



BOARDROOM

Highlights of Monthly Board of Education Meeting

August 2026

Superintendent's Report

- ★ On Monday, August 10th, we began our New Teacher Orientation Program. A warm reception was extended to our new teachers and leave replacements. This initiative is designed to offer continuous professional growth and assistance to our incoming teachers throughout the academic year.
- ★ I am proud to acknowledge the exceptional efforts put forth by our dedicated support staff, custodians, maintenance personnel, and building-level administrators in diligently preparing our schools for the start of classes.
- ★ The Board was updated on the new Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Ban and recent legislation regarding Spring Recess.

The enrollment figures as of August 13, 2026 are as follows:

	<i>Morris Hills</i>	<i>Morris Knolls</i>	
Grade 9	257	365	622
Grade 10	288	374	662
Grade 11	315	343	658
Grade 12	236	403	639
Adult HS	--	162	162
Adult ASAP HS	--	28	8
AMSE	183	--	183
APA	--	153	153
SE Self- Contained	--	49	49
TOTAL	1279	1877	3136

Mr. Nicholas J. Norcia
Superintendent

- Authorized the approval of the following Staff Conferences:

Name / School	Location / Date	Conference
Krystal Beck / Dist.	Trenton, NJ & Online 7/29/2026 8/12/2026 8/18/2026 8/26/2026	NJDOE Social Studies Implementation Committee
Alyson Seltzer / MH	Online 9/10/2026	The NJ Department of Human Services 11th Suicide Prevention Conference: Building the Bridges of Hope -- Upstream Approaches to Suicide Prevention
Lara Carlson / MK	Online 9/16/2026 9/23/2026 9/30/2026	Stronge & Associates: New Administrator 3-Day Series
Krystal Beck / Dist.	Mountain Lakes, NJ 9/17/2026 11/19/2026 Denville, NJ 12/17/2026 1/21/2027 2/18/2027 3/25/2027 4/22/2027 5/20/2027 Whippany, NJ 10/15/2026	Morris Area Curriculum Network Meetings
Brenda Gupta / MH Yesenia Rivera-Carney /AHS	East Brunswick, NJ 10/5/2026 10/6/2026	NJSCA: 2026 NJ School Counselors Association Annual Conference
Cheryl Engel / Dist. Alyssa Radigan / MK Kevin Doyle / Dist. Yesenia Rivera-Carney / AHS	Atlantic City, NJ 10/14/2026 - 10/16/2026	2026 NJPSA/FEA Fall Conference
Nicholas Norcia/Dist. Danielle Matovski /Dist. Daniel Haug / Dist. Neil Charles / Dist. ADDED: JOHN ESCHMANN / Dist.	Atlantic City, NJ 10/19/2026 - 10/22/2026	NJ School Boards Association Workshop 2026: Charting Paths, Empowering Journeys
~~Patrick Napolitano / BOE~~ ~~Mbr.~~ Barbara Levy /BOE Mbr. Christie D'Asti / Board Mbr.	Atlantic City, NJ 10/19/2026 - 10/22/2026	NJ School Boards Association Workshop 2026: Charting Paths, Empowering Journeys
Adam Trollinger / MK Iwona Doyle / MH	Princeton, NJ 10/20/2026	New Jersey Science Convention
Kevin Doyle / Dist.	Princeton, NJ 10/20/2026 10/21/2026	New Jersey Science Convention
Jennifer Toriello / Dist. Keith Bigora / Dist. Kevin Doyle / Dist.	Online 10/27/2026	NJPSA/FEA: Hot Issues in School Law 2026-2027
Keith Bigora / Dist.	Holmdel, NJ 11/13/2026	NJTEEA Conference
Keith Bigora / Dist	Whippany, NJ 12/3/2026	NJ Aviation Roundtable
Jennifer Toriello / Dist.	Online 3/16/2027	NJPSA/FEA: AI - Friend or Foe?

- Authorized the ratification of the following Staff Conference:

Name / School	Location / Date	Conference
Lora Santucci / MH	~~Ewing, NJ & Online~~ ~~8/3/2026 (Ewing, NJ)~~ ~~8/4/2026 – 8/6/2026 (online)~~ CHANGED TO: Ewing, NJ, Hoboken, NJ & Online 8/3/2026 (Ewing, NJ) 8/4/2026 (Online) 8/5/2026 (Hoboken, NJ) 8/6/2026 (Online)	The Computer Science Teachers Association of NJ Annual Professional Development Week

- Authorized the approval of the following Field Trips:

Name / School	Dept./ Trip #	Location / Date
Heather Almeida / MK Lisa O'Shea / MK	Athletics	Randolph, NJ 8/18/2026
Bryan Gallagher / MK Bruce Campbell / MH	Athletics	East Rutherford, NJ 8/19/2026
Patricia Fornaro / MK Bryan Gallagher / MK Constance Conti / MK Drew Reinhardt / MK Peter Staluppi / MK Cara Bodnar / MK Stephan Zdanowicz / MK Michael Mugavero / MK Meaghan Barger / MH Bruce Campbell / MH Andres Diaz / MH Christina Hobson / MH Timothy Mein / MH Sara Pratt / MH Jeffrey Jimenez / MH Annie Mulligan / MH Mark DiGennaro, Jr. / MH	Athletics	Randolph, NJ 8/20/2026
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09013	Dover, NJ 9/14/2026
Irene Fischetti / MK Amanda Manjorin / MK Adrian Cortes / MK Joseph Kelly / MK Anna Nazzaro / MK	Special Education	Denville, NJ 9/25/2026
Ciana Roman / MH Parent Chaperone	Technology AT-09410 AT-09408 AT-09409	Bridgewater, NJ 9/25/2026 9/26/2026 9/27/2026
Jason Collinsworth / MK Cara Russo / MH Daniel Schwartz / MK	English AT-09037	Hardwick & Rockaway, NJ 10/9/2026
Susan Metzger / MK Laura Foley / MK Debra McNally / MK Jenny Malin / MK Michelle Uhler / MH Jenna Miller / MH	Student Wellness Committee AT-TBD	Denville, NJ 10/9/2026
Michelle Uhler / Dist. Kristen Markowski / MK	Music AT-09032	Glassboro, NJ 10/14/2026
Jason Collinsworth / MK Andrew Curtis / MK Alicia Pepperman / MK Andres Diaz / MH Nicole Sanchez / MH	English AT-09041	Newark, NJ 10/16/2026

Name / School	Dept./ Trip #	Location / Date
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09014	Dover, NJ 10/19/2026
Richard Hartsuiker / MH Michelle Uhler / MH Allyson Moreno / MH Parent Chaperones Nurse	Music AT-08988	Rockaway, NJ 10/20/2026
Jason Collinsworth / MK Andrew Curtis / MK	English AT-09040	Budd Lake, NJ 10/28/2026
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09015	Dover, NJ 11/2/2026
Robert Moore / MK Robert Geary / MK	Business AT-09353	East Rutherford, NJ 11/17/2026
Tiffany Doltz / MH Kadeem Dennis / MK	Aviation AT-09397	Whippany, NJ 11/17/2026
Keith Bigora / Dist. Ciana Roman / MH Peter Koza / MK Lauren Jackson / MH	CTE AT-09405	Wharton & Rockaway, NJ 12/11/2026
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09016	Dover, NJ 1/25/2027
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09017	Dover, NJ 2/8/2027
Martha Fundora / MK Justine Sobieski / MH	Aviation AT-09354	Phillipsburg, NJ 3/12/2027
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09018	Dover, NJ 3/15/2027
Michelle Lis / MK	Interact Club AT-09019	Dover, NJ 4/12/2027
Brett Izsa / Dist. Daniel Schwartz / MK Kristen Markowski / MK Administrator TBD Parent Chaperones Nurse	Music	Nashville, TN 4/13/2027 - 4/17/2027

- Authorized the ratification of the following Field Trips:

Name / School	Dept./ Trip #	Location / Date
Michael Mugavero / MK Stephan Zdanowicz / MK Jeffrey Jimenez / MH Andres Diaz / MH	Athletics	Randolph, NJ August 17, 2026
Heather Almeida / MK Lisa O'Shea / MK	Athletics	Randolph, NJ August 17, 2026

- Authorized the approval of a revision to the 2026-2027 District Calendar, as submitted.
- Authorized a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from NJ4S Morris & Sussex to the Morris Hills High School Athletic Department.
- Authorized a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from the Morris Hill High School Sideout Booster Club to the Morris Hills High School Athletic Department.
- Authorized the donation of a 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt, with an approximate value of \$1,645, from Mr. Thomas Singer, to the Morris Hills Regional District Automotive Program.

- Authorized accepting, with regret, the resignation of the following personnel for the purpose of retirement:

Name	Position	Loc.	Eff. Date
Smedberg, Arthur	Security Support Aide	MK	12/31/2026

- Authorized accepting the resignation of the following personnel:

Name	Position	Loc.	Eff. Date
Arteage, Luisa	Transportation Aide AM or PM	Dist.	07/31/2026
Moore, Robert	BizTech Club Volunteer	MK	08/12/2026

- Authorized accepting the rescinding of contract for the following personnel:

Name	Position	Loc.	Eff. Date
Hiremath, Gouramma	Teacher of Family & Consumer Science (Lv Repl)	MH	08/24/2026
Sabo, Melissa	Mentor for Gouramma Hiremath	MH	08/24/2026
Vinci, Alice	Administrative Assistant to the Director of Human Resources	DIST	09/01/2026
Vinci, Alice	Summer Human Resources Substitute Secretary	DIST	07/16/2026
Levinstone, Lawrence	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	MH	08/11/2026
Weiner, Samuel	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	MH	08/11/2026
Maione, Robert	Substitute Teacher Renewal	Dist.	07/01/2026

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the following leaves of absence:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)			
			Sick and/ or Personal	FMLA / NJFLA	Unpaid	Return to Work
De La Paz, Arenis	Custodian	MH		8/3/26 - 8/28/26		08/31/26
Chirico-Berman, Jenna	Teacher of Science	MH	10/26/26 - 11/20/26	FMLA: 11/23/26 - 2/19/27 NJFLA: 12/21/26 - 3/19/27	3/22/27 - 4/30/27	05/03/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of staff and payment of stipend for the following 1/6 positions:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Erickson, William	Teacher of Technology, Electricity	MK	08/24/26-06/30/27
Miraldi, John	Teacher of Technology, Woods	MK	08/24/26-06/30/27
Amicucci, Deborah	Teacher of English	MK	08/24/26-06/30/27
Collinsworth, Jason	Teacher of English	MK	08/24/26-06/30/27
Obra, Rusty	Teacher of Family & Consumer Sciences	MK	08/25/26-11/15/26
Sabo, Melissa	Teacher of Family & Consumer Sciences (2) 1/6 positions	MH	08/25/26-11/15/26
Simpson, Debbian	Teacher of Family & Consumer Sciences (2) 1/6 positions	MH	08/25/26-11/15/26
Maclay, Andrew	Teacher of Family & Consumer Sciences	MH	08/25/26-11/15/26
Petti, Carla	Teacher of Spanish	MK	08/25/26-12/15/26
Kong, Marlene	Teacher of Spanish	MK	08/25/26-12/15/26
Oliva, Ana	Teacher of Spanish	MK	08/25/26-12/15/26
Jimenez-Arias	Teacher of Spanish	MK	08/25/26-12/15/26
Cedano-Rondon, Melissa	Teacher of Spanish	MK	08/25/26-12/15/26

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of staff and payment of stipend for the following 2/6 positions:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Callanan, Maria	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	MK	08/24/26-12/23/26
DiFulco, Bianca	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	MK	08/24/26-12/23/26
McMally, Debra	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	MK	08/24/26-12/23/26
Vetter, Robyn	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	MK	08/24/26-12/23/26
Ossa, Jovanna	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	MK	08/24/26-12/23/26
DePascale, Michele	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Gill, Madeline	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Palanker, Tori	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Roman, Christopher	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Ryan, Allison	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Shaffer, Ryan	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26
Toth-Rock, Rebecca	School Counselor	MK	8/24/26-9/14/26

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year a change of assignment and payment of salary of the following staff member:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Hoffman, Matthew	From: Assistant Baseball Coach To: Head Baseball Coach	No Change MH	No Change 03/16/27-06/30/27
Skulnik, Kristine	From: Part-Time CST Secretary To: Administrative Assistant to the Director of Human Resources	From: MK To: DIST	9/1/26-6/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of staff and payment of salary of the following certified position, subject to appropriate New Jersey Department of Education certification and required documentation:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Mickens-Perara, Chris	Teacher of Special Education	MK	08/24/26 - 06/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year a revision to the appointment and salary of the following certified staff members:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Pollison, Haley	Teacher of Science	MK	08/24/26 - 06/30/27
Leftowitz, Peter	Teacher of Technology	MH	From: 11/02/26 - 06/30/27 To: 08/24/26 - 06/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of staff and payment of salary of the following non-certified positions, subject to receipt of required documentation:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Reina, Claudia	Boiler's License Stipend	MK	08/17/26 - 06/30/27
Erickson, Kaitlyn	Assistant Fall Cheerleading Coach	MH	09/01/26 - 11/30/26

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Berkheiser, Melissa	Girls Assistant Basketball Coach	MK	12/01/26 - 03/15/27
Hartsuiker, Michelle	Ticket Sales Chairperson	MH	09/01/26 - 06/30/27
Roman, Ciana	Robotics Club Advisor	MH	09/01/26 - 06/30/27
Roman, Ciana	TSA Club Advisor	MH	09/01/26 - 06/30/27
Lakatos, Sara	National English Honor Society Advisor	MK	09/01/26 - 12/31/26
Alexander, Christina	National English Honor Society Advisor	MK	From: Full Year To: 01/01/27 - 06/30/27
Adessa, Jodie	Thespian Honor Society	MK	03/16/27 - 06/30/27
Raybould, Leandra	French Honor Society	MK	03/16/27 - 06/30/27
Collinsworth, Jason	ACT Coordinator	MK	09/01/26 - 06/30/27
Ghetti, Marcia	SAT Coordinator	MH	09/01/26 - 06/30/27
Calle Chocho, Lucy	Boiler's License Stipend	MK	08/17/26 - 06/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year a horizontal advancement for the following certified personnel, in accordance with the 2024-2029 Negotiated Agreement between the Morris Hills Regional District Education Association and the Morris Hills Regional District Board of Education:

Name	Position	Guide	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Bollette, Brian	Teacher of Social Studies	From: MA To: MA+30	MH	08/24/26 - 06/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment and rate of pay of part-time staff as follows:

Name	Position	Loc.	Effective Dates (all dates are on or about)
Fernandez, Avelino	Substitute Trip Driver	Dist.	07/01/26 - 06/30/27
Plumb, Lawrence	Substitute Bus Driver	Dist.	07/01/26 - 06/30/27

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointments of the following staff members as Professional Support Team Mentors, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:11 et.seq. (mentor fee paid by mentee):

Mentor	Mentee	Loc.	Position	Period (dates are on or about)
Mazur, Joy	Assadourian, Nicole	MK	Teacher of English	08/24/26-12/23/26
Miraldi, Mary	Koza, Jr., Peter	MK	Teacher of A/V TV Production	08/24/26-06/30/27

- Authorized the Summer of 2026 and 2026-2027 school year the appointments of staff and payments of fees for Revised and New Staff Development Workshops

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of the following Student Teachers:

Name	Position	College	Assignment	School	Dates
Keating, Alexander	Student Teacher	Kean University	Mathematics	Morris Hills	2026 - 2027 School Year
Keating, Luke	Student Teacher	Kean University	Science	Morris Hills	2026 - 2027 School Year
Nweiran, Dania	Student Intern	Out of District (interning through Effective School Solutions)	ESS Intern	Morris Knolls	2026 - 2027 School Year

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of the following Substitute employees:

Name	Substitute Position	Period	Certificate
Aschoff, Kathryn	Substitute Teacher	8/24/26-6/10/27	Teacher Certificate
Mindrebo, Karl	Substitute Teacher	8/24/26-6/10/27	County Certificate
Skelly, Tyler	Substitute Teacher	8/24/26-6/10/27	County Certificate
Lowke, Matthew	Substitute Teacher	8/24/26-6/10/27	County Certificate
Honig, David	Substitute Teacher	8/24/26-6/10/27	Teacher Certificate

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of the following anti-bullying position, effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027: Shari Russo, Anti-Bullying Specialist, Morris Knolls
- Authorized for the Summer of 2026 the appointment of staff and rate of pay for the following positions:

Name	Position	Loc.	Period (all dates are on or about)	Add'l Info.	Rate of Pay
McNally, Debra	ESY CST Testing Days	MK	Summer 2026	From: 7 days To: 8 days	Per diem rate

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 School Year the appointment of staff and rate of pay for the following positions:

Name	Position	Loc.	Period (all dates are on or about)	Add'l Info.
Barkocy, Emily	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Bigora, Keith	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Bouroult, Michael	Saturday Detention Administrator	MK	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Carlson, Lara	Saturday Detention Administrator	MK	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Cirigliano, Joseph	Saturday Detention Administrator	MK	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Dixon, Dominique	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Engel, Cheryl	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Gupta, Brenda	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Herman, Claire	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Melvin, Eugene	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Palmerrezzi, Laura	Saturday Detention Administrator	MK	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Radigan, Alyssa	Saturday Detention Administrator	MK	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Rivera-Carney, Yesenia	Saturday Detention Administrator	MH	8/24/26- 6/30/27	Up to 7 days
Berk, Jennifer	Additional Nursing Hours	Dist.	8/24/26- 6/30/27	As needed
Johnson, Shane	ACT Bootcamp - Math	MK	2/25/27	As needed
Brock, Dominique	ACT Bootcamp - English/Reading	MK	2/25/27	As needed
Trollinger, Adam	ACT Bootcamp - Science	MK	2/25/27	As needed
Petrosino, Tracy	SAT Bootcamp - English	MH	9/30/26 & 4/29/27	As needed
Rama, Victoria	SAT Bootcamp - Math	MH	9/30/26 & 4/29/27	As needed
Johnson, Shane	SAT Bootcamp - Math	MK	12/2/26 & 12/3 26 3/2/27 & 3/4/27 4/28/27 & 4/29/27	As needed
Brock, Dominique	SAT Bootcamp - Verbal	MK	12/2/26 & 12/3 26 3/2/27 & 3/4/27	As needed

Name	Position	Loc.	Period (all dates are on or about)	Add'l Info.
			4/28/27 & 4/29/27	
Skulnik, Kristine	Human Resources Substitute Secretary	DIST	8/25/26-8/31/26	Up to 5 days

- Authorized for the Summer of 2026 the appointment of the following volunteer, pending documentation:

Name	Position	School
Serna, Andres	IT Department	District

- Authorized for the 2026-2027 school year the appointment of the following volunteer advisors, pending documentation:

Name	Position	School
Scarlett, Dean	Marching Band Volunteer	Morris Knolls
Murray, Joann	Marching Band Volunteer	Morris Knolls
Gidos, Hannah	Marching Band Volunteer	Morris Knolls
Skelly, Tyler	After School Orchestra(s) Volunteer	Morris Knolls

- Authorized the Board to suspend Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings and adopt Policy and Regulation 5516 as listed below with one reading to have the Policy and Regulation in place for September 2026; the action suspending Bylaw 0131 shall only be in effect for the adoption of Policy and Regulation 5516.

Number	Title	New or Revised
a. Policy 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices	Revised
b. Regulation 5516	Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices	Revised

- Authorized for the first reading the following Policies and Regulations:

Number	Title	New or Revised
a. Policy 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditure	Revised
b. Policy 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures	Revised
c. Policy 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Revised
d. Policy 8660	Transportation by Private Vehicles - To and From School-Related Activities	Revised
e. Regulation 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Allowability of Costs	Revised

- Authorized for the second reading the following Policies and Regulations:

Number	Title	New or Revised
a. Policy 2499	Physical Education	Revised
b. Policy 2530	Resource Materials	Revised
c. Policy 2535	Library Material	New
d. Policy 5117	Interdistrict Public School Choice	Revised
e. Policy 5460	High School Graduation	Revised
f. Policy 5461	High School Diplomas	New
g. Regulation 2530	Resource Materials	Revised
h. Regulation 2535	Library Material	New
i. Regulation 5117	Interdistrict Public School Choice	Revised