



Richard DeSilva, Jr.
1st Vice President

Brett Coplin
Trista Daveniero
Michael Galow

Prema C. Moorthy, PhD
President

Benjamin A. Kezmarsky
2nd Vice President

Christopher L. Hughes
Steve Huston
Janine Ting Jansen

August 5, 2026
PUBLIC ACTION MEETING
(Personnel Only)
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE

This meeting of the Mahwah Board of Education is open to members of the public to be physically present. Members of the public that attend will be asked to follow the same procedures as all other visitors to our schools. Those procedures can be found on the agenda page of our website. Additionally, the Board meeting will be live streamed for viewing purposes only. Anyone wishing to view the meeting, may do so via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). The webinar ID for this meeting is 830 4682 7239 and the required password is 184325.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. President's Announcement: Adequate notice of the agenda for this meeting has been provided to *The Ridgewood News and The Record* specifying that the Mahwah Board of Education will meet on August 5, 2026, in the Administrative Offices, 60 Ridge Rd., Mahwah, NJ. A copy was filed with the Township Clerk.
4. Salute to the Flag
5. Motion to Recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations and legal matters.

Personnel Matters
Confidential Student Matters
Legal Update

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

6. Motion to Reconvene to Public Action Meeting to take action on matters discussed in Executive Session

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

7. Agenda Questions

Please limit your questions, at this time, to resolutions under New Business on this agenda. As a matter of fairness, you are asked to limit your questions to no more than one, and your remarks to no longer than three minutes. If you are here representing a group, please identify yourself, the group and your position in the group. If you are here as an individual, please give us your name and address. This section of public participation will be limited to fifteen minutes. Please specify the resolution you are referring to in your question.

8. Motion to open meeting to the public

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

9. Motion to close meeting to the public

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

10. Mahwah Student Representative Report11. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Michael DeTuro12. Assistant Superintendent's Report – Dr. Dennis M. Fare13. Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Report – Ms. Katherine A. Hiromoto14. President's Report15. Board Committee Reports

Instructional & Curriculum/Special Education – P. Moorthy (Chair), T. Daveniero, M. Galow, B. Coplin, J. Ting Jansen (Alt.)

Finance & Facilities – M. Galow (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky, J. Ting Jansen, P. Moorthy (Alt.)

Policy – J. Ting Jansen (Chair), C. Hughes, S. Huston, R. DeSilva

Community Relations – B. Coplin (Chair), T. Daveniero, S. Huston, C. Hughes, M. Galow (Alt.)

Executive/Planning Committee – P. Moorthy (Chair), R. DeSilva, B. Kezmarsky

Transportation Committee – B. Coplin (Chair) T. Daveniero, C. Hughes, M. Galow

Negotiations – J. Ting Jansen (Chair), M. Galow, B. Kezmarsky, P. Moorthy

Bergen County School Boards Liaison – M. Galow, P. Moorthy (Alt.)

New Jersey School Boards Legislative Liaison – P. Moorthy

Mahwah Schools Foundation Liaison – B. Kezmarsky, B. Coplin (Alt.)

Mahwah Access for All Liaison – S. Huston, M. Galow (Alt.)

Board of Education Liaison to Town Council - B. Kezmarsky, R. DeSilva, (Alt.)

16. Board Member Remarks/Additional Comments on Reports or Other Non-Agenda Items

17. New Business – Other

a. Agreement to Provide Non-Public Nursing Services

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves an agreement with Bergen County Special Services (BCSS) to provide Non-Public Nursing Services to Apple Montessori School and Young World Day School, non-public schools within the Township of Mahwah for the 2026-2027 school year.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

b. Chapter 192/193 Service Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a contract with the Board of Education of Bergen County Special Services School District (hereinafter referred to as "BCSSSD"), having offices at 327 E. Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the LEA is a body corporate organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. ISA: 10-1.

WHEREAS, the BCSSSD is a body corporate organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-29.

WHEREAS, the LEA is required by law to provide remedial and auxiliary services to eligible students attending non-public schools within the public school district served by the LEA. N.J.S.A. 18A:46-19.1, et seq. (Laws of 1977, Chapter 193); N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-1, et seq. (Laws of 1977, Chapter 192).

WHEREAS, the LEA is empowered by law to contract with another agency to provide the remedial and auxiliary services required under Chapters 192 and 193 of the Laws of 1977 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-1 through N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-17.

WHEREAS, the BCSSSD is empowered by law to contract with the LEA to provide the remedial and auxiliary services herein referenced pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-19.7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-7.

WHEREAS, the LEA and the BCSSSD hereby agree that the BCSSSD will provide those remedial and auxiliary services set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:46-9 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-1, et seq., which services shall be limited to examination, classification, speech correction, as well as the instruction, evaluation and the necessary equipment, supplies, administration and supervision inherent in providing English as a second language instruction, supplemental instruction, home instruction and compensatory education instruction, as appropriate, to eligible, New Jersey resident students attending non-public schools within the public school district for which the LEA is responsible. The remedial and auxiliary services provided in accordance with this Agreement are those services provided to eligible pupils attending eligible non-public schools located within the local district for which the LEA is responsible. The remedial and auxiliary services to be provided in accordance with this Agreement will be provided only to those pupils who would be eligible for such services if they were enrolled in the public schools of this State.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

c. IDEA Grant

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education accepts federal grant funding from the Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA) for Fiscal Year 2027 as follows:

IDEA Grant	FY26 Allocation		
	Public	Non-Public	Total
IDEA Basic	\$ 645,800	\$ 0	\$ 645,800
IDEA Preschool	\$ 34,298	\$ 0	\$ 34,298
Total	\$ 680,098	\$ 0	\$ 680,098

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

d. Student Accident Insurance – Liberty Mutual Insurance Company/BMI Benefits

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the insurance quotes from Everest Reinsurance Company/BMI Benefits for the period of 8/1/26-8/1/27 to provide Student Accident coverage, including Interscholastic and Football and volunteer coverage, at an annual combined premium of \$75,678.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

e. Conferences/Workshops

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves attendance at the following conferences/workshops that are deemed to be educationally appropriate and for the benefit of the school district including conference/workshop fees and necessary travel expenses. The conference/workshop amount shall align with the staff member's annual contractual allowance.

First	Last	Conference/Workshop	Date	Amount
Ofeer	Kearns	Hot Topics in MTSS	8/10/2026	\$170.00

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

* f. Conference

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves Michael DeTuro, Ed.D., to attend AASA National Superintendent Certification Program that is deemed to be educationally appropriate and for the benefit of the school district, as it is related to his position; cost to be \$6,000 over the course of two years, (\$3,000 for year one and \$3,000 for year two) and travel expenses for four in-person meetings (amounts to be determined).

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

g. Field Trips

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following field trips:

Group/Destination	Date(s)	School	# of Students
Tennis Team to USTA National Tennis Ctr, South Corona, NY	8/24/26	MHS	25

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

h. Program Creation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the creation of a K-3 program for students with autism for the 2026-2027 school year.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

i. Program Creation

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the creation of a K-3 program for students with autism for the 2026-2027 school year.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

18. New Business – Personnel

a. Appointment

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Rebecca Kruithof, as instructional paraprofessional, 5.5 hours per day, at Lenape Meadows School, effective August 25, 2026 - June 30, 2027; salary to be Step 2, \$22,383.24.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

b. Appointment – Multilingual Instructor

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Mercedes Blanco to provide instruction to Mahwah's community of adult multi-lingual learners, two hours weekly, from September 30, 2026 - June 30, 2027, at the hourly rate of \$100 per hour; to be paid via a submitted voucher and funded through the District's ESSA Title III federal grant.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

* c. Appointment – Leave Replacement

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Owen McFadden, as leave replacement for Employee #4755, pursuant to New Jersey Statute 18A:16-1.1, from August 25, 2026 – November 4, 2026; salary to be Column D, Step 5, \$68,451, pro-rated; pending employment verification.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

d. Appointment – Kindergarten Kickstart

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Audrey Von Zwehl as paraprofessional, for the 2026 Kindergarten Kickstart Summer program, effective retroactive from July 27, 2026 – July 31, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; stipend to be \$450.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

e. Appointment – Camp Ignite

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment of Tatjana Klanke as paraprofessional, for the 2026 Camp Ignite Summer program, retroactively from July 27, 2026 – July 31, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; stipend to be her hourly rate.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

f. Appointment – Bus Supervision

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following staff to provide pm bus supervision from September 1, 2026 - September 18, 2026; to be paid their hourly rate for hours worked via a submitted voucher.

First Name	Last Name	Building
Darryl	Johnson	George Washington School
Lori	Stewart Crames	George Washington School
Deepti	Menon	George Washington School
Joslyn	Lucero	George Washington School
Trisha	Mitchell	George Washington School
Tara	Pragdat	Betsy Ross School
Allison	Schlackman	Betsy Ross School
Audrey	Von Zwehl	Betsy Ross School
Open	Open	Betsy Ross School
Katherine	Gusmano	Betsy Ross School
Maryana	Gerges	Lenape Meadows School
Rebecca	Kruithof	Lenape Meadows School
Mary Ann	Pagliaroli	Lenape Meadows School

First Name	Last Name	Building
Luisa	Gonzalez	Lenape Meadows School
Michele	Mariani	Lenape Meadows School
Wendy	Brooks	Lenape Meadows School

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

g. Appointment – Assistant Coach – Girls Soccer

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the appointment Kylie Pucci, as girls soccer assistant coach, for the 2026-2027 school year; stipend to be \$8,861; pending employment verification.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

h. Appointment – Extra Service Positions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the extra service positions for the 2026-2027 school year at the negotiated stipend rate, as shown on Schedule L of the MEA contract

Lenape Meadows School

Name	Position	Stipend Amount
Darrelle Dunbar	AM Arrival	\$2,025
Luisa Gonzalez	AM Arrival	\$2,025
Michelle Mariani	AM Arrival	\$2,025
Gianna Bologna	Dismissal – Car Line	\$2,025
Darrelle Dunbar	Dismissal – Car Line	\$2,025
Gabrielle Foudy	Dismissal – Car Line	\$2,025
Jennifer Koby	Dismissal – Car Line	\$2,025

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

i. FMLA Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves a leave of absence for Employee #4355, using 5 sick days and taking FMLA concurrently, effective retroactive from April 8, 2026 – April 14, 2026, and taking FMLA from April 15, 2026 – April 29, 2026.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

j. Rescission – Camp Ignite

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Janice Tesseyman as paraprofessional, for the 2026 Camp

Ignite Summer program, originally scheduled to work in this role from July 27, 2026 – July 31, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

k. Job Descriptions

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mahwah Board of Education approves the following job descriptions

- Teacher of Special Education, 18-21 Year-Old Program
- Facilities Coordinator

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

19. Public Questions or Comment

Public participation at Board meetings is in accordance with Bylaw 0167.

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make a comment on educational issues or school matters of community interest. As a matter of fairness, you are asked to limit your questions to no more than one, and your remarks to no longer than three minutes. If you are here representing a group, please identify yourself, the group, and your position in the group. If you are here as an individual, please give us your name and address.

Note: This section of public participation will be limited to fifteen minutes.

20. Motion to open meeting to the public

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21. Motion to close meeting to the public

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22. Motion to Recess to Executive Session under Chapter 231, P.L. (Sunshine Law), which authorizes a public body to discuss personnel, negotiations and legal matters.

Personnel Matters
Confidential Student Matters
Legal Update

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

23. Motion to Reconvene to Public Action Meeting to take action on matters discussed in Executive Session

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

24. Motion to Adjourn

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____ VOTE _____

Upcoming Events

8/25-8/27/26	Staff-Only Opening Days
8/26/26	Mahwah Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
8/28-8/31/26	Schools Closed
9/1/26	Opening Day for Students
9/4/26	Single Session Day
9/7/26	Labor Day- Schools Closed
9/21/26	Yom Kippur – Schools Closed
10/12/26	Staff Development/Columbus Day – Schools Closed for Students
11/2-11/4/26	Parent/Teacher Conferences PreK-5
11/5-11/6/26	NJEA Convention – Schools Closed
11/25/26	Single Session
11/26 -11/27/26	Thanksgiving Recess – Schools Closed
12/23/26	Single Session
12/24-1/1/27	Holiday Recess – Schools Closed