

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026, 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Flag Salute - Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi led the flag salute.

III. Roll Call of the Board of Education

Mrs. Elisabeth Carrino-Tamasi	President	Present
Dr. Rekha Mandel	Vice President	Present
Mrs. Cynthia Brusco		Present
Mrs. Natasha Crossan		Present
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
Mr. Thomas Keeling		Present
Dr. Christina Klausner		Present

One (1) member of the public was in the audience.

IV. Sunshine Law – Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi read the following statement

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, 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. Superintendent's Report

- District Updates, News, and Events
- Mr. Matthew Giacobbe of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC

VI. Assistant Superintendent's Report

What is Extraordinary Aid?

Extraordinary Aid is additional state funding provided to school districts to help offset the high cost of educating students with significant special education needs. It reimburses a portion of costs that exceed the state's established thresholds.

Student Qualification (Simplified)

A student may qualify if they are classified and receiving services through an IEP and the cost of services exceeds state thresholds (approximately \$40,000 for in-district programs and \$55,000 for out-of-district placements). Eligible costs may include high-intensity supports such as 1:1 aides, specialized placements, and related services.

VII. Board President's Report - None.

VIII. Correspondence - None.

IX. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum and School Programs** - Mr. Keeling delivered the report.
- **DEIB** - Dr. Mandel delivered the report.
- **Operations and Finance** - Mrs. Crossan delivered the report.
- **Personnel and Human Resources** - Mr. Dumovic delivered the report.
- **Policy** - Mrs. Brusco delivered the report.
- **Ad Hoc - Referendum/ROD Grant** - Mr. Keeling delivered the report.

X. Consent Items

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes: March 17, 2026

Executive Session Minutes: March 17, 2026

Regular Session Minutes: March 24, 2026

Curriculum and School Programs

1. Field Trips & Fundraiser (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trips and fundraiser for the 2025-2026 school year.

Operations and Finance

1. Certification Reports

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education certify, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9 and N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports for March 2026, no major accounts and fund balances in the 2025/2026 budget have been over expended, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. **Board Secretary's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the March 2026 Board Secretary's Reports.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the March 2026 Treasurer's Reports.

4. **March 2026 Transfer Reports**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the March 2026 transfer report.

5. **April 2026 Bills List**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the April 2026 Bills List. This includes payroll checks N5677 through N5679 and N5680 through N5682.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	\$
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	\$
Fund 20 - Grant Account	\$
Fund 40 - Debt Service	\$
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account	\$
Fund 80 - Unemployment	\$
Fund 95 - Athletic Account	\$
Total:	\$

6. **District Travel** (*Attachment*)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Board of Education approves the attached travel events in agreement with Chapter 53, Public Law 2007, NJSA 18A:11-12, NJAC 6A:23A-1. All mileage will be reimbursed at the maximum NJ Circular 08-19-OMB rate (currently \$0.47 per mile).

Personnel and Human Resources

1. **Leave of Absence-Fotini Fiotakis REVISED**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Fotini Fiotakis, Middle School 6th Grade Math Teacher, for a leave of absence, having received a doctor's certification, commencing March 9, 2026, while utilizing Forty (40) sick days, under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ending after Twelve (12) weeks on June 5, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Six (6) weeks under the NJ Family Leave Act (FLA) for Fotini Fiotakis, commencing on May 11, 2026, through June 19, 2026, as requested in writing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Fotini Fiotakis with an anticipated return to work date of August 26, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. **Leave of Absence – Danielle Donato**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Danielle Donato, Bus Aide, for an unpaid leave of absence commencing on April 6, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Danielle Donato to return to work at a later date to be determined.

3. **Leave of Absence – Gina Sodora**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Gina Sodora, Physical Education Teacher, for a leave of absence commencing on May 7, 2026, utilizing 30 Sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Gina Sodora with a return to work date of June 19, 2026.

4. **Leave of Absence – Christopher Vrabel**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves Christopher Vrabel, Bus Driver, for a leave of absence commencing on May 8, 2026, utilizing 7 sick days under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The remainder will be unpaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves Christopher Vrabel to return to work for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. **Staff Resignation - Darlene Sardinsky, LDTC** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Darlene Sardinsky, LDTC, dated March 20, 2026, effective May 18, 2026.

6. **Staff Resignation - Luis Yela, Custodian** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Luis Yela, Custodian, dated April 8, 2026, effective May 15, 2026.

7. **Staff Resignation - Arielle Rementilla, Elementary School Vice Principal** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Arielle Rementilla, Elementary School Vice Principal, dated April 16, 2026, effective June 30, 2026.

8. **New Hire - Uriel Guzman Luna, Custodian** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Uriel Guzman Luna, pending completion of paperwork, as a Full-Time Elementary School Custodian at a (prorated) salary of \$40,000.00, effective May 11, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

9. **New Hire - Nicholas Podesta, Transportation Administrative Assistant** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Nicholas Podesta, pending completion of paperwork, as a Full-Time Transportation Administrative Assistant at a (prorated) salary of \$55,000.00, effective May 4, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

10. **Leave Replacement - Brian Micco, Middle School Physical Education Teacher**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the appointment of Brian Micco as a Full Time (category B) Leave Replacement Middle School Physical Education Teacher, effective May 7, 2026, at the current per diem rate of \$125.00 (for days 1-20). On day 21, the per diem rate will be \$250.00.

11. **Chaperones** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves payment at the contractual rate for chaperones following the end of the contractual day.

12. **Substitute Teachers**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers, pending completion of paperwork, at the current rate of \$125.00 per day for the 2025-2026 school year: Glaricel Caminero and Patricia Handzus

13. **Substitute Transportation Driver - Andrew Hajjar** *(Attachment)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Andrew Hajjar as a substitute transportation driver, pending completion of paperwork, at the current hourly rate of \$30.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

14. **Job Description Review** *(Attachments)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the following job descriptions:

Instructional Aide

Instructional Aide - Part-Time

Special Education Aide

Special Education One-On-One Aide
10 Month ABA Classroom Aide
Cafeteria/Recess Aide

Policy and Planning

1. First Readings (Attachments)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

	P 0134	Board Self-Evaluation
	P 0167	Public Participation in Board Meetings
	R 2411	Guidance and Counseling (M)
	R 2414	Programs and Services for Students in High Poverty and in High Need School
Districts		
	P 3322	Staff Member's Use of Personal Cellular Telephones/Other Communication
Devices		
	P 4322	Staff Member's Use of Personal Cellular Telephones/Other Communication
Devices		
	P 5615	Suspected Gang Activity
	P 8820	Opening Exercises/Ceremonies
	P 9120	Public Relations Program (M)
	R 9120	Public Information Program
	P 9230	Parental Responsibilities
	P 9240	Rights of Parents
	P 9260	Parental Liability for Vandalism
	P 9270	Home Schooling and Equivalent Education Outside the Schools (M)
	R 9270	Home Schooling and Equivalent Education (M)
	P 9280	Parent Conferences
	P 9324	Sex Offenders Registration and Notification
	R 9324	Sex Offender Registration and Notification
	P 9340	Cooperation with Public Library
	P 9500	Cooperation with Educational Agencies
	P 9550	Educational Research Projects
	P 9700	Special Interest Groups
	P 9720	Solicitation by Vendors

2. Second Readings (Attachments)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies and regulations:

P 8660	Transportation By Private Vehicle (M)
R 8660	Privately Owned Vehicles
P 8710	Property Insurance
P 8740	Bonding
P 8750	Employee Indemnification
P 8760	Student Accident Insurance
P 8770	School Board Insurance Group
P 9130	Public Complaints and Grievances
R 9130	Public Complaints and Grievances
P 9150	School Visitors
R 9150	School Visitors
P 9160	Public Attendance at School Events
P 9180	School Volunteers
R 9180	School Volunteers
P 9190	Community Organizations
R 9190	Community Organizations
P 9200	Cooperation Between Parent and School

XI. ACTION ITEMS

Curriculum and School Programs

1. MS Field Trip (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves the attached field trip for the 2025-2026 school year.

Personnel and Human Resources

1. Staff Resignation - Marie Fenelus, Transportation Driver (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education accepts the letter of resignation from Marie Fenelus, Transportation Driver, dated and effective April 9, 2026.

2. New Hire - Maria Brito, Transportation Driver (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Maria Brito, pending completion of paperwork, as a Full-Time Transportation Driver, at an hourly rate of \$33.07, effective April 22, 2026, for the 2025-2026 school year.

3. Substitute Transportation Driver - Susan Cassells (Attachment)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education approves Susan Cassells as a substitute transportation driver, pending completion of paperwork, at the current hourly rate of \$30.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Crossan moved to approve the Action Items for April 21, 2026; Curriculum & School Programs item 1, Personnel & Human Resources items 1-3, seconded by Mr. Keeling, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mrs. Brusco; yes, Mrs. Crossan; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Klausner; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, and Mrs. Carrino Tamasi; yes, – motions carry.

XII. Discussion

Mr. Dumovic provided the following update: As the Board's liaison to the Mendham Township Education Foundation, I would like to provide a brief status update on the Foundation's activities.

The Foundation is currently guided by four Board members: Meredith Sahi, Allison Fox Barrett, Anna Raj-Phal, and Mark Trokan.

Through recent donations, the Foundation has raised close to the \$5,000 needed to support the launch of a Model UN program for Mendham Township Middle School students for the next school year. This represents an encouraging early milestone and reflects strong initial community support.

Over the next two months, the Foundation plans to begin a business outreach effort, followed by engagement with a targeted group of individual donors in the community. The goal is to establish a strong base of Founding Community Partners and begin building relationships that can support larger gifts and grants over time.

Finally, the Foundation is planning a coordinated local communication effort, with a possible announcement at an upcoming Mendham Township Committee meeting.

I will continue to keep the Board informed as these efforts move forward.

XIII. Verbal Communications from the Public - None.

Moved by Mrs. Crossan, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to take a 10-minute recess prior to Executive Session at 8:09 pm, unanimously carried in a voice vote.

XIV. Adjourn to Closed EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive session under certain limited circumstances and

WHEREAS, said the law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Mendham Township that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters. The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required, and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Crossan, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:19 pm.

XV. Reconvene Open Work Session Meeting

Moved by Mr. Dumovic, seconded by Dr. Mandel, to reconvene to the Work Session Meeting at 9:43 pm., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

XVI. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Keeling, seconded by Dr. Mandel, to adjourn the Work Session Meeting of April 21, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary