

**MINUTES
MOUNT ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2026**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PRESENT: Rachel Byrne, President
Edwin Botero
Melissa Eckert
Erika Puskas
Sheila Studint, Vice-President
Karl Svenningsen

ABSENT: Chris D'Amico

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Ficarra, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Scott Pepper, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Robin C. Tedesco, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
(telecom)
Barbara Caggiano, Administrative Assistant to BA/BS
Jennifer Ochoa, Supervisor of Special Services
Joseph Coladarci, Principal

Board of Education President, Rachel Byrne, called the in-person meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., declared a quorum present, and read the following notices:

The Mount Arlington Board of Education is meeting for action and discussion about business before the Board of Education today.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the public's right to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this Act, the Board of Education has sent notice of today's meetings and copies of the agenda to the:

Roxbury Register
Daily Record
Star Ledger
Municipal Clerk
Board of Education Members

Notice of today's meeting and copies of the agenda have been posted on the Mount Arlington Public Schools Website: www.mtarlingtonk8.org

All Board of Education members present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:01 P.M., to address Personnel issues. Action will follow.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Passed

WHEREAS the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with a related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated personnel matters are concluded, or upon conclusion of any negotiations or discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert that the meeting return to Open Session at 7:18 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Passed

PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. None

PUBLIC SESSION

1. None

MINUTES:

1. None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. None

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ficarra reviewed the motions before the Board of Education as shown on the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION ITEMS BY COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mr. Botero, to approve Personnel Agenda Items 041426-S-1 through 041426-S-2.

041426-S-1 RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Dr. Thomas J. Ficarra as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective April 15, 2026.

041426-S-2 RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Scott Pepper as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective April 15, 2026-June 30, 2026. Salary/Terms and Conditions of Contract as approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Roll Call:

<i>Mr. Botero</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Byrne</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. D'Amico</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mrs. Eckert</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Puskas</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Studint</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Svenningsen</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Motion Passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance:

- No Report

B. Personnel:

- No Report

C. Building and Grounds:

- No Report

D. Curriculum and Policy:

- No Report

E. Negotiations:

- No Report

F. Town Council:

- No Report

G. Parent Teachers Organization:

- No Report

OTHER REPORTS:

Roxbury BOE

- No Report

Delegate to NJ School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Morris County School Board Association:

- No Report

Delegate to Educational Service Commission of Morris County:

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. None

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was presented by Mrs. Studint, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Mount Arlington Board of Education move to Closed Session at 7:29 P.M., to address Personnel issues. Action will follow.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Passed

WHEREAS the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Closed Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Arlington Board of Education has determined it necessary to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, which are included in the aforesaid exceptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Arlington Board of Education that it does hereby move into Closed Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters with a related action to follow, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Closed Session or at such time as any litigated personnel matters are concluded, or upon conclusion of any negotiations or discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert that the meeting return to Open Session at 9:05 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was presented by Mr. Botero, and seconded by Mrs. Eckert, that the Regular meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously carried at 9:06 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6

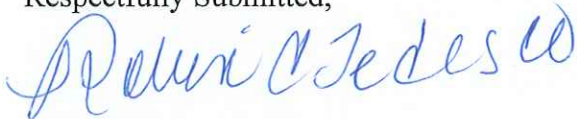
No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Robin C. Tedesco

Interim School Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary

Approved: