergen Jointure Commission, an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997, for the **2026-2027** school year. The services to be provided include, but not limited to, the Coordinated Transportation of non-public, out of district, special education, vocational, and summer programs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Maywood Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the South Bergen Jointure Commission and attached to this resolution."

**A.163 Approval of Kindergarten Kickstart Program** – “that the Board approve a *Kindergarten “Kickstart” Program* for incoming September 2026 students funded through Title 1.”

**A.164 Approval of Conference Attendance** – “that the Board approve the Eileen Davis attend the 2026 Annual School Transportation Supervisor Conference, March 25-27, 2026, in Atlantic City, NJ. The *estimated cost* is as follows:

<b>Convention Registration</b> (already approved)	\$ 550.00
<b>Mileage, Tolls, &amp; Parking</b> (approx. 266 miles roundtrip and \$5.00 parking fee)	\$ 130.02

<b>Hotel Accommodations for 3 Nights (tax not incl.)</b> (GSA allowable per diem rate is \$110.00 per night excluding tax)	\$ 321.00
<b>Meals &amp; Incidentals</b> (Calculated as 2 days @ \$68.00 and 2 travel days @ \$51.00 each)	\$ 238.00

<b>Total (estimated cost):</b>	<b>\$1,239.02</b>
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**P.123 Approval of a Stipend** - “that the Board approve the following teachers each receive a \$520 stipend, for the Kindergarten Kickstart Program, July 20-24, 2026:

<i>Ava Borelli</i>	<i>Melanie Torre</i>
<i>Deena Maksym</i>	<i>Samantha Gambino</i>

**P.124 Approval of Additional Pay** - "that the Board approve Laura Auriemma and Dana Urbanovich receive additional pay for providing home instruction for student *JH (MAS)*, 5 hours a week each @ \$50 an hour, March 3, 2026 to March 27, 2026.”

**P.125 Approval of Sub List** – “that the Board approve the following individuals be added to the substitute list for the 2025-2026 school year (*pending clearance*).”

<b><u>Sub-Teacher &amp; Para</u></b>	<b><u>Sub-Secretary</u></b>
Odeta Papa – Sub Certificate	Amy Shimabukuro
Chris Kearns – Sub Cert w/degree	

**P.126 Approval of Additional Pay** - "that the Board approve Adam Vecchia receive additional pay for tutoring students *AM & DM (MAS)*, 2 hours a week each @ \$50 an hour, starting on March 26, 2026.”

**F.103 Approval of Additional Check Run** - “that the Board approve an additional check run in *February* in the amount of \$ 211,699.53.”

**F.104 Approval of Additional Check Run for Cafeteria Bills** - “that the Board approve an additional check run for Cafeteria bills in *February* in the amount of \$ 16,859.70.”

**F.105 Approval of Check Run** - “that the Board approve a check run in *March* in the amount of \$ 815,485.18.”

**F.106 Approval of Check Run for Cafeteria Bills** - “that the Board approve a check run for Cafeteria bills in *March* in the amount of \$ 22,546.52.”

**F.107 Approval of Board Secretary’s Report** – “that the Board approve the Board Secretary Report, as submitted, for February 28, 2026.”

**F.108 Approval of Treasurer’s Report** – “that the Board approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report, for February 28, 2026.”

**F.109 Approval of Transfer of Funds** - "that the Board approve the report of transfer of funds for February 28, 2026.”

**F.110 Approval of Disposal of Equipment** - "that the Board approve of the disposal of computer equipment as submitted. These assets have no fair book market value.”

**F.111 Approval of Payroll** - “that the Board approve the payroll for *February* as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	
10	1,141,266.25
20	4,381.32
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,145,647.57</b>
Board Share FICA/Medicare	25,722.86
State Share FICA Medicare	58,707.16
Board DCRP	<u>3,761.87</u>
<b>Total Payroll Expense:</b>	<b>\$ 1,233,839.46</b>

**F.112 Approval of Board Secretary's Monthly Certification** - "that the Board accept the Board Secretary's monthly certification on budget line status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:20-2.13(d), I certify that as of **February 28, 2026**, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:22-8.1."

**F.113 Approval of Board's Monthly Certification** - "that the Board approve the Board's monthly certification Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, we certify that as of **February 28, 2026**, after review of the secretary's monthly report (statement of expenditures) and upon consultation with violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year."

**F.114 Approval of Maximum Travel Expense** - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Maywood 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 Maywood Board of Education established \$15,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$ 0.00 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 \$15,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.”

**F.115 Approval of the Budget** - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Maywood Board of Education approve a school district preliminary budget for the FY2026/2027 School Year for submission to the Executive County Superintendent’s Office as follows:

Fund	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund (10)	\$29,300,662	\$23,547,894
Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$329,587	—
Debt Service Fund (40)	\$2,259,363	\$1,599,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,889,612</b>	<b>\$25,147,219</b>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Our Town Newspaper in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026-2027 school year budget includes the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$301,086. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026-2027 school year budget includes the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$368,000. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$368,000 for the purpose of increased tuition costs. The district intends to complete said purpose by June 30, 2027.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2026-2027 general fund appropriations include a \$245,000 withdrawal from the Capital Reserve Account to be transferred to the debt service fund to aid with payment of debt.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the general fund appropriations include a \$75,000 budgeted withdrawal from Capital Reserve for Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects. The withdrawal is to be used for other capital project costs of the replacement of gymnasium bleachers and equipment at Maywood Avenue School. The total cost of this project is \$75,000, 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 core curriculum standards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026-2027 general fund appropriations include a \$75,000 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a public hearing be held at the Maywood Avenue School, located at 452 Maywood Avenue on May 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.”

**R.22 Approval of Payment from Referendum Account** - "that the Board approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, H&S Construction and Mechanical was awarded the contract for the HVAC Upgrade at Memorial School; and

**WHEREAS**, H&S Construction and Mechanical has submitted Payment Application #11 in the amount of \$26,411.00 and

**WHEREAS**, LAN Associates has verified a review of the application and finds it in conformance with the level of work completed to date.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board approves this payment application in the amount of \$26,411.00.”

### EXCEPTED MOTIONS VOTED ON SERPARATELY

**A.151 Acceptance of Minutes** – “that the Board accept the following minutes of the Board of Education meetings.”

2/18/26 Work Session, Regular Meeting, Closed

Moved by: Mr. Taylor  
Seconded by: Ms. Benson-Kraft  
Vote: 5/0  
Abstentions: 1

### TABLED MOTIONS

- *n/a*

### BOARD COMMENTS

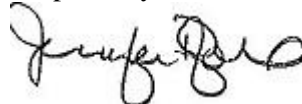
- *n/a*

### CLOSED SESSION

- *n/a*

### MEETING ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:49PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Pfohl, Board Secretary