

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 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		Absent

Thirty-seven (37) members of the public were 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. Student Representative to the Board of Education

➤ Student Representative - Rohan Mody

Hi everyone, thanks so much for having me here again. Like always, I've returned to inform you about what's been happening at the middle school.

Recently, students of all grade levels received a new app called STOPit, an anonymous reporting app that helps prevent danger across the school. This app was moved from a cell phone app to a Google Chrome app so it's accessible to all students on our Chromebooks, and so they don't need a phone to use it.

This Friday, our student council-sponsored lip sync will take place. Since I started attending this event in 5th grade, the lip-sync contest has always been a great time and helps the 8th-grade class fundraise for the field trip to Gettysburg at the end of the year. If any of you want to attend, admission is five dollars, and the event takes place at 7:00 P.M. in the gym. I will be one of the MCs, and Vice Principal Byers might make an appearance, being taped to the wall.

Two weeks ago, 8th graders were randomly selected to attend the elementary school with Dr. Ciccone, Mr. Byers, and the guidance counselors to visit fourth graders. After going over the transition process with the soon-to-be 5th graders in a group, the kids got to ask the 8th graders individually for more personal opinions.

Sadly, it is that time of the year again, and we start NJSLA soon on May 12, 2026. This year's test will have two days of English, three days of Math, and two days of Science for 5th and 8th graders. So, in total, there will be seven days of despair. While we students are sad we have to take this test, I'm sure the Board will be very excited because we've been scoring well above the state average.

On April 16, law enforcement came to our school to prepare for any potential emergencies in the building. To thank them, the PTO provided them with snacks, coffee, and donuts. 8th graders also wrote heartfelt cards for those coming to the school. This was a win-win because not only did we get to express our gratitude to the police officers, but we also got to skip Spanish class.

That's a summary of events happening at the middle school, and I look forward to our next meeting. Thank you so much for having me.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- MTES Students - Dr. Kotcho & Mrs. Newton and Readers Theatre
- **2026-2027 Public Hearing Budget Presentation - Dr. Constantino**

Dr. Constantino - As we move through the spring, our schools continue to demonstrate a strong balance of academic engagement, student wellness, and community connection. Across both buildings, we are seeing meaningful learning experiences come to life, from hands-on science investigations and interactive literacy instruction to student-led projects focused on social-emotional growth and real-world application. Events such as the MTES World Culture Fair and Take Your Child to Work Day further highlight the strong partnership we have with our families and community, creating authentic opportunities for students to connect their learning beyond the classroom.

Athletically and co-curricularly, our middle school students have had a strong start to the spring season, reflecting both preparation and commitment. At the same time, transition activities between our elementary and middle school continue to foster a sense of belonging and readiness for our students as they move forward in their educational journey.

This evening also marks an important milestone for the district as we present and move toward adoption of the 2026–2027 school budget. This budget reflects a continued focus on maintaining strong instructional programs while navigating rising cost pressures, particularly in health benefits and operational expenses. We remain committed to thoughtful planning that balances fiscal responsibility with the needs of our students and staff, while also supporting ongoing facilities improvements through strategic use of reserves tied to our long-range plans.

In addition, we continue to monitor important legislative and policy developments at the state level, including evolving guidance related to student use of internet-enabled devices. We will keep the Board informed as additional clarification is provided and ensure our policies remain aligned with both statute and best practice.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, students, and families for their continued support and engagement. This is a particularly busy and meaningful time of year in our schools, and the positive energy across the district is evident.

Mr. Dumovic - Our Board, working closely with District Administration, has a strong track record of adopting budgets that meet the needs of our students while remaining fiscally responsible to the community. The final 2026–2027 budget continues that tradition and supports our mission to provide the best education for every student, every day. I support the adoption of the 2026–2027 budget.

At the same time, I would like to note my concern about our District’s long-term financial outlook. When we discussed the tentative budget last month, I suggested that the Board consider developing a three- to five-year strategic financial plan.

The main reason for that suggestion is the growing gap between rising costs and the limited amount of revenue our District can raise from local property taxes. Over the past five years, our operating budget has increased by about 6% per year on average, while the tax levy that supports it can usually increase by only about 2% per year under State law. Over time, this gap creates increasing pressure on the District’s long-term financial sustainability.

Although the New Jersey Department of Education does not require formal multi-year financial plans, this kind of long-range planning is increasingly important given rising costs for employee health insurance and out-of-district special education placements, uncertainty in state and federal funding, enrollment-driven staffing needs, and the ongoing need to strengthen local revenues.

Developing a multi-year financial plan will help us address the structural financial challenges that many school districts are already facing—and that are forcing districts right now to make difficult and consequential decisions. Importantly, our District is currently in a stronger short-term position than many others because recent increases in employee health insurance costs qualified us for a state-authorized adjustment to the 2% tax-levy cap. This created an additional “banked cap” that can be used over the next three budget cycles, giving us a valuable window of flexibility to plan ahead responsibly.

In sum, taking this multi-year approach now will help ensure that our District remains strong, stable, and able to provide the best education for every student, every day—not only next year, but well into the future.

Mr. Keeling - First, I would like to thank the administration and the Board for their hard work on the budget for the coming school year. This year, we faced enormous budget challenges and were confronted with the potential for a very large projected budget gap.

Primary drivers of the projected budget gap were

- (1) double-digit increases in healthcare and related benefit costs (which represent 25% of our budget and are growing at 18% year over year,
- (2) substantial increases in other insurance costs (above 10%) and
- (3) a 3.5% increase in staff salaries (with staff salaries representing just over 50%+ of the budget).

We should all be appreciative that we have been able to successfully close much of the gap through initiatives undertaken by the administration (including (1) securing additional transportation routes and revenues and (2) working with our health insurance provider to bring down somewhat the district's healthcare costs. Thank you, Donna, for taking the lead on these. We were also fortunate to receive an increase in state aid and a grant of additional banked cap from the state.

As a result of all these internal efforts and the fortuitous external contributions, this year's budget achieves its dual goals of (1) fully supporting the academic and social-emotional needs of our students and (2) doing this in a way that is responsible to our taxpayers. This is a good budget for our district, and I fully support it.

Having said this, we, as a district, face several structural challenges going forward. Structural changes have forced some other NJ school districts to take drastic measures to close budget gaps (including Bernards Township, Montclair, Lakewood, East Orange, Hackensack, and several others). Among these structural challenges are:

- Healthcare insurance and related benefits are growing at 15%+ annually, representing 25% of today's budget and
- Teacher and staff salaries are growing at 3.5% and represent 50%+ of our cost structure in a world where
- We have a goal of keeping tax increases under 2% annually.

As I said, to meet these structural challenges, we need to be proactive and forward-thinking. I strongly encourage the Board to establish a special committee to work with our Business Administrator to find ways to better contain and manage healthcare and other costs while ensuring that we provide our teachers and staff with the quality and coverage of benefits to which they are entitled. This special committee should also explore other opportunities for how to drive additional revenues and better contain other cost pressures. We, as a Board, are committed to ensuring academic excellence and social-emotional support for all of our students, but to do this going forward, we need to get ahead of the structural challenges that are facing all NJ districts.

Dr. Mandel - I echo both Peter's and Thom's sentiments in supporting this budget. Each year, the district faces new challenges, and Mrs. Mosner always helps us find ways to offset the tax impact. She is practically running a transportation business. Having a subcommittee to work on a 3-5-year plan would be a great idea, providing direction and long-term stability. I am also thankful that we were able to retain our staff, and I believe having a clear plan for the future will be extremely beneficial. Thank you to everyone for all of the time and effort that went into this process.

Mrs. Crossan - Thank you for such an informative budget presentation. I agree that Peter and Thom summarized it well. I appreciate the time and commitment that went into having these conversations, reviewing options, and ensuring that our programming is as strong as it can possibly be. The idea of creating a multi-year plan is excellent and will provide opportunities for meaningful discussion while also serving as a valuable resource moving forward.

Mrs. Carrino-Tamasi - I'd like to take a moment to recognize the significant work behind the plan we just reviewed. This budget reflects a clear and consistent focus across our schools—from strengthening literacy and math in the early grades to building analytical thinking, real-world application, and student engagement at the middle school level. It also continues to prioritize student well-being and a positive school climate.

At the same time, we are operating within very real financial constraints driven by the state budget environment. Nearly every day, we read about districts across New Jersey and in neighboring communities facing multi-million-dollar deficits due to the elimination of adjustment aid, inflationary pressures, rising health benefit costs, and shifting enrollment. These challenges are leading to layoffs, reductions in critical programs, and even school closures.

It is because of the diligence, discipline, and long-term planning of our administrative team that Mendham Township School District remains in a strong and stable position. Donna, Sal, and Rob—thank you for your years of dedicated service and for the thoughtful, consistent work you've done to safeguard the district's financial health.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to our Operations and Finance Committee for their diligence and steady oversight throughout this process.

The vast majority of our budget is tied to essential costs, leaving very limited flexibility. Closing the structural gap this year required careful decision-making, targeted reductions, and a deliberate effort to preserve the programs and services that matter most to our students.

Finally, to my fellow Board members, thank you for your continued collaboration and dedication to our community. While challenges remain—both now and in the years ahead—this budget reflects a shared commitment to responsible stewardship and to supporting every student, every day.

VII. Verbal Communications from the Public - None

VIII. Action Items:

Operations and Finance

1. ADOPTION OF THE FINAL 2026-2027 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT (unchanged)

A. ADOPTION OF THE FINAL 2026-2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 24, 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 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Daily Record newspaper on Friday, April 24, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Mendham Township Middle School, 16 Washington Valley Road, Brookside, NJ, on the 28th day of April, 2026.

NO, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for the 2026-2027 school year:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES FUNDS	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
2026-27 Total Expenditures	\$27,292,000	\$ 157,500	\$1,348,488	\$28,797,988
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ 6,785,000	\$ 157,500	\$ 425,609	\$ 7,368,109
Taxes to be Raised	\$20,507,000	\$ 0	\$ 922,879	\$21,429,879

B. USE OF ADJUSTMENTS - 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education include in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$225,234. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education include in the final budget the weighted adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$111,231. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to cover additional increases in staff health benefit premiums. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2027, and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or completed incrementally over a longer period.

C. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT – 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education include in the final budget for the 2026-2027 school year a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$25,000. The establishment of this maximum travel expenditure is pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 and is defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education also set a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$25,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, of which \$12,230 has been spent, and \$3,659 is encumbered to date.

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education recognizes that 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 Subchapter 7 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, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses are not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 to a maximum expenditure of \$25,000 for all staff and board members for the 2026-2027 school year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

D. CAPITAL RESERVE WITHDRAWAL – 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education maintains a Capital Reserve Account in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1 for the purpose of funding capital projects included in the district's approved Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP); and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified the need to allocate funds from the Capital Reserve Account to support the costs associated with the referendum project, as outlined in the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of these funds is in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, which stipulates that funds from the Capital Reserve Account may only be used for capital projects formally approved in the district's LRFP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the withdrawal of \$900,000 from the Capital Reserve Account to be appropriated for the purpose of completing projects for the district during the 2026-2027 school year. To include, but are not limited to, the replacement of HVAC equipment at both the Mendham Township Elementary School and the Mendham Township Middle School, and furniture, supplies/materials for both schools that are needed for the referendum project that were removed to keep the project cost of the bonding down; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation shall be reflected in the district's budget in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(c) and that all expenditures from these funds shall be in strict compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

E. MAINTENANCE RESERVE WITHDRAWAL – 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Mendham Township Board of Education maintains a Maintenance Reserve Account in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 for the purpose of funding required maintenance projects as outlined in the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP); and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified the need to allocate funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account to support the costs associated with required maintenance activities for a school facility, as outlined in the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5 and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of these funds is in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2, which stipulates that funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account may only be used for required maintenance activities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-1.2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendham Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the withdrawal of \$400,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Account to be appropriated for the purpose of completing projects for the district during the 2026-2027 school year. To include, but not limited to, the repair of roofs, the boilers, and the upgrade and replacement of HVAC equipment at both the Mendham Township Elementary School and the Mendham Township Middle School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation shall be reflected in the district's budget in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(e) and that all expenditures from these funds shall be in strict compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

F. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2026-2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2 (a) mandates boards to establish annually, prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year (2026-2027) and

WHEREAS, the final 2025-2026 budget includes the following appropriations:

Legal	\$12,000
Auditor	\$35,000
Architect	\$30,000
Physician	\$4,700

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

2. RESOLUTION FOR DISTRICT TAX 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of district taxes needed to meet the obligations of the Mendham Township Board of Education during the school year 2026-2027 is \$20,507,000 for the General Fund plus \$922,879 for Debt Service, which equals \$21,429,879 in total for the tax levy for the 2026-2027 school year that Mendham Township is hereby requested to place in the hands of the Treasurer of School Monies that amount according to the following schedule in accordance with the statutes relating thereto:

Monthly Due Date	General Fund Tax Levy	Debt Service Tax Levy	Monthly Due Date	General Fund Tax Levy	Debt Service Tax Levy
July 1, 2026	1,708,916.67	461,440.00	January 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	461,439.00
August 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		February 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
September 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		March 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
October 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		April 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
November 1, 2026	1,708,916.67		May 1, 2027	1,708,916.67	
December 1, 2026	1,708,916.65		June 1, 2027	1,708,916.65	
TOTAL 2026:	10,253,500.00	461,440.00	TOTAL 2027	10,253,500.00	461,439.00

FY 2026-2027 Approved Total: \$20,507,000.00 \$ 922,879.00

Certified Tax Levy: \$21,429,879.00

Dr. Mandel moved to approve the Action Items for April 28, 2026 Public Hearing; Operations & Finance items 1-2, 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. Mandel; yes, and Mrs. Carrino Tamasi; yes, – motions carry.

IX. Motion to Close Public Hearing and to move into the Regular Monthly Meeting

Moved by Mrs. Crossan, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to close the public hearing and move into the regular monthly meeting at 8:23 pm, unanimously carried in a voice vote.

- X. Board Secretary's Report** - I would like to thank the Board of Education, the Finance Committee, and the administrative team for all of their hard work and support throughout the 2026-2027 budget process. It truly is a team effort, and I appreciate everyone's time, collaboration, and dedication tremendously. For future reference, the user-friendly budget, the advertised budget, and this presentation can all be found on the district website. Thank you.

XI. Board President's Report - None.

XII. Correspondence - None.

XIII. Committee Reports

XIV. 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 N5699 through N5701 and N5702 through N5704.

Fund 10 - Treasurer Account	\$ 71,638.58
Fund 11 - Treasurer Account	\$ 2,134,126.97
Fund 12 - Treasurer Account	\$ 5,979.20
Fund 20 - Grant Account	\$ 4,500.00
Fund 30 - Referendum Account	\$ 4,665.18
Fund 60 - Cafeteria Account	\$ 55,557.30
Fund 80 - Unemployment	<u>\$ 6,963.97</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 2,283,431.20</u>

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 Nicholas Podesta as a Substitute Transportation Driver, pending completion of paperwork, at the per diem rate of \$30.00 effective April 29, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER 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. **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

Mr. Keeling moved to approve the Committee Reports, and the Consent Items for April 28, 2026; Approval of all Monthly Meeting minutes, Curriculum & Instruction item 1, Operations & Finance items 1-6, Personnel & Human Resources items 1-13, Policy and Planning items 1-2, seconded by Dr. Mandel, and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mrs. Crossan; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Brusco; yes, and Mrs. Carrino Tamasi; yes, – motions carry.

XV. 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 Dr. Mandel, to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 8:28 pm.

XVI. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting

Moved by Mr. Dumovic, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to reconvene to the Work Session Meeting at 8:52 pm., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

XVII. Discussion - None.

XVIII. Verbal Communications from the Public - None.

XIX. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Dumovic, seconded by Dr. Mandel, to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting of April 28, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary